

### Calcium Chloride for Liming?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Crop fields in our area periodically call for liming. Apply enough nitrogen fertilizer over time and liming will be needed. So we purchase 2 to 5 tons per acre of effective calcium carbonate and we apply the lime and somehow incorporate it. Unfortunately every once in a while somebody comes up with some new liming product that is supposed to be easier, cheaper and require less material to effectively neutralize acid soils. What I can tell you is, forget it. The most recent one I was made aware of is liquid calcium chloride. The same thing we use to treat icy roads and add ballast to tires. Liquid calcium chloride is not a liming material. It has ZERO effect on soil pH. It's a good source of calcium, but we don't have calcium deficiency in Kansas soils. If you have acid soils, you need calcium carbonate, ag lime. Nothing else. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Chloride and Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. About 30 years ago, wheat fertilizer researchers discovered that in test plots with chloride fertilizer applied the plants had fewer leaf diseases and higher yields. The problem, however, was that the plant pathologists couldn't isolate any disease organisms from the leaf spots on the non chloride fertilized wheat. The leaf spots were not disease lesions but rather chloride deficiency. The improvement in yield came from the plants not being chloride deficient. This pretty much blew everyone away because chloride deficiency in wheat had never been seen before in Kansas. Fast forward to now. A recent set of soil tests I did for a local producer where we tested for chloride found that every single field, had they been planted to wheat, called for chloride. I think we just need to start applying 10 to 20 pounds of chloride on wheat. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Toxicity from Grazing Cover Crops

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We are seeing more and more cover crops being planted. Sometimes just for the benefits that cover crops can give you, and other times so we can maybe get some cattle grazing on those cover crops. The problem is that some of the plant species going in to those cover crop mixes can cause problems when cattle graze them. Hairy vetch is a good soil stabilizing legume - toxic to cattle. Lupins are recommended and some lupin species are great cattle feed and others are not only toxic but can cause birth defects if fed to pregnant cows. Bottom line, if you think you may want to graze those cover crops, be very careful about what goes into that mix. For more detailed information, get a copy of our bulletin, Forage Crops Grazing Management: Toxic Plants. You can pick up a copy at the Extension Office, or find it online. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Fertilizing Bromegrass

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. This year or perhaps this winter, is yet another classic example of why I believe we need to be fertilizing our bromegrass in November or early December. Everyone who didn't fertilize brome in the fall was figuring that they'd get a chance to get out in late February to get the bromegrass fertilized. Well, late February has come and almost gone and how much of it did you get fertilized? Okay, that's water under the bridge at this point - make a note for next year. In the meantime, plan to get that brome fertilized ASAP. Root activity has already begun and once we get some warm days, this stuff is going to explode. In the absence of a soil test I would aim to have 60 to 80 pounds of nitrogen, 20 pounds of phosphorus and 15 pounds of sulfur. That sulfur is becoming more important, we just aren't used to applying it on brome! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Weeds in Pastures

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I'm just going to give you a head's up right now. There is a strong likelihood that you will see more than the normal amount of weeds in your pastures this year. The reason is very simple, the weather. The drought of 2018 that ended with excessive rain to be more precise. The drought caused a great reduction in forage production. Next we wound up keeping cattle on some of these pastures longer than normal because of late season growth, mud, and we had no where else to go with them! All of these things means we have loss of cover and more sunshine getting to the soil surface. That plus moist soil conditions will mean an abundance of plant growth that we'd call weeds. Do not be in a hurry to load up the sprayer with herbicide. Cattle will eat some of these plants and others aren't the problem that you perceive them to be! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.