

## Ag Radio programs for January 30 - February 5, 2017

### Cattleman's Day

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The 104<sup>th</sup> annual Cattleman's Day is scheduled for Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Weber Hall on the campus of Kansas State University. The new K-State president Richard Myers as well as long time and well known ag economist emeritus, Barry Flinchbaugh will be your featured speakers in the morning. The doors open at 8 a.m. for the trade show with the actual program and presentations beginning at 10 a.m. Dr. Flinchbaugh will share his thoughts and outlook of ag policy under the new federal administration. This topic alone may well be worth the price of admission! Following Barry's presentation, K-State ag economists Glynn Tonser, Robin Reid and Dustin Pendell will present three brief outlooks for the beef industry including drivers of profitability and better use of farm management budgets. All three of these speakers are bright young minds with a keen perception of beef agriculture and the agricultural economy of Kansas and the US. The afternoon presentations don't slack off one bit. Time doesn't allow me to go into much detail but some of the topics include: Genetics and profit - balancing the bottom line, integrating cover crops and soil health into commercial beef production, how safe is your silage program, antimicrobial resistance and the VFD, preconditioning for profit, optimizing cull cow value, and how can we reduce the cost of feeding silage. Pre-registration is \$20 if registered by noon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March or \$30 at the door on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Herbicide Resistant Weeds Meeting

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We started seeing scattered herbicide resistant weeds a couple of years ago. Two years ago they were very noticeable and last year they just flat exploded. To be very blunt, for corn and soybean production, there is no more business as usual. Even with the new technologies of dicamba and 2,4-D resistant crops, you still can't wait for pigweeds to get 3 feet tall before treating. You HAVE to use a preplant or pre-emerge to get a jump on the pigweeds. If you have to use a post emerge, you'd better get it applied before the pigweeds get about 2 or 3 inches tall. Even if you are thinking about going to the Liberty Link technology and using Liberty herbicide, you need to be spraying when the weeds are no more than about three inches tall. One of the critical things to keep in mind is that weeds in that early time frame are growing rapidly. If you are thinking that you need to spray on a Friday, don't postpone it until the next Monday as these pigweeds, in late May and early June, can be growing at 1 to 2 inches per day. You don't want to put off spraying a couple of days. Well, to help you get a better handle on minimizing weeds we are again holding a workshop on managing herbicide resistant weeds. The date will be February 23<sup>rd</sup>. We'll start at 4:30 in the afternoon, meet for about 90 minutes, break for some BBQ dinner and then go for another hour or so. K-State Extension weed specialists Dallas Peterson and Curtis Thompson will be on hand to discuss how we got into this mess and how to manage both herbicides and weeds especially in soybeans and corn. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Reducing Crop Production Costs

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Crop production costs are going to be tight in 2017 and profit margins could be anywhere from slim to non-existent. So producers need to be really fine tuning their crop production program this year to enhance the chance of making a profit or enhancing what little profit there may be. The problem is that producers can very quickly shoot themselves in the foot by trying to save money in crop production. If I tell you that you need to save money growing your crops this year what are you going to consider doing? I'll bet that 90% of the time you'll consider scaling back on fertilizer. Yet how much of the direct, or variable costs of growing that crop is fertilizer? In corn production, fertilizer averages about 15% of the expense. In wheat it's 22% and in soybeans it's only 14%. Herbicides may be an even bigger surprise. Herbicide costs in corn were 12% of the total, in bean 15% and in wheat a whopping 2%. So where did the big expenses come in? Equipment expense and seed! Equipment expense and that includes everything from spraying, planting, fertilizing, harvesting - just anything you do to that crop where a piece of equipment is involved, is the largest component. In wheat it was 39% of the total direct expense. It was 36% in corn and 35% in beans. Seed expense was 23% in corn, 22% in beans and 13% in wheat. If you really want to make a difference, you can trim a few dollars off in fertilizer costs, be sure to listen tomorrow, but the real savings may well come from better equipment efficiency and shopping around for the best deals on seed. Take the time to know your costs! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Saving costs on fertilizer

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Yesterday we were talking about being efficient in your crop production and I was quick to point out that simply cutting back on fertilizer was trimming one of the lower priorities in the cost of that crop. In fact just flat out reducing your fertilizer applications could be cutting off your nose to spite your face. Fertilization is one area where we can quickly determine what you really do need so you aren't wasting money on nutrients you don't need. A soil test is not that much trouble to collect and we routinely find phosphorus levels well above the level that will require fertilizer. So 2017 and 2018 may well be years to mine some of that phosphorus that we have built up over the past few years. Sure, we are going to have to replace it eventually, but building up levels of phosphorus is not something that we do in low profitability years. Taking even an 18 inch sample to test profile nutrients like nitrogen, sulfur and chloride can be very beneficial. We often don't think about those micro-nutrients but when they are deficient it can really hurt your productivity. Nitrogen is our big expense in all non-legume crops, so let's test for that residual nitrate and scavenge every pound out of the soil profile that we can, or if it isn't there let's get it applied so we don't hurt production. The forgotten part of this whole equation isn't even truly a nutrient, it's an amendment, lime. With all the limestone in the ground around here it oft times surprises people at how many times we need to raise pH. This becomes even more crucial in crops like soybeans and alfalfa. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Veterinary Feed Directive

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The veterinary feed directive that we've been talking about for the past year is now real, as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a whole lot of misinformation out there, one of which is that this will go away because there is a new president in office. Sorry, but that part just isn't the case. The first thing that you need to remember is that this is a veterinary FEED directive. It only impacts CERTAIN medications that are put in feed. In this case, milk replacer counts as feed, it does have nutrients, but water does not. It applies to all feed sources and mineral. And it's not all medications, just those that are of importance in both human and animal health. If you want a list of which medications it does impact, let me know or you can find it on line. What the feed directive says is that any feed that contains any of the specified medications can only be fed with the approval of your veterinarian who you have to have a working relationship with. If the last time you talked to the vet was 5 years ago, that's probably not going to count. If you bought up some supplies of medicated feed back before January 1<sup>st</sup> and plan to use them without a vet feed directive, well, I hope you don't get caught because this applies to feed that was on hand as of January 1 as well. I'm not going to go into all the reasons why this is necessary but you need to be planning ahead. Don't decide on Saturday night at 7 p.m. that you need a medicated feed. It's not going to happen. Spend time discussing your needs with your veterinarian so that the two of you, and your feed supplier, can work out a realistic game plan. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.