

Hang on for the new farm program

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I spent a very long day last week going through training on the new farm bill. And let me just say, hang on to your nickers. For the first time in 12 years you have a chance to change your base acres. From everything that I can tell, you probably should. There's been a lot of changes in the past 12 years and who knows if or when you can adjust them again. There's also a chance to adjust your production history, but this is going to be a bit trickier due to the needs for documentation. As you look at the program in coming weeks, and most of you probably won't do too much until after harvest, and to be right honest, we've got quite a bit of time until signup deadline. Don't wait until the last minute, but don't be bugging the FSA office for an appointment. While extension staff was in Manhattan getting training, FSA was in a 3 day training in Wichita. They're still figuring it out too and some of the critical pieces of information probably won't be determined until mid November. There will be educational meetings and the Extension Office will be offering consultations for producers wanting to look at the options. The challenge of looking at options is we'll need to predict, or guess, yield and prices from now until 2018. What I can tell you is that for most folks, the ARC-County coverage will be the way to go. Unless you can prove yields 30% above county average, you won't want to do the Individual coverage. This is the start so stay tuned for more details! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Wheat planting rates

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Discussion with a wheat grower late last week brought up the question of what planting rate they should be using. Well, we are getting close to the end of my preferred planting date, okay we are past it, but through the end of this week, if you are going into clean ground then 80 to 90 pounds per acre is still probably okay. If you are planting into no-till stubble then 90 to 100 pounds is in order. If it's next week before you get planting, then up those rates 10 pounds per acre in conventional till fields and 20 pounds per acre in no-till fields. And once we get past about the first week of November we are going to be up into the 110 to 130 pound per acre range. The ground is cooling off surprisingly rapidly now. Cooler temperatures mean slower germination. Slower germination means less time to tiller so fewer heads per plant. Which means that to compensate, we need to plant more seeds to get more plants to get more heads to get more kernels to get more bushels. It's simple math actually! The other thing that really needs to be happening from here on out is seed treatments. Cooler and wetter soils will result in a better opportunity for seedling diseases to get started and hence the need for systemic fungicide seed treatments. This late in the season I see no need to go with systemic insecticide seed treatments, but the fungicides, absolutely! The rains that we had the first ten days of the month really slowed down fall field progress, both harvesting and planting which means that management of those wheat fields and that new wheat crop are going to be very crucial! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Start now for weed control in next year's soybeans

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We were talking last week about weed control options now and early spring in corn and sorghum and this week I want to talk about the same thing in fields where you will be going in with soybeans in 2015. The first thing to do is to get out in the fields this fall and scout for winter annual weed problems. The biggest one we'll need to deal with is going to be marestail. But also scout for other weeds, even if they are going to be dead soon, if they were there this year, they're going to be there next year. Again, either this fall for winter annuals or next spring for other species, just accept the fact that glyphosate alone is no longer going to do it. So this fall, for marestail and other winter annual weeds, like henbit, pennycress, mustards, etc., make sure that you are including 2,4-D or dicamba along with an ALS inhibitor like Canopy EX or Autumn Super. The phenoxy herbicide will help with any ALS resistant plants and the ALS inhibitor will handle many of the rest. Marestail is still coming up so hold off for another couple weeks before treating. If you are going into wheat stubble and have a lot of wheat or cheat grasses, then certainly add glyphosate for more control. You can use the 2,4-D and dicamba this fall because it will be gone by planting time. Come spring you will want to avoid those two herbicides unless you are 45 to 60 days ahead of planting. Once we get into spring, if you have a lot of spring germinating marestail or other broadleaf weeds, consider one of the Kixor containing products like Sharpen or OpTill. And in the spring, we have a whole host of other herbicides. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

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