

Ag Radio Programs for November 11 - 17, 2019

Fall Fertilizer Application for Corn

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. A lot of corn producers, once fall harvest is over but before the ground starts to freeze, like to get nitrogen fertilizer applied, most often as anhydrous ammonia. While this can work, we need to keep a few things in mind. Nitrogen is subject to loss in the soil due to natural biotic functions. You want to make sure that the soil temperature is under 50 degrees before you apply nitrogen and by last weekend we were at 40 degrees. There are also various nitrogen stabilizers that can help reduce nitrogen loss once the soil temperature warms up next spring. One other caveat is that you shouldn't try to apply ALL of the nitrogen in the fall. Even though corn gets an early start we can still see significant loss and this year was a great example of that. I'd prefer that no more than 60% go on in the fall and the rest as sidedress after planting. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Poor Wheat Stands, What to Do

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. This fall has been concerningly dry. While most wheat is coming up pretty good you may find yourself looking at a skimpy stand and wondering what to do. We normally feel that we should get 80% emergence under average wheat seeding conditions. Depending on seed size and row spacing you're looking at 8 to 11 plants per foot of row. IF you have at least 50% of that optimum plant population AND it is fairly evenly distributed about the field, don't do anything. You are probably going to get a lot of tillering and any additional gain in yield from replanting simply isn't going to be worth it. If you decide you need to replant, and that threshold is less than 40% of target, then plant back at 80 to 90 pounds of seed per acre and plant at about a 45 degree angle to the original planting direction to minimize damage to existing plants. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Rapid Temperature Drops and Crop Impacts

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Rapid temperature drops in the fall can cause issues with the wheat crop. The drier the soil is, the greater the potential damage. Small wheat plants need to get a crown and a good root system before we start to have typical winter temperatures. Sudden drops like we saw leading into Halloween likely caused some problems in fields where wheat plants were in the 1 to 3 leaf stage. Amazingly, this damage can be very site specific and change not only from field to field but even in specific locations within fields. Heavy soybean stubble can prevent proper seed placement and lack of good seed to soil contact will result in damage. I see a lot of this in soybean stubble fields. Heavy no-till residue can result in poor furrow closure thus allowing rapidly cooling air deeper into the soil. All we can do now is wait and see. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Wrapping up the Crop Year

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you aren't through with harvest, you're hopefully getting pretty close. As the crop year winds down there's a big rush to get equipment cleaned up, winterized and put away. But one thing that I don't think producers do enough of is to wrap up the record keeping and by record keeping I don't mean just the financial side of it. I want you to take your field records and close them out. How did each hybrid or variety do? How was weed control? Did you feel like you had adequate fertility for each field? Did certain hybrids do better than others? Is it time to let go of some good old standbys and usher in some new good old standbys. This past year's weather messed up a lot fertility plans so maybe this is the fall to get a little more serious about soil testing and perhaps tissue testing next year. Records are more than just dollars and cents! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Start Thinking Leases

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Okay, the crop year is winding down. Tenants, it's time to start setting up appointments with your landlords and do a year end wrap up. Outline everything you did and what it resulted in. Hybrids or varieties planted, pesticides used, fertilizer applied and end results. Talk about what worked and what could have worked better. Talk about issues with fences or fields that may need to be addressed. Talk about what you're thinking for next year. The biggest mistake that can be made is for each party to assume that the other party knows what they are thinking. Put it all out on the table, honestly and humbly. If the landlords are retired farmers, they enjoy hearing all of this stuff. If the landlord is a generation or two removed from actual farming then they NEED to hear all of this stuff. But get the old year wrapped up soon! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.