Friday – June 19, 2020

BILL: And good morning and welcome into our Friday edition of Ag Talk. Usually set aside for horticultural topics and didn’t know we were going to do recipes today but here is Ed Lentz with today’s recipe for poison hemlock

ED: Well I would not recommend that for a recipe because when they say poison hemlock there is a reason why the word poison is there. This is a weed that we see it for the homeowner, the person living in the country and also the livestock producer. This is a tall plant. It is very visible right now across the county between eight and ten feet tall. It’s blooming now along ditches, waterways and roadsides. It’s a biennial plant which means it sends up the second year and gets all this height on it. And then on it’s first year its leaves are only in a rosette pattern like a dandelion. So when we most of the time see it it’s when it’s this big tall stalk of a plant out there. It is a member of the carrot family. Its leaves will resemble a carrot. It’s got a lot of dissection in it. As I mentioned it has a white flower in the top of the plant. And the characteristic of poison hemlock that distinguish it from other members of the carrot family it has purple splotches all along the stem very evident almost looks like it has a little bruising and they are just purple colorations. That’s a key identifying feature that you got poison hemlock out there. The thing about this plant all parts of it are poisonous, the seeds, the leaves, the stem, and especially the roots are poisonous. So care must used with this. And that’s why it’s a concern for anybody that’s a livestock producer that has a pasture you don’t want animals eating this cause it will have deadly consequences for them. For people we also have to be careful with this when we remove it cause it does have to be ingested or the sap absorbed through the eyes or nasal passages to cause poisoning. So when you work with this or in it we highly recommend to people to wear goggles, wear a mask, and wear gloves so you don’t have this where you are going to get it any where you are going to ingest it because it is toxic. At this time it’s too late to prevent seed production it’s already far enough along there. You could have mowed it maybe six to eight weeks ago but at this time we are already at seed production mowing is not going to stop that it’s just going to knock the plant down. So the biggest thing is to know where it’s growing and then for next year or this coming fall there will be seeds germinating this fall it will be easy to control with herbicide once in that rosette pattern or make sure you just mow it earlier next year to keep this thing from going to seed again and be very careful when you are working out there in that field.

BILL: Thank you Ed. For Ag Talk this is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Good morning to you.

Ed: Good morning.