

Ag Radio Programs for November 5 - 11, 2018

Ag Lease Meeting

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. For all the years that I've worked with landlords and tenants on leases and all the meetings that I have conducted on leases, I probably had more calls about leases this summer during the drought than the past five years put together. We've got a share's lease, the tenant wants to cut the corn crop for forage, what do I get out of this? Can the tenant double crop soybeans after wheat harvest without my permission? Can the tenant graze the wheat crop without my permission? Can the tenant plant cover crops? And then graze them? The number and types of questions that I received this past summer were just plain wild! But it points out the importance of have a good written lease that then allows you to definitively answer these questions. Essentially, if you have a verbal lease agreement, the answer to all of the those questions is yes, the tenant legally can. But I don't have time to discuss this in detail right now, BUT mark on you calendars that next Tuesday, November 13th at 7 p.m. at the 4-H Sr. Citizens Building we will have an ag lease workshop where we'll discuss these issues and many more that come up in ag leases. I am asking that you pre-register for this meeting. There's no cost but Central National Bank is sponsoring refreshments and I want to make sure that I have enough pies on hand for everyone that's going to be there. Call the Extension Office at 785-238-4161, or email me at c-o-t-t-e@ksu.edu to get registered and please do that by the end of this week! See you then! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

BQA Meetings

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. If you sell fat steers direct to a packing plant then you have probably already been notified of the need to go through the Beef Quality Assurance, or simply BQA, Training and Certification. Even if you don't sell fat steers directly to a packing plant, it would be a good idea to go through the BQA program. Here's the big thing on this - 99.9% of all cattle producers are doing an outstanding job. They are doing things right and producing high quality wholesome food. But the general public doesn't understand where their food comes from or how it is produced. So when they go to buy meat they look for meaningless catch phrase marketing terms without really understanding what the heck it means! So packing plants and meat marketers are being proactive and signing on to these projects, like BQA and others that you will be hearing about in the next year or two. Is it a shame we have to do this? Sure it is. But is it a good thing to get involved with? Of course it is. There's two ways to get BQA training and certification. One is in online study courses that you do at home on your own time. The other is at meetings being hosted by KLA and others. There is one in Washington, KS tomorrow evening - call me for details. I tried to get one locally in early December but we couldn't find dates when everyone was available. Call me if you want information on the Washington meeting. If you want information on how to go online and get certified, I can help with that also! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Make Plans for Brome Fertilization This Fall

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I've had several calls from producers in recent weeks asking about brome grass fertilization. Continuing wet weather has prevented me from getting out and pulling soil samples on some brome fields, but I still hope I can get it done before Thanksgiving IF the weather will just cooperate! But this gives me the chance to bring up a couple of points that I feel need to be considered with our brome grass fertilization plans. If you haven't already I'd really like to see everyone move from a late winter brome fertilization schedule to a late fall schedule. Things happen in the late winter and all of a sudden we have 6 inches of new growth on the brome in the spring before we get it fertilized. Once we are that far into the growing season we've lost a lot of our opportunity. If you can manage to get it fertilized between say November 15th and December 15th, assuming that the ground isn't frozen, then it's laying on cold ground at a time when we are likely to get some precipitation, even light precipitation, that will take it into the surface soil. IF things don't work out, then you can still shoot for that February fertilization. As for fertilizing following this year, absolutely, especially given the excessive rain the past 3 months. I would aim for a fall fertilization with about 2/3 normal nitrogen, or 50 to 60 pounds actual N if you prefer. But also, in the absence of a recent soil test, I would apply 25 to 35 pounds of phosphorus and 15 pounds of sulfur to maintain good production. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Plan Now For Weed Control and Fertilization in Alfalfa

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Every spring I see a lot of alfalfa fields break dormancy and start growing that have a whole lot of cheat grass or winter annual broadleaf weeds. This is so very frustrating to me because we have several good herbicides that we can address this problem with in the dormant season. Give all the rain that we've had since August 1st I suspect that we will see a lot of these weedy issues in our alfalfa next spring IF we don't do something. Additionally, alfalfa field productivity and life span can be increased greatly by annual late fall applications with phosphorus fertilizer. The sooner you get it on this fall, the better off you will be. In the absence of a soil test I like to recommend 30 to 40 pounds of P₂O₅ annually. As for weed control, we really need to wait until the alfalfa is well dormant, which isn't just yet! One of my favorite dormant season herbicides is metribuzin. Dormant season applications will provide good control of the cheat grasses and good to excellent control of the mustards and henbit. In the dormant season glyphosate can also be used even on non Roundup Ready alfalfa for control of cheat grasses. You need to do this on sunny days with temperatures above 50 for good activity. Other dormant season herbicides include Gramoxone, Karmex, Diuron, Pursuit, Sharpen, Sinbar and several Velpar based herbicides. The window of opportunity is pretty broad in the dormant season and if applied in late winter can help with early summer weeds too. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Reflections on Nitrates

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. As the forage harvest season is winding down I've had some occasion to review the results of the over 150 forage samples we sent in this past few months trying to track and manage the nitrate problem. As this situation hopefully winds down and all we're left with is how to safely feed some of these forages, here's some of my thoughts for future years when we may have to deal with this, and I hope I don't have to use this information again! Any plant can develop high nitrate levels given the right conditions. Nitrogen fertilization rates can certainly influence this. High fertilization rates often resulted in high nitrate levels not only in the original crop but in subsequent crops. Fields originally planted to corn, forage sorghum or sudan that had high levels of nitrogen fertilizer produced forages with high nitrate levels and subsequent emergency forages or cover crops also had high nitrate levels. Conversely, forage sorghum and sudan planted at the start of the year with little or no nitrogen fertilizer had significantly lower nitrate levels. Cover crops planted this fall that had turnips or radishes have had nitrate levels all over the board. Again, the highest levels appear to have come from fields that had more nitrogen fertilizer applied sometime this year. We feel that we can probably bump that safe nitrate level up a bit on these brassicas due to the high water content of these forages, BUT you still need to proceed with great caution especially if you are grazing with pregnant cows! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.