

## Planning for Burning

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Here it is Christmas week and I'm talking about pasture burning. Two months ago I was concerned that because of dry weather it may not be advisable to burn pasture in 2016. Ponds were showing the effect of reduced rainfall and soils were getting dry, setting up a scenario where it simply would not be advisable to burn. Eight inches of rain later, I don't have those concerns. We've got a full moisture profile and unless we go the next couple of months with zero precipitation, low humidity and above normal temperatures, I would not have any reservations about burning pastures. Timing of the burn is becoming more and more crucial as we deal with air quality issues from large metropolitan areas. Knowing why you burn is also becoming more and more crucial. We are starting to move more burning out of April because of those air quality issues. We have encouraged doing more burning in March because the ozone monitors weren't being turned on until April 1. So what does the EPA do? They announced that they are now turning on the ozone monitors on March 1. So here's the plan. If you are burning to control cedar trees or simply to remove old grass, consider burning in mid to late February or very early March. If you are burning to control brush, know which brush the fire will control - mainly dogwood and buckbrush, and do that as late as you possibly can, even in to early May. We have to get this smoke spread out over more time to reduce impacts. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Winter Ranch Management Program - Dealing with Mud

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Mark February 2<sup>nd</sup> on your calendars for a winter ranch management seminar in Alta Vista. This is being hosted by Geary, Wabaunsee and Morris Extension offices and has four great speakers addressing crucial cow herd management topics. This meeting starts at 5 pm, well, registration at 5, program at 5:30, there's dinner at 6:30 and then adjourn by 8:30. Registration is \$5 and I'll get more information out on how to register after the first of the year. To say that it has gotten muddy is an understatement. One thing that cattle need is a relatively dry comfortable place to lie down in. Mud usually isn't a problem in pastures, but this time of year we are often not yet in those calving pastures because we are saving them, well, for calving time. So cows may be on stocks or even being fed in lots before they are turned into calving pastures in a few more weeks. If that's the case then try to get them some drier spots where they can lie down. Maybe get a couple bales of that three year old hay that was low quality when you first put it up, and roll it out away from feeding areas. Or if you have them in a lot situation, get some mounds built up where they can get out of the mud. The forecast for the next few weeks, if you believe in those things, says above normal temperatures and potentially above normal precipitation. In other words, it doesn't look like it's going to dry out soon, but it also looks like maintenance needs for those cows is going to stay somewhat low for the time being. So keep taking care of those cows, start thinking about calving season and enjoy the holidays! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Agricultural Leases

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The clock is ticking on agricultural leases. While more and more leases are moving to written leases, far too many are still oral agreements. Oral agreements are all well and good, as long as landlord and tenant are getting along. But when the relationship goes sour, state statutes are very specific regarding how a lease is to be terminated. Before I go any further let me add that we have a very good bulletin at the Extension Office on the Kansas Ag Lease law that goes into more detail than I can here. An oral agricultural lease, by law, can only be a one year lease. But it does automatically renew every year until proper termination is given. If as a tenant you want more than a one year assurance that you will have the land, then you'd better get that lease in writing. The statutes specifically state that notice to terminate an oral lease has to be given in writing at least 30 days prior to March 1, which will be January 30<sup>th</sup> in 2016 because of leap day, and it must set the termination date to be March 1, except for any land planted to wheat. The lease on those acres terminates the day after the last day of harvest or August 1<sup>st</sup>, whichever comes first. That notice has to be in the tenants hands by January 30<sup>th</sup>, not just mailed. IF you want to renegotiate the terms of your lease, I'd suggest doing it in the next few weeks so that if you can't reach an agreement, you still have time to provide proper notice of termination. I'll be covering more details on ag leases in coming weeks, but if you have any specific questions or concerns, don't hesitate to give me a call at the Extension office! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.