

Alfalfa Weevil Update

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. This will likely be the last update on alfalfa weevil for this year. Basically, if you haven't sprayed by now, you need to or it may even be too late. The periodic warm temperatures the past two weeks appears to have gotten most of the weevil eggs hatched and the feeding damage was becoming very obvious by the middle of last week. If you sprayed as early as a week ago, please go out and follow up to make sure you don't have a rebound infestation. If you didn't treat or treated late, you may also want to check carefully after you swath to make sure you don't have adults concentrating under the windrows eating off regrowth. It is a possibility. Normally adults leave the fields shortly after pupating, depending on the weather, If it stays too nice, they may stay in the field and then we may need to spray for the adults. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Gramoxone/Paraquat Applicator Training

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you apply paraquat be aware that very soon you will need to take paraquat specific training to buy and use any product that uses paraquat dichloride. Existing products may still have the old label and can be used, but all new production will have the training requirement. This will apply to products such as gramoxone, firestorm, helmquat, parazone and others. The good news is that unlike dicamba training which is annual, the paraquat training will be once every three years. You also have to have a private or commercial pesticide applicators license. ANYONE who is mixing or applying has to take the training. The only training available is an online training at usparaquattraining.com. That's all one word. You will need to log in as a guest. Plan to spend about an hour on the process! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Ag Land Values - crop land

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. KSU Ag Economics has released the 2018 Kansas agricultural land values and trends. This annual report is based off of actual sales of non-irrigated crop land, irrigated crop land and pasture land in each and every county. You can find copies on the web or I'll be happy to print one out for you. The problem is that if land sales are below a certain threshold, selling price won't be revealed to protect privacy. This was the case for dryland crop acres in Geary County in 2018, and in several counties to be right honest. Overall both in the east central region and in the state, sales were down slightly from 2017 but prices were up about 3.5% on cropland. But region by region there were big differences. Central Kansas had cropland values down 27% from '17 to '18 and northcentral down 31%. But East central was up over 5%. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Ag Land Values - pastureland

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Yesterday I talked about cropland values so today, pasture values. We did have enough pasture land sales to be reported. People ask me what land is worth and I always say, well that depends, and here's proof of that. The pasture sales had a weighted average of \$2,692 per acre. BUT, the range was \$411 to \$3,770 per acre. For comparison, Dickinson County had a pasture land weighted average of \$1,800 per acre with a range of \$1,675 to \$2,086 per acre. When it comes to land, and especially pasture land in our area, we have so many competing uses that it makes it hard to put a value on pasture. The agricultural value of that pasture land may be more likely in that 1500 to 1800 dollar range. But when you start to figure in competing uses, especially for recreation and that price can escalate to \$3,000 in a hurry! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Yellow wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. While I've been out looking at alfalfa in recent weeks I've also been stopping in to an occasional wheat field. Some wheat looks great, some looks small and some looks a little pale yellow. Yellow wheat can be caused by many things including poor root development, lack of nitrogen, disease issues, herbicide carryover, I mean just about everything. For as wet as it's been we had a period of somewhat dry conditions for several weeks and I won't rule out nitrogen deficiency because we haven't gotten the N down into the root zone. Nitrogen often first shows up on the lowest leaves. But we also can't rule out sulfur deficiency. I'm currently looking into some odd yellow patches in a couple of fields and have pulled some soil profiles to see if this isn't the problem. So if you see some yellow wheat, call me! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.