

Early season weed control in spring crops

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. When we had our weed control program a couple of weeks ago there was a lot of talk about pre-emerge or pre-plant herbicide applications. Which is actually an interesting throw back to the pre Roundup Ready days when post emerge options were few and the hope was to keep weeds somewhat controlled until the crop could canopy over. So what we are now trying to do is have mixed modes of weed control. We're to the point that we pretty much can assume that the various pigweeds will not be controlled by glyphosate and other control options require spraying small weeds as in less than 4 inches tall, preferably 2 inches. Even if you are using LibertyLink technology, it does not do well on big weeds, we need to be treating weeds less than 4 inches tall. So what we want to do is control those early flushes of weeds. Corn is under less threat than beans and milo simply because many of our serious weeds like warmer soils. By the time the pigweeds are coming on strong, corn is often 10 to 18 inches tall and starting to shade out the ground. Shade is a weed's worst enemy. As you are getting ready for corn or milo planting this spring, think about an early early treatment of some atrazine containing product along with your typical burndown mix - meaning glyphosate and something. For soybeans consider metribuzin along with burndowns. We're looking in all of these cases to get the growing weeds controlled and then keeping weeds controlled until closer to planting. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Bluestem Pasture Rental Rates

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Okay, how many of you remember my program two weeks ago on pasture rental rates? Well you can take the part about there not going to be a report this year and pitch it out the window. Late last week we were notified that the 2016 Bluestem Pasture Release was available on line. This was a joint effort of the K-State Ag Econ Department and Kansas Department of Agriculture. To those responsible, thank you! I have copies at the Extension Office and it can also be found at agmanger.info. Click on Farm Management and then Leasing and it should be towards the top of the page. While I am very excited to see this report, I found that the lease rates reported for 2015 were perhaps as much as 50 to 70% below what I heard some people were paying. In my opinion, they may even be a little low for this year they should be closer. So why can these reports seem to be so far off? Well, keep in mind that these are averages and we all know that we often hear the extremes of what is being paid. There are also a lot of long term landlord tenant agreements that result in rental rates that just go along for quite some time and barely change. The landlord is getting enough to pay their expenses and the tenant, well the past couple of years the tenant knew they were getting a good deal and weren't about to rock the boat, but I do know a few folks that made extra payments to the landlord because it had been a good year. One thing that wasn't on the report this year was the range of prices reported, just the averages so I can't see where everything fell. Anyway, the report is out and we have it! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm

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Fence building rates and information

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Yesterday I talked about the bluestem pasture rental rates bulletin that was just released. Well, appropriately enough, part of that release was information on pasture fences and fence building rates for the Flint Hills region. While the pasture lease survey was being done, data was also gathered on fences. Nearly 45% of fence building was being done by the owner with 38% being done by a builder or contractor. I guess the remaining 15% was some other strange combination. Far and away the most common fence 76%, was a 5 wire barb, and 74% were on steel fence posts. 21% of the fences were combination of steel and wood posts and 14% were 4 wire barb. Gates were a close tie between an even mix of steel and wire. The most common post space was 15 feet at 31% of the respondents. And that one surprised me because I figured that everyone put posts every rod... a rod is 16½ feet for those who didn't grow up with a father like I had. Not surprisingly most pastures had no cross fences. When asked how long they expected their fence to last, nearly 40% of the respondents felt that their fence should last 50 years and 30% listed 30 years. Now on to what everyone wants to know - custom fence building rates. Average price for 5 wire including materials was \$31 per rod, excluding materials \$16 per rod. Additional charge for gates was about \$90 per gate and for corners, about \$140. Average hourly rate with equipment was \$77 per hour and average hourly rate for rough or rocky terrain was \$55 per hour. This data is in the Bluestem report available at our office and online. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm

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