

How's Your Record Keeping?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Every year, in January I always harp on about record keeping. Just so you know that there are some things that you can still count on, it's going to happen this year too! Today it's about cow herds. Due to the current forage situation, and the possibility that the drought could carry on into 2013, cow herds may be getting trimmed down in numbers. If you have to do that, what are you going to base your decisions on? Age certainly should be a consideration, but if you need to cull deeper than that, what do you go on. Do you have the records of productivity and maintenance to make some good decisions on? I know many of you have your little books in your pockets that you keep track of cow and calving information. Do you keep track of birth weight, even if it isn't real precise, a guess is worth a lot! How about calving ease? If you go out at sun up and there's a calf on the ground with momma busy nursing and you didn't have to do anything, then that's a #1 in calving ease. If you had to help a little bit, then that's a #2 and so on. If you've got a cow that has big calves and always needs help, I hope you've marked her down to GO at the first opportunity. A big calf isn't always a good thing. Yes, weaning weight, or more precisely selling weight, is important but it's not the only thing. So, I don't care if you use a little red book, a little black book, a nondescript book or even some app on your smartphone, keep those records and have some information to help make those culling decisions This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Ag Lease Workshop

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Ag leases are important. There's hardly a farmer that doesn't have at least one landlord, and most have more than one. Recent volatility in commodity prices, commodity production costs and land costs have made it tough for landlords and tenants to come to terms on what's an equitable lease to both parties. I have a meeting every year on leases and this year we're taking it a step further. I'm working with K-State and hosting an Ag Leasing Workshop. The date is January 16th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Zion United Church of Christ at US77 and McFarland Road. There's a \$25 fee for this meeting, which includes lunch, and participation is limited. We need your registration by Friday the 11th - give us a call at the Extension Office, 785-238-4161. We've got two really good ag economists that are handling the sessions. Troy Dumler is the ag economist for southwest Kansas and focuses on farm management and farm policy - maybe you can ask him about the current farm bill mess in DC over lunch. Mykel Taylor is an ag economist at K-State. She focuses on farm management and crop marketing. These two are a couple of rising and shining stars for K-State Research and Extension. The morning will focus on rental arrangements and leasing ethics. The afternoon will cover using Excel spreadsheets, especially the KSU-Lease spreadsheet which is a powerful tool that can help you evaluate lease arrangements. If you want to participate, you need to pre-register by Friday the 11th and the cost is \$25. But it'll be the best day and the best 25 bucks you've spent in a long time! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm

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Record Keeping Part 2

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Okay, keeping on that record keeping theme from a couple days ago, how about crop production records? With production agreements, herbicide issues, nitrate and fertility management, there are so many things that we need to remember. What variety or hybrid did you plant in what fields and when did you plant it. What was the planting rate, planned and actual. (Which brings up the question of how many times do you go out afterwards and count actual stand after planting?) Was the seed treated? What did you apply before planting, at planting and after planting for herbicides, insecticides and fertilizer. What day did you do any of that stuff? If you ever look at the labels of a lot of these herbicides or fungicides or insecticides, there are often some pretty strict requirements for waiting periods before you do this, that or the other. It's darn near scary. When you applied post emerge herbicides, not only what day did you do it, but what was the stage of growth of the crop? That's a big issue if you have a crop damage complaint! What weeds were you trying to kill and what size were those weeds? If you irrigate when did you apply irrigations and how much did you apply. By the way, you do have some rain gauges out there to monitor application don't you? If you don't irrigate, so you have a rain gauge present to measure and track rainfall. Now, some of you are probably laughing by now, but I'm not. These are all things that you really need to keep track of so you can make those decisions of what's working and what's economical. And we didn't even talk costs. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

Otte.