

Kansas Farm Management Association

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Okay, show of hands of everyone that really enjoys record keeping and doing the financial books for your farm? Sure, I know it's radio and I can't see your hands, but I can pretty well guarantee that there are less than a dozen hands in the air right now. Record keeping is a chore for most all of us, but for the farm business it is a critical chore. Many people feel that record keeping is merely something that we need to do so we can do our taxes and keep the bank happy. While both of these are very valid and legitimate reasons to keep those financial records, what would you do if I said those records could be used for so much more? Now I'm not going to tell you that I can make record keeping fun, but I can tell you a way to get so much more out of those books you keep. It's a simple little thing called Kansas Farm Management Association. This is a division of K-State Research and Extension. There is a cost, but you get a lot for your money. You get several visits a year with a farm management field man who goes over your books with you and helps you look at how much more information you can pull out of your records. They can help you evaluate whether you should or shouldn't buy new equipment or that farm down the road. They can even help you evaluate how much you should pay on that cash lease. For years we haven't been able to take on many new farm management members but positions have opened up this year and here is your chance - call me if you are interested! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Corn seeding rates

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. What seeding rate to plant corn is a common topic of discussion amongst corn growers. Everyone has a different opinion and intriguingly no one opinion is universally right or wrong. One has to consider many factors like inherent productivity of the soil, amount of rainfall for the growing season or amount of irrigation water available to be applied. Then we can get into yield goals and fertilization plans and even hybrid differences. In my opinion the best way to determine seeding rates is to evaluate the plants and ears in the fall. If more than 5% of the ears are barren or have fewer than 250 kernels, your seeding rate was too high for that year. You always have to take into consideration what kind of weather you had that summer. Conversely, if you've got lots of big ears, they are all filled clear to the tip, and there are consistently more than 600 kernels per ear or you routinely have a second ear, then the planting rate was too low. And if you never take the time to look at that ear, you're shooting in the dark with a blindfold on at a moving target! Challengingly, we sit here wedged between a couple of different environments. Some years we are more like northeast Kansas, other years more like north central. For dryland fields, I'd be dropping between 22 and 27,000 seeds per acre - higher levels on the more productive bottomland fields. You are aiming for a final stand of 20 to 25,000 plants. For irrigated fields with reliable water, you want to up that to 27 to 33,000 seeds per acre aiming for a final population of 24 to 28,000 plants per acre. Earlier planted fields should probably up the rate. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC,

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HOT class forming

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Federal law requires that any 14 or 15 year olds that want to operate tractors or machinery on a farm that is NOT owned by their parents, must have successfully completed a safety training class. Once the youth turns 16 that stipulation doesn't matter and technically youth under the age of 14 should not be operating a tractor or any equipment on a farm not owned by their parent. Locally we've gone through a phase with not a lot of youth on our farms, but that is changing and it's time to have a hazardous occupation and safety training, sometimes just called tractor safety. Dickinson County Extension Agent Laura Marks and I are cooperatively planning one for early May, tentatively planning to hold it in Chapman if the details can be worked out. The dates are May 6th and 7th. We will start about 5:30 pm and go until about 9:00. There will also be a little homework and reading for 14 and 15 year old participants to do ahead of time. A simple meal will be served both evenings and there will be a modest charge to help cover costs. While the training is aimed at 14 and 15 year olds, it will be open to younger youth probably 10 years and older. The younger youth can't be certified, but it is good training opportunity and we'd even welcome parents to sit in, as long as they stay quiet! More details will be forthcoming and it is open to any youth, not just Dickinson and Geary counties. We do need to have pre-registration to make sure we have enough supplies and food so please call the Extension office, 785-238-4161 to register or call me up and ask any questions you may have! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.