

Brome hay

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I was out in the county last week and saw a gust of wind hit a stand of brome grass and it exploded in smoke. Okay, it wasn't actually smoke, it was pollen. The bloom stage is when we normally recommend harvesting brome for hay. Of course, this is all arriving at the same time as everything else is needing to be done and always running the risk of getting it rained on, especially this year. So harvesting brome hay will get pushed behind many other time critical activities. Delayed harvesting won't hurt tonnage very much but quality will be impacted. Brome hay cut at boot or early head can be in the 10 to 11% crude protein range. But draw that harvest out to dough stage or seed stage and the crude protein is down into that 5 to 6% range. Regardless when you harvest, always get the hay tested for nutrient levels! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Rootless Corn

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As you drive around the region you can find corn of all sizes and shades of green, often in the same field. This is being caused by excess water and the resulting loss of nutrients but also failure of the plant to develop an adequate root system due to poor planting conditions, saturated soils or standing water. By the time that corn is in the V4 to V6 stage it should have a pretty healthy root system with a lot of secondary roots developing from the crown of the plant. Most stunted and or pale plants are not going to have a good secondary root system. There's nothing that can be done except sunshine and drier weather. IF these two things occur even bad looking plants can develop a decent secondary root system. But development of those plants, including maturity, will be delayed and yield will be negatively impacted. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Alfalfa Weevils

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. A couple of weeks ago I was in some alfalfa fields and was stunned at how many adult weevils were hanging around. But at that time, we'd yet to have any hot, let alone dry conditions. Once adult weevils emerge they leave alfalfa fields and head to the timber for the summer, once it gets warmer and drier. Until then they will stick around fields and continue to feed on new regrowth often feeding on the outside of the alfalfa stems in a feeding damage known as barking. This can really slow down regrowth of the next cutting. You can treat for the adult weevils but results often aren't all that great so we seldom recommend it. The good news is that I was back in these same fields late last week and things were much improved. Few adults could be found, regrowth was looking healthier hopefully leading to a good 2nd cutting. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Late Planting Soybeans

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I have to laugh when we talk about late planting of soybeans. We plant so many soybeans after wheat harvest and still get good yields - often as good as full season beans, so what is late planting. In 1980 we hit 50% soybeans planted in the state by June 1. Now we are often halfway planted by May 21st. That regression may take a hit this year! Yes, there's still a lot of beans to be planted. But I don't think we need to panic and we certainly don't need to start changing maturity groups or anything. Maintain maturity group and planting rates. In many studies in Kansas over the years, even planting into early July mid and late maturity soybeans usually outyielded early maturing varieties. And even with the warmer soil conditions, some phosphorus fertilizer is likely wise as is fungicidal seed treatments. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Ya Gotta Start Weed Free

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It's all coming to a head at once with you running around trying to prioritize what needs to be done as everything needs to be done at once! It's going to be easy to get the cart before the horse, But if you are planting, and I mean the first planting of the season, replanting, or double crop following wheat, it is imperative that you start with a weed free seed bed. You've got to get burn down herbicides AND soil residual herbicides on at once. If you are using 2,4-D or dicamba make sure you are allowing the correct amount of time after application until planting. Use the ester formulations of 2,4-D, not the amines as the esters dissipate quicker. We have a few weeds that aren't well controlled by post emerge applications in the crop so we need to get stuff burned down ahead of time and use residuals, or go back to using tillage! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.