

Ag Radio programs for February 11 - 17, 2013

Cattleman's Day, 2013

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Friday March 1st will be the annual Cattlemen's Day event at Kansas State University. In fact it will be the 100th annual Cattlemen's Day. You need to pre-register and forms and flyers are at the Extension Office. You can also register on line at ksbeef.org. If you register online you can pay with credit or debit card. If you mail your registration in or register on site it's check or cash only. If you pre-register by February 22nd, the registration fee is \$20, but if you register after that including just showing up at the door, the cost will be \$30. The doors to the commercial exhibits at Weber Arena on the KSU Campus open at 8 a.m. The program starts at 10 a.m. The morning program has a couple of really good keynote speakers. First up will be Steve Hunt with US Premium Beef talking about designing meats and meals. The entire meat industry is facing big changes as we search for new ways to get beef on busy families dinner table. Following That is a great program on Keeping your Farm in the family for the next generation. Ron Hanson is from the Univ of Nebraska and is recognized as probably the leading authority on farm family conflicts and farm generational transfers. Dr Hanson will also have an afternoon session on how to develop a strategic plan for farm family succession. As a special treat, all day long, Dr. Miles McKee will be in Weber 233 visiting about the history of K-State's Animal Science department and it's historic rise to prominence. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Oats Anyone?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. 30 years ago we had quite a few folks in the county that grew oats. That number has dwindled to the point that if we have 5, I'd be surprised. And in many ways it's quite sad. For starters, oats, as a grain crop, has a great potential market to horse owners, and if you haven't noticed, we do have a lot of horses around our area. Grow some quality oats, have a small bin to store them in and you may not even have to take them to an elevator, you could sell them directly to the horse owners. Which is the same reason why I encourage more hay producers to bale small square bales - sure they're a lot of work, but they've got great value for that extra labor. Oats can also work well when if you have a field that came out of row crops last year and you want to go back to wheat or alfalfa this fall. Sure, you could plant soybeans and still get wheat planted, but it may be November before you finally get the drill in the ground. Why not use oats this spring, and then you don't have to worry and you can be planting wheat on October 10th. If you want to plant some alfalfa this fall, plant oats now, harvest the oats midsummer, control the weeds with glyphosate and then drill the alfalfa no-till into the oats stubble. You can ask for anything better than that. Oats planting time is basically Valentine's Day to St Patrick's Day. Two to three bushels of seed per acre, use some starter fertilizer and then don't be afraid to apply 40 to 60 pounds of N to get some decent yields. Of, if you don't want the grain, swath the oats at boot stage and you can make some really decent hay which you may need! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Early Season Pasture Management and Evaluation

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. It's only mid February but it's time to you're spending time evaluating pasture conditions and pasture needs before spring arrives. Obviously the number one need is moisture. The pasture conditions as we move about the county are amazingly variable. Some areas have okay moisture with water in ponds and springs running, and in others there's no cover, no soil moisture and no springs or pond water at all. Most pastures have very low cover amounts. There just wasn't much grass growth last year and much of it got eaten down by summer grazing. This may make for a very good time to be working your pastures and clipping small trees and treating the stumps. Cedars, even small cedars show up easily in these times of thin cover. Obviously we aren't going to be doing much, if any, burning this spring. Most pastures don't have the cover to carry a fire anyway and even if they did, concern over 2013 pasture grass growth is going to keep the drip torches out of the pastures. Start thinking about your stocking rates now. Just to be on the safe side, either plan on reducing stocking rates by 1/4 to 1/3 OR be ready with a plan of what you are going to do with the excess livestock inventory if the drought continues and there just isn't the grass growth. Now don't get me wrong, if it starts raining this spring we can expect very normal grass growth. But given the lack of cover over winter, we're also going to see a lot more invasive annual plants this year as well. Don't go crazy on the spraying though, once we get rain and good growth, the weeds will go away. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.