

## Ag Radio Programs for November 12 - 18, 2018

### Ag Leases

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Last minute reminder of the ag lease meeting Tuesday night, November 13, 7 p.m. at the 4-H/Sr. Citizens Center. I'm asking for pre-registration just to make sure we have enough refreshments and I've extended the deadline. PLEASE call the Extension Office 238-4161 by noon on the 13<sup>th</sup>. If you call and get our voice mail just leave a message - your name and number of people that you are calling in for. I've seen a change in types of questions this year and a lot of them dealt with double crop legalities, harvesting grain crops for forages and grazing crops and crop residues with cattle. We will discuss these at the meeting as well as many of the traditional ag lease law situations that we need to remember every year. Our long standing Kansas Ag Lease Law bulletin is being updated. While the new version hasn't gone to press yet I have had the opportunity to see the draft version of it and since the last time it was updated there have been some new legal cases that have tweaked some of the precedents, especially with lease termination when it comes to farms where winter wheat is planted. I will update you on these changes. Even though we don't plant near the amount of wheat we once did, we still need to be aware of these changes. As always we will talk about details of lease termination, we will talk a little bit about cash rental rates we will talk about what input costs should be shared, what can be considered to be shared and how to work out an equitable lease. Plant to attend! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Nitrogen Loss in Wheat Fields

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Had you told me on July 1 that from August 1 to November 1 we'd have nearly double normal rainfall, I'd have said, yeah, that just about figures! We had a lot of nitrogen left in some of these fields where wheat was planted. And we had a lot of rainfall happen when the soils were still warm enough for all sorts of things to happen. The soils are still wet, but the temperatures have dropped, which is a good thing. Anytime that soil temperatures are above freezing nitrification will take place. Nitrification is the process that changes nitrogen compounds like anhydrous ammonia to nitrates which can then be leached or denitrified. We always advise not to fall apply anhydrous until after soil temperatures are below 50 degrees so nitrification is slowed. As of late last week soil temperatures were into the low to mid 40s and once we get to early this week, I'm sure they were even colder. But all that residual nitrogen left over after the drought was already into nitrate forms and subject to leaching this fall with the abundant rains. I am quite sure that in many of these fields there is still some residual nitrogen. A quick way to know for sure would be to pull some profile nitrogen samples and check. Fertilizer applied this fall, except on sandy soils, is likely pretty safe from loss. If you haven't fertilized yet, in the absence of a soil test, I would plan on a nearly full nitrogen fertilization rate and I would get that applied sooner rather than later to make sure the N gets moved into the soil. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Leaf Rust in November? Really?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. If you got your wheat planted back in late September or early October, and it has gotten well established, have you been out to check it? If you do, don't be surprised if you find some leaf rust out there. In areas of western and central Kansas they have had heavy leaf rust infections this fall. A lot of this rust built up on volunteer wheat that came up after the rains started and then moved to newly planted wheat - hence the green bridge we often talk about. Normally leaf rust does not overwinter in Kansas. Leaves freeze out over winter and since the fungus needs green tissue to live on, the disease dies out too. However, if we have adequate to excessive fall growth or the wheat becomes covered with enough snow to protect those leaves, leaf rust can overwinter allowing it to get a jump start in the spring not needing to wait for spores to blow in from Texas and Oklahoma. So do we need to be treating with fungicides this fall? Well, NO! Fall infection with any of these foliar diseases does little to nothing to hurt yield. But once we get into late February or early March and the wheat starts putting on new growth, we need to be in fields scouting for leaf rust. Advance scouting this fall may help tell you which fields are highest risk and where to concentrate scouting in the spring. If and only if we have overwintering leaf rust and infection of new spring growth, then we may see benefit to spraying fungicides prior to jointing, then following up with a second treatment after flag leaf emergence. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Time to Start Talking Leases

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I would contend that most crop share leases are put together backwards, and I think I can prove it. Most landlord tenant crop share lease discussions usually amount to the landlord saying that they want 1/3 of the crop and they will pay 1/3 of the fertilizer, herbicide, insecticide, lime, perhaps seed and maybe custom harvest charge on their 1/3 of the crop. Now just to be clear, I'm not picking on the landlords here - but in my experience that's what I've witnessed. This is the expectation because these have been the traditions. Sure it may be 2/5-3/5 maybe even a 50:50 split but the first thing that is stated is how much the share is going to be. The way it should be is that the landlord decides which costs they are willing to share the expense of. Those costs are set aside and then we calculate the other crop production expenses that aren't shared meaning what the landlord and tenant are bringing into the production of that crop. The landlord brings the land so we assign a value to that, the tenant brings just about everything else. We figure out the ratio of these non-shared expenses and then that should dictate the ratio of shared expenses and the crop. I've seen enough 40:60 and 1/3-2/3 leases that were more like 20:80 leases. We can no longer go on traditional splits because those were based on days gone by before no-till and before we knew what technology charges on seed were and both wheat and soybean seed came out of the bin not a bag. Times have changed and so should leases. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Winter Travel Safety

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. It isn't even Thanksgiving and we've already seen snow twice this year with nearly as much snow as we had all of last winter. This should serve as a great wake up call that it's time to get your frame of mind and your car into winter travel mode. Sadly, for whatever reason, we have far too many people out on the road this time of year traveling on long trips or just back and forth to work that act like it's summer all the time. So first of all, regardless of the form of precipitation this time of year, liquid, frozen or a mix, back off and slow down. I had a high school drivers ed teacher tell me that once the road gets water covered and especially snow or ice covered you should always drive like you have an egg between your foot and the brake or the accelerator. Allow more distance between you and the car ahead of you. Speed limits are maximum speeds not minimum speeds and the law says that drivers should adjust their speeds with conditions. Start slowly and stop slowly. It doesn't matter if you're in an SUV, a 4-wheel drive truck or a sports car. If the coefficient of friction between your tires and the road equals zero, you are then in a toboggan and have no control! Keep emergency supplies in your vehicle. I've been trapped in a blizzard - it's no fun. Have emergency supplies, blankets and extra clothing, hats, gloves. I've seen a lot of you in cold weather out and about in shorts and no coat. Not smart in a snow storm. Lastly, always keep your vehicle at least half full of fuel. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.