

Careful on Ice and Snow

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. That snow and resulting ice that formed underneath it last week was a reminder for many of us that the slick season has begun. I normally rant and rave about how people drive their vehicles on those kinds of roads, but today it's an admonition to tread carefully on snow and ice. The problem is that you try to walk just like you do on dry surfaces and that's going to get you in trouble because you are pushing off and forward or landing at a vector angle and that's how you fall. We've all heard the old saying of walk like a penguin and it is very true, especially on ice. Keep your weight directly over your feet, stay very upright and take short steps with no quick movements. Taking a tumble may be no big deal for a youth or a teenager, but you get to be the age of some of us, it's never going to be good to take a fall! Take it easy! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Merry Christmas One and All

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Today is Christmas Eve day and that means tomorrow is Christmas. While many of us may be sleeping in late and taking it easy all day, any of our farmers or ranchers who have livestock will still be doing chores. Cowherds don't know what a holiday is. Take a moment to quietly thank those folks for the hard work and no days off. We are blessed with an abundant food supply because of them. 45 years ago the late John Denver had a song called Christmas for Cowboys an ode to those folks out caring for cattle on Christmas. There's a line in that song that goes "All of the good gifts given today, Ours is the sky and the wide open range." I can relate very well to those words and I'm sure many others can too. As we settle in to enjoy tonight or tomorrow's activities be thankful for all the little gifts. Merry Christmas everyone. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

NO PROGRAM - CHRISTMAS DAY

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Chemical Weed Control Book

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The 2020 Chemical Weed Control Guide from K-State is done. Well, I won't have printed copies for probably a couple of weeks yet, figure about the time of the Topeka Farm Show, BUT it is available electronically. I started several years ago downloading this guide to my phone and iPad. Sure, it's kind of a hassle to read it on the phone, but you've got it everywhere you go. The layout is the same as you've grown used to over the past 40 years. A chart that was new last year and continues on is a table of commonly used herbicides for range and pastures and grazing restrictions of those. This is really handy to have. This version does have a certain sadness involved. It is the last one that the lead author was Dallas Peterson. Dallas is retiring and this book was sort of his last hurrah, but welcome Sarah Lancaster to that role! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

What's The Winter Going to Be Like

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Winter officially started last Saturday and runs through March 19th. A new year starts next Thursday. So what can we expect? I have no idea. I have zero faith in the Farmer's Almanac. I have a fair amount of faith in the Climate Prediction Center. We've had enough snow already this season to put us at normal through the end of January. The Climate Prediction Center is indicating no strong trend, wetter or drier, hotter or colder. So anything can happen. I'd expect fairly normal precipitation for the next three months. I think late winter and early spring will be warmer than average. Then early to mid summer may be cooler than normal and probably about normal rainfall. Late summer into fall of 2020 I'm a little concerned for dry and warm conditions. Climate center says warmer but equal chances on precip, but I'm just sensing dry! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.