

### Early Season Wheat Stand Issues

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Early season wheat development is a simple thing. Have a good seed bed with good moisture, plant at the right time and let it sprout and grow. Nice theory, often doesn't work that way. The biggest challenge with early season wheat stand generally isn't insects or diseases but rather soil moisture and seed placement. Spotty emergence is usually due to dry soils. It can be wheat planted too deep as well. We can't rule out early season cutworm or armyworm but these are more likely to look like fields going backwards. Instead of more green daily there is less green. If emergence is spotty go out and check soil moisture. With the rains last week, any wheat that had been planted should be well on it's way. I won't rule out seed attacking insects or seedling diseases like damping off. In both cases I'll just ask if you used a seed treatment! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Keep Notes While You're Harvesting

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. You are on the combine, you're watching all the gauges and monitors, it is a zoo up there. So let me add just one more thing as you're going along. If you see something that looks odd, make a note of it. Yield that seems way lower than surrounding areas would be a good note to make. Areas of more weeds - make a note of where and what weed species they were. Or we can go back later and figure out species composition. Areas of growth that just didn't seem right. Excessive lodging is something that should be noted. High levels of stalk rot perhaps? Let's figure out which stalk rot is responsible and maybe we can select for improved resistance. Lots of lodging in soybeans are a good sign of dectes stem borer. If you had high levels this year and plant back there, you'll have it again. Take notes now for investigation later. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Highway Safety

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We're smack in the middle of harvest season. For all of you non-ag folks listening in, you will be encountering farm equipment on the roadways. It moves much slower than you, can not maneuver as easily as you can and has every right to be on that roadway as you do! The horror stories that I hear and I have personally seen of drivers going around ag equipment is maddening and tragic. Don't cross a double yellow line to pass farm equipment. It's illegal and can be deadly. Be patient - they know you're back there and when they get someplace where it's safe to pull over, they will. Stay back and just wait. Impatience is a killer. Just wait a few minutes and the situation will improve. Just consider that you're hitting every red light on Sixth Street. And remember, you're failure to leave on time, isn't an excuse for bad driving! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## NASS Rental Rates

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. When it comes to rental rates for crop ground and pasture ground I have a saying - everyone wants to know, but nobody wants to tell! There are a few surveys out there that help and we can do some calculations to try to give starting points. One survey that we routinely use is the National Ag Statistics Service annual survey. The 2019 report just came out in the past few weeks and points out the challenge of these surveys. Geary County, non-irrigated cropland showed an average of \$62 per acre. Riley was 77 and Clay 81. Dickinson, Morris and Wabaunsee, though, were 54, 56.50 and 57 respectively. Don't ask me which is right because they are all averages of surveys and some rates may have been set 4 years ago, other just this year. BUT, they do give you some starting points. If you want a copy of this report just let me know. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## How Many Soil Samples

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I promote soil sampling and soil testing all the time both for agriculture and lawns and gardens. One of the real problems is in getting people to take enough subsamples so that you have confidence that you are getting a good representative average on standard sized fields. If you take just ONE sample, you have no idea if it is representative of anything other than that one spot. As you increase from 1 to 10 subsamples the accuracy increases about 2 fold for every additional sub-sample collected.

Improvements in accuracy from 10 to 20 is still significant and even up to 30 subsamples you are seeing improvement. Once you get past 30, the juice just isn't worth the squeeze as my southern friends like to say. I don't know that I'd even pull 20 subsamples. I hope the samples you bring in are more than one and hopefully 5 to 10! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.