

## Ag Radio Programs for April 1 - 7, 2019

Start watching your alfalfa

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It's really important that by the end of this week or early next week you start making some scouting trips into your alfalfa field. If you have a new stand, you may find that some of those plants are showing some frost heaving damage. Not much you can do about it, it was just one of those kinds of winters. I also want you to spend some time walking the field and checking on weeds. It's still early enough we can get some control with products like Pursuit and Raptor. Finally, get down on your hands and knees and start looking for pinholing in the leaves which is the first sign of weevil activity. We haven't had enough heat units or growing degree days yet to get them that far along, but we are gaining degree days quickly now and it won't be long before the little rascals get started. So start scouting fields now for a baseline measure. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

April is smoke management month

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The month of April is when the Flint Hills smoke management plan gets active. Geary, Riley, Morris and Wabaunsee counties are in in the management area, Dickinson and Clay are not. During April the only outdoor burning that is allowed is basically agricultural burning meaning, pastures. Brush piles are not to be burned during April. Prescribed burning should be done on days when the smoke management decision making tool at [ksfire.org](http://ksfire.org) shows that your fire won't cause undue issues in major metropolitan cities, meaning Kansas City, Wichita, Topeka or Lincoln. There's a lot of question about how much burning there will be this year. I know many pastures locally don't have a lot of fuel so if it does carry a fire, it'll be a smaller fire than normal. And in Geary County, remember your burn permit protocol. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Yellow wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The wheat is starting to green up now that we've had some sunshine and warmer temperatures. I have noticed some of the wheat looks really good, some looks really small because it was planted late and some of the wheat has a sickly yellow cast to it. I won't rule out spindle streak or soil borne mosaic, although if you're planting a variety not resistant to both, we really need to have a talk. There are virtually no fungal leaf diseases to speak of yet so the most likely culprit is waterlogged soil or nitrogen deficiency. If you've got wheat turning yellow carefully pull a few plants out of the ground. If the roots are looking water soaked, sort of an off brown color you may very well have waterlogged soil and all we can do for that is hope for sunshine and drier weather. If the roots look healthy, we may need more nitrogen which is no surprise. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Optimal Corn Seeding Rates

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Hopefully before the next four weeks are done things will have dried out enough that we can start getting corn planted.

Over the past 30 years we've made some major adjustments to our seeding rates. We have very good yield potential starting this season, especially compared to last year. Past corn yields are the best indicator of what your planting rate should be. For fields with a long term history of under 100 bushels per acre, then seeding rates should be in the 23.5 to 26,000 per acre range for a final stand of 20 to 22,000. In higher yielding fields, where you've hit 150 plus in better years, then drop 26 to 29,000 seeds per acre and try to get a stand from 22 to 25,000 plants per acre. On irrigated fields that routinely go over 150 bu/acre then dropping 33 to 36,000 seeds per acre isn't out of line given the yield potential. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Fire is a Tool, Use it Wisely

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Today's program goes out to everyone who lives in the country, but owns 20 acres or less. Many of you have grass land that you likely want to burn at least every few years. If you've never burned a pasture before, please don't just start walking around dropping matches. The minute that you start a fire, you are responsible for it until it is out. You need to have adequate water supplies and equipment to safely create and maintain a fire break. A one gallon sprayer is not going to do it. You also need to have a burn permit and obtain permission to burn. Fire is a powerful tool and you can lose control of it in a hurry. Consider asking your ag neighbors for help - they've got the experience. Or better yet, hire a professional firm to do the burning for you. They have the equipment, the training and the insurance. Just please be careful! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.