

New Bulletins

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. With the advent of the internet we don't keep nearly as many paper copies of bulletins in the office. In fact we probably have 1/10 the volume of paper in the office that we did 30 years ago. With the ability to go on the internet and immediately print off the latest copy of a bulletin, we don't need to keep those items in stock, we just need to know where to get them. In fact, oft times we'll just direct you to where you can find a particular bulletin on the internet because you just want to read it - you don't want that piece of paper laying around either! However, there are a few bulletins that are updated every year and we make sure we get copies into the office when they arrive. One group of those are the insect control recommendations. These give a listing, crop by crop, of what pests to anticipate when, at what level do they become an economic risk and what are the preferred products to treat them with. Well, those are printed and we just ordered them, but they aren't in the office yet. Give me another week or two. HOWEVER, the 2015 Chemical Weed Control handbook is in the office and available for pick up (and probably at Geary Grain by now also). If you do any of your own spraying, of any kind, you need to get this one. It's thick, it's got lots of good info in it, and you need it. The other bulletins that are in now are the spring planted variety or hybrid test plot results. Many of you have already pre-ordered your seed, but it's a good idea to pick these up to review as well! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Late Season Cowherd Nutrition

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. For most cow herds we are into the final trimester of pregnancy. This is the period of time that the calf is making most of its growth. This is also a period of time when you need to watch that cow nutrition and even heifer nutrition, because you can cause a train wreck by over feeding right now. If you boost that cow's nutrition plane too much you're going to have a lot of growth in that fetus and you will have calving issues. Many cow herd management specialists strongly encourage getting your cows up to size and good body condition in the late summer and early fall and then feed them minimally up until calving season starts. That 50 to 60 day precalving period for that cow is her second lowest nutritional requirement period. But we switch from that second lowest to the highest nutritional requirements the day she calves. Up until a couple of weeks before she calves, those cows can get by on stalks, dry grass or native prairie hay. If we hit a really cold spell, like we did a few weeks ago, you may need to put out a little average quality alfalfa or a little protein cake to boost their energy for keeping warm. However, once that calf hits the ground, assuming these cows are in a calving pasture, start getting the groceries to 'em. Cows are going to eat 1.8 to 2% of their body weight in dry forage so, if like most folks, you have 1250 to 1300 pound cows, or bigger, you may well want to be putting out 20 to 25 pounds of alfalfa every day and perhaps some good prairie hay too. As stingy as you were pre-calving with the feed, go the other direction once they calve! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Farm Bill update

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I've been meeting with a lot of producers and landlords and talking about the options and considerations with the farm bill. And in most cases, I think folks are making it far too complicated and perhaps taking a too short-sighted look at the farm bill. The first two decisions to be made are updating yields and reallocating bases. These decisions have to be made by February 27th. Updating yields is a no brainer. If you've got the crop insurance records to prove your yields and your new yields would be higher than your current yields, then update. BUT make sure you have all the RMA paperwork to back up the yields you turn in. The next decision, on reallocating bases is going to be greatly predicated by what your goal with the farm bill is. There's a natural tendency to look at the potential short term financials. If you take that approach AND you have a strong wheat and sorghum base, you'll be tempted to keep the old bases. BUT, if you do that, you could wind up with a base that doesn't represent what you are growing. Your actual crop may be a bust, but your base acres crop yield enough not to trigger payment so you are out not once but twice. Anytime you can get a chance to align your base acres more closely to what you are really growing, you do a better job, from a risk management objective. There's the other consideration that we don't know when we'll be able to reallocate bases again. The next farm bill may require you to plant what your base is and if so, how much wheat and sorghum do you want to plant? Look long term, think risk management and reallocate! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm

Chuck Otte.