

Ag Radio Programs for March 18 - 24, 2019

Corn Meeting Last Call

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Wednesday late afternoon, 4:30 to be exact we've got our corn production meeting at the 4-H/Sr. Citizens Building. We'll talk corn production including fertility, planting date and planting rate, corn diseases, weed control and insects. We'll go from 4:30 to about 8 with a break at 6 p.m. for barbecue. To make sure we have enough BBQ we need you to call in to the Extension Office by 5 pm today, 238-4161. There is a \$5 registration fee payable at the door. The past 18 months have been very challenging for crop producers and the current state of affairs is such that we may be into a real crunch to get fertilizer and herbicide applied this spring. Let's get together and talk about the challenges and what we can do to make the best use of our time once it does dry out enough so we can get in the fields! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Keep the Stand Healthy to Deter Weeds

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I regularly receive calls from producers with weeds taking over their pastures or hay meadows. I've had a long time saying that weeds in a pasture aren't the problem, but rather the symptom of the problem.

Pastures and hay meadows, whether that's native hay, brome or fescue, if it's a healthy stand of grass that is properly managed will generally not have a weed problem. That means for cool season grasses you are fertilizing at the right time with a good blend of nitrogen, phosphorus, AND sulfur plus potassium if the soil test calls for it. It also means harvesting at the right time and at the right height, something we don't pay enough attention to. For pastures it means proper stocking rates and brush management. Ultimately, the best herbicide is a healthy grass stand that's properly managed. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

How Do We Get Fertilizer Applied

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The question for crop producers this spring is how do we get fertilizer applied. My honest answer is, I don't know. We can't do anything about the weather and that's the biggest issue. It's so crucial NOT to try to get on these fields too soon as overly wet fields will more like have compaction issues that will show up like a tattle tail all summer long. There may be a need for more broadcast applications and less injections. Yes, this may result in higher volatilization losses but you will get more ground covered quicker. Without soil testing this year, I'd figure on little residual nitrogen from last year. The wet soils are going to be a killer on left over nitrate. As we move on into spring I'll be bringing you reports on the various nitrogen fertilizers and how to reduce N losses. Until then, call if you have questions! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Livestock Indemnity Program

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I attended an informational meeting in Manhattan last week on the Livestock Indemnity Program. Due to a new farm bill and the January government shutdown the necessary details are not yet released. But we do know that it's important to file losses early if you want to receive payment. I have a copy of the handouts from that meeting and can make copies if you want them. I will tell you that it's a lot of work and effort to document it and documentation is going to be critical. Losses can only be from blizzards, winter storms or extreme cold. Unless the heavy mud can be proven to be from one of those three events, you can't cover calf losses from that. But if you had high losses and want to try, the initial paperwork needs to be filed as soon as possible. Contact the FSA office for details and ask me for a copy of the meeting handouts. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Document Everything

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. While I was at the Livestock Indemnification Program informational meeting last week the one thing that kept coming up over and over and over again is the importance of documentation. Unfortunately, like in so many other cases, they just can't take your word anymore. Documenting everything is the only choice now days. Keep detailed records in your calving books. Photograph every single calf that's born (with the ear tag visible if possible). Photograph every calf that dies as well. We're all carrying around a camera in our phoness so let's make use of it. The same thing holds for crops and crop damage. Water standing in your field? Take a photo of it. Hail storm? Photo. Neighbors cattle got into your corn field? Photo. Those phones have a lot of capabilities so let's make use of them and start documenting everything! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.