

Grain Dust Safety

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Stored grain is a dangerous thing. Even though we don't have never the amount of on farm storage here that we had in the area where I grew up, we can still have problems. Even short term storage, and I mean just days or a few weeks, can result in bridging grain that can cause collapses. When I was in high school we had a young boy killed in a truck when they were unloading and the grain shifted. Unless you have seen or been close to a grain dust explosion, it's hard to imagine the power involved. I've been close enough to two explosions to know it's power. Grain and grain dust can kill in an instant. You may not realize it, but around any grain that is moving, at some point in time there is enough of a concentration of have an explosion IF there is an ignition source at the right moment. The load of corn that shifted and killed the young boy had been in the truck for only 6 hours. Grain isn't something to play in for kids, especially when it is being moved. Likewise, any thing that you have around grain handling needs to be sealed in such a way that an electrical spark from an electric motor can not cause an explosion. If you are cleaning any grain storage or hauling equipment, do not use anything that can cause a spark. I wouldn't even use a weedeater or mower around a grain bin when you are moving grain. It just isn't worth the risk. Farming is a dangerous occupation. There's no need to take risks to make it even more so. Let's just be careful and cautious out there! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Come to the Fair!

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. This week is the Geary County Free Fair. This tradition has been going on for years and you need to come out for it. Someone asked me last week what my favorite part of the fair was. Even though the first urge was to say when it was over, what I did say was what I really feel once the fair is over and that is the sense of community that you get at the fair. County fairs are a great tradition. Today's far more connected and mobile society has far more interaction during the summer than we did in the 1930s and 1940s. But the coming together of the community during the county fair is something that has not changed. Compared to the fair that I grew up with, the Geary County fair is much smaller. But compared to the fair that I grew up with, the focus of the Geary County Free Fair is really all about the 4-Hers and to me, that's exactly what it should be! The 4-H members have been busy working with their projects. The 4-Her may be looking at a steer or a lamb, a cooking, sewing, woodworking project or maybe a photograph. But what many of us see is not the project so much, but the planning that went on to get to the fair. The time spent doing chores or learning the different things that you need to learn to care for an animal or make something from scratch. We see the confidence that those 4-Hers develop and the ability to speak to the public about their projects. And we see the time they spend to complete the paperwork in their recordbooks. So the 4-Her may be seeing the project, but I see the life skills learned and new citizens for our community. Come to the fair! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm

Chuck Otte.

Animal Sciences Hodge Podge

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Got a couple of livestock topics I want to touch on briefly this morning. We are starting to hear reports of blue-green algae showing up in larger reservoirs and that often raises concerns for farm ponds. Remember that blue green algae is not the long stringy green globs of filamentous algae that we often see. It is really a bacteria and will generally form weird colored slime on the surface of ponds. Blue green algae in and of itself isn't necessarily bad, but it can produce a toxin that is potentially lethal. If you have a concern and want to get it tested, the K-State Vet College can do that for \$20. Contact me first as there are very specific ways that you want to take the sample and you want to try to avoid getting any on you as if there are high levels you can have a nasty skin reaction. So call me before you start sticking a jar in the pond! The next topic, very briefly, is forage testing. We've got a lot of hay that was not put up at a good time, meaning too late. Let's get that stuff tested for protein before feeding. We have run some sudangrass samples through for nitrates and we've had one sample that was high, but not high like last year, and two that were very low. Finally, that growing threat to beef cattle called trich or Trichomoniasis. There are new pending regulations that are currently in a 60 day comment period. It's biggest impact will be on folks who move breeding stock across state lines. If you would like to see the proposed regulation so you can comment on it, or just for your information, I have copies of it. The comment period ends September 4th so don't waste time! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.