

New Farm Bill Changes, Part 1

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Finally, the new farm bill has been passed and signed. Obviously at 800 and some pages in length, nobody outside of the ag committees have really had time to digest it. The basic farm program ARC and PLC are again offered, ARC with county and individual farm options again. You will have to redesignate which one of the programs you want to do. Your first election will be for the 2019 and 2020 years but starting in 2021 you will have annual elections so you can change from one year to the next. I know this was a big challenge last time as no one knew what the next five years was going to be like. There'll be a little tweaking of base acres based on what you did or didn't have planted the past five years. Nobody is losing base, but... Basically the programs aren't changing much - a few more comments in tomorrow's segment. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

New Farm Bill Changes, Part 2

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Today, some other changes that we already know about from the 2018 Farm Bill, or whatever they are calling it.

ARC County payments will now be calculated on the physical location of the farm, NOT the administrative county. Risk Management Agency (RMA) yields per planted acre will be used as the first source of county-yield information for revenue guarantees and payment calculations.

The Olympic yield calculation will still be the average of the last five years BUT low yield years will be replaced by 80% of the transitional yield and a trend adjustment factor will be applied.

Time lines for county yields will also be calculated sooner allowing for a better understanding of ARC payments. Lastly, and this was a relief to me, the Crop Insurance Title of the bill saw very little change, which many of us were hoping for!. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

New Chemical Weed Control Book

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Perhaps slightly earlier than in past years the new 2019 Chemical Weed Control for Field Crops book is available from K-State. Well, the print version isn't yet in the office, that won't be until the first few days of January, but you can download it or view it online. You can find it on the K-State Extension website or simply plug 2019 Chemical Weed Control KSU into your favorite search engine and it should pop up as the first hit. I have it already downloaded to my iPad so I have it with me everywhere. It's still about 150 pages long and has a wealth of information in it not only on herbicides for crops but herbicides for pastures, hay meadows, rangeland and non crop areas as well as brush control recommendations and noxious weed herbicides. Stop by after about the 5th of January to pick up your free copy. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Is My Wheat Ever Going to Emerge?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We had wheat that got planted late this year, a lot of wheat and it was really late. Unlike last year, at least the wheat went into good moisture but a fair amount of the late planted wheat is not yet out of the ground. Germination has started but with soil temperatures in the mid 30s it's slow going. You may not see new sprouts above ground until February. The least of my worries is whether we'll have enough cold weather to vernalize the crop. We will, that's for sure. What does concern me a little bit is that late planted wheat, with its much smaller root system and crown will have had less opportunity for hardening off, as it's still trying to grow, not go dormant. This will make the crop more vulnerable to winter damage. Right now we've got a forecast of warmer than normal temps, but I guess we'll see as we go along. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

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ONLY FOUR PROGRAMS THIS WEEK DUE TO CHRISTMAS

I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.