

Ag Radio programs for April 7 - 13, 2014

Wheat Update

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent.

This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Maintaining Grassed Waterways

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Pasture Stocking Rates and Rental Rates

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that Kansas Ag Statistics is going to do their bluestem pasture rental rates this year. But let's go ahead and review last year's figures and also talk a little bit about stocking rates. I know I sound like a broken record, but most pastures are over stocked. Here's my philosophy on cows and calves on season long pasture. A 1,000 pound cow that will wean a 400 pound calf in the fall can get by, in an average year with 7 acres of good grass. I can hear you snickering right now that you haven't had a 1000 pound cow in 3 decades and all your calves are over 500 pounds at weaning. And that's fine. There's a simple conversion. For every 200 pounds of combined cow and weaning calf weight, add one more acre of grass. If you've got 1200 pound cows and weaning calves at 500, that's 300 pounds over the base stocking rate so increase the 7 acres to 8.5 acres of GRASS per pair. Is that perhaps a little conservative? Sure is, but in a dry year you'll be glad that your conservative. I don't really like per acre rental rates - I'd prefer to keep everything on a pair basis. Last year, the range in rental rates for pastures where no care was involved was \$75 to \$210 per pair. The reported average was \$150 per pair. But that probably represents a lot of older leases that need to be updated. With all that's been happening, I would encourage examining rental rates in the \$160 to \$180 per pair per season range. Now, if there is going to be a report again this year I'd expect it to be out in about a month, so just stay tuned and I'll let you know if it happens!

This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.