

Partial Year Lease

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We occasionally run into situations involving an oral cash lease that was terminated properly before the deadline but after wheat was planted. So the lease on the acres not planted to wheat terminates on March 1. The new tenant comes in, pays their annual cash rental payment and away they go. But does the old tenant still have to pay the cash rent on the wheat acres? And therein lies the rub with so many oral leases especially oral cash leases. The crop was planted in 2018 and rent was paid in 2018. But was that rent for the crop taken off in 2018 or the one planted in 2018? Lease laws are silent on this issue and point out the problem. In my opinion, when was the first cash lease paid? If it was paid after the crop was taken off, which most are, then yes, there is rent due on the wheat acres. Bottom line, put the lease in writing! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Marestail Control in Soybeans

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. A weed that has become an increasing issue in crop production is marestail. Marestail was never well controlled by glyphosate, in fact, once it gets past the rosette stage, it's not really controlled very well by anything. In soybeans it is a bigger problem than corn as corn will shadow out a lot of marestail. Marestail will start growing in the fall and in the spring. An early spring treatment, meaning by the end of March, before marestail bolts, is crucial. Probably the best treatment is 2,4-D plus dicamba. Applying this early allows plenty of time before soybean planting. You can also use something like Canopy, Classic even metribuzin to control spring germinating plants. Whatever you use, glyphosate won't do it at anytime and once it starts to bolt, you can forget about control. Get it early and stop seedlings with a soil residual. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Start Weed Control Early

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I talked a little bit about it yesterday but want to hit it again today. One of the bad habits we got into over the past 20 years was depending on post emerge products for all of our weed control. We can't do that anymore and we have to get back to using multimode of action herbicide mixes that are soil residual products. You need broad spectrum burn down to control anything growing preplant and then soil applied residual products. Granted, the last two years we often didn't get rain to activate some of those products and we had to switch to post emerge. But for post emerge to really be effective you have to go on small weeds. Small weeds are not 12 inches tall, they aren't even 6 inches tall. Small weeds need to be under 3 inches and preferably under 2 inches. Use full rates and plenty of carrier to maximize effectiveness. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Make Controlled Burn Plans Now

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Yes, it is still February, but it isn't too early to start making plans for controlled burns. In some pastures it's a moot point as there isn't enough fuel to really carry a fire. In other pastures it may be patch burning, but that will help redistribute grazing. And all pastures have plenty of little cedars coming up that are ripe for a fire. Make plans now though. If you have adequate fuel, start mowing and even burning fire breaks now. We all know that prepping for the fire often takes longer than the actual burn. Burn those fire breaks now so you're ready to roll on the day the wind is right. If you are only burning for cedars, burn anytime that you can. You don't have to wait for April. In fact the more burning we can get out of April the better off we'll be. We've got good soil moisture conditions this year, almost too good, so let's make use of it! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Cut Stump and Basal Bark Tree Treatments

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I've talked to quite a few producers who have been doing some cut stump and basal bark herbicide treatments on trees this winter. Basal bark is a great way to kill locust and hedge and minimizing root sprouting. The great thing about basal bark and cut stump is that they are most effective about mid July through January. Trees start growing and moving sap up from the roots earlier than many people realize. It's happening right now. When that sap is actively rising control with cut stump or basal bark is greatly reduced. Sure, Tordon RTU will still work pretty good on smaller trees or easily killed trees, but trees over about 2 inches in diameter and especially the aforementioned locust and hedge are not going to have good control right now. The best thing to do is back off on those treatments now and wait for full leaf stage. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.