

Ag Radio Programs for November 25 - December 1, 2019

Be Leary of New Opportunities

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Get rich quick schemes have been around as long as we've had production agriculture. I've seen quite a few come and go over the past few decades and some of them have been disastrous for those who got caught up in them. Some "new crops" are a scheme right from the start and people should have seen that they were a scheme. But these salesman are persuasive. New crops are coming down the road, including crops like industrial hemp. But sometimes the ability of the American farmer to produce a new crop far outstrips the ability of the processing industry to keep up with the production or the demand by the consuming public. Some new crops require you to develop your own marketing chain, something many of us aren't that experienced at. Please proceed with caution and call me if you have any questions. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Snake Oil Still Exists

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you've been involved in crop production agriculture very long you've been through a few boom and bust cycles. When things bust, we look to back off on production expenses and invariably salesmen start coming out of the woodwork with all sorts of miracle products. Snake oil and snake oil salesman are alive and well. Don't fall for any product that is supposed to replace fertilizer. There aren't any. Many of the products are high priced and small amounts per acre. Think about it - does it make sense? If not take their information and then come in and see me. Many of these products keep getting recycled under new names. But they are still snake oil. Does a product sound too good to be true? Then it probably is. There are ways to save money on crop production but snake oil isn't one of those. Save money and don't buy these products. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Flooded Forages

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. While it's gotten dry right now, we had fields that were flooded earlier this year. In some cases alfalfa, brome and hay fields went under water for short periods of time. Long enough to cover the plants with water and flood debris but not so long as to drown out the crop. The question has then arisen whether this forage that was flooded and likely harvested is safe to use. I've seen and smelled some of that forage and it just plain didn't smell right. There are all sorts of potential issues because of what the floodwaters may have been carrying. There could be pesticides, mycotoxins, heavy metals even certain pathogenic bacteria or nasty stuff like PCBs. My recommendation to anyone who had flooded forages that were then harvested is to burn them or roll them out on a field and incorporate them. It isn't worth the risk to use! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Thanksgiving, No Program

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MFP and Cash Rent

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. USDA regulations are very straightforward that if a farm is in a cash lease arrangement, the landlord receives no farm program payments. Since the landlord has no material participation in the production of the crop, they receive no payment. So along comes MFP, a payment that attempts to compensate for lost revenue due to decreased prices from trade tariffs. Should the landlord get a share of the MFP or calculate it into next year's cash lease? From a legal point of view, no, the landlord is not entitled to any of that. MFP payments are a political tool that we have no guarantee will continue or if they do, when the payment will arrive. If there weren't trade tariffs there'd be no payment and hopefully higher prices. The payment makes up for lost revenue at harvest. I would hesitate to raise rent because there may be another MFP. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.