

Ag Radio programs for June 9 - 15, 2014

We have a new custom rates bulletin!!!!

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. After four years of not having a custom rates bulletin I am excited to say that the Kansas Ag Statistics has released a new custom rates publication. It's called Custom Rates 2013, but it just came out within the past few weeks and is based, like all of it's predecessors on rates charged the previous year. It appears that the Bluestem Pasture rental rates and the custom rates releases are going to be in alternating years. The theory being that one year old data isn't all that bad, which is a safe assumption, and we'll be able to keep them fairly up to date - or at least more so than once every 4 years!!! The Custom Rates bulletin is on the web, but we've also got copies here at the office and you can request one or pick one up next time you're in town! Just as a reminder, the custom rates report has rates for virtually all of the common field operations and then split up by the nine crop reporting districts. It tells you the number of reports that the average is based on, it gives you the average rate and then the range of rates. For example, Geary county is in the east central crop reporting district. There were 23 reports on custom rates for harvesting wheat. The average was \$26.45 per acre but the range was 22 to 45 dollars per acre. Six of those 23 reports also reported a high yield surcharge of 22.8 cents per bushel over 30 bushels per acre. There are also rates listed for haying and spraying as well as land tillage. There's even rates for fence building. Feel free to stop by and pick one up at your convenience! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Wheat harvest safety

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I'm sure that wheat harvest is still a little ways off, but it will be here before we know it! Wheat harvest used to be a much bigger deal than it is now, mainly because we were planting 2 to 3 times as many acres of wheat then than we do now. Regardless, wheat is a critical crop and when it is ready we want to move on it as soon as possible to get it out of the field. Wheat ripens and is harvested while still deep in thunderstorm season so we don't want to leave a mature crop standing too long for fear of shattering losses, hail storms or even fires. Just as a college football team doesn't show up the day before the first game and tries to get ready all at once, you need to have a game plan to getting ready so when it's time to roll, you aren't still wandering around trying to get everything together. If you are simply going to haul all your grain to the elevator, make sure your truck is cleaned up and ready to go. If you are going to use grain carts to get it to the truck then clean those up too! If you're going to keep any seed back, get storage areas cleaned up, treated for insects and ready to store. Once harvest starts, go into it with the idea of being as safe as possible. Drink lots of liquids, and that means more than just coffee. If you're driving grain trucks, take it easy and slow. Just remember that most of those other folks on the road have no idea that a loaded grain truck doesn't handle like their F-150. And if you as a non-farmer encounter wheat harvest vehicles, slow down, be patient and give them the room that they need to get where they are going. It won't take that much time! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Sericea lespedeza control

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Sericea lespedeza continues to be a serious threat to rangelands and other areas as well. Being a noxious weed it is important to identify it and try to control it. Once it's established it is going to take a couple of years to get it under control and then many more years to deal with seedlings coming from dormant seed. While research continues to see if sheep or goats can be used to control it with late summer grazing, we are still pretty much dependent on herbicides to knock it down. There are two key times to spray sericea. One is late summer at blooming time (often 4 to 6 weeks after mowing) and the other time is in June and early July. Treatment now is a great way to knock down new seedlings as well as to start putting a hit on established mature plants. For early summer treatments, triclopyr, or triclopyr plus fluroxypyr can provide effective control. Remedy Ultra and Garlon Ultra are the most common triclopyr product but there are many generic versions of triclopyr now available and PastureGard HL is the triclopyr - fluroxypyr combo product. Use Remedy at 1 to 1½ pints per acre and PastureGard at ¾ to 1½ pints per acre. Using a high volume handgun is my preferred way to apply - 10 to 20 gallons per acre if you are using a boom sprayer. You need thorough coverage so do not use a mist blower. While several metsulfuron products are labeled for Sericea, these work better in late summer when the plants are blooming. An early summer and late summer treatment can be very effective and then spraying ever 2 to 4 years is necessary for continued control. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.