

### Wheat Seeding Rates

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As we head into wheat planting time I will invariably start getting questions about seeding rates, more so later in the season than earlier. We often talk about pounds per acre when we really should be talking seeds per acre. I may never win that battle but for planting in the optimum time frame - which runs through about October 20<sup>th</sup>, I'd like to see 900,000 to 1.125 million seeds per acre. That's going to be 60 to 75 pounds per acre if your variety has 15,000 seeds per pound. But good luck finding that information on most seed tags and it only becomes a real issue if you have a variety with unusually large or small seed. Back to the seeding rates. From now through around October 20<sup>th</sup>, shoot for 75 pounds. From October 20 thru November 5, use 90 pounds and if you are still planting after Nov 5th, go a full 120 pounds. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Bromegrass Fertilization

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I know it's only September but I want you, before you get any further caught up in wheat planting and fall harvest, to start making plans for bromegrass fertilization later this fall, yes this fall. Look at our bromegrass production this year. Yes some of that phenomenal growth was due to rain, but as much or more was due to having fertilizer in the plant when it needed it. Fertilizing mid to late winter just doesn't get the nitrogen where it needs to be for the plant to use it optimally. In November and even early December that bromegrass is still growing enough that it will take up nitrogen applied at that time. We also have a better assurance that precipitation will occur after application to move it into the root zone. I would like to see bromegrass fertilizer applied in November or the first half of December for optimum results. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Pasture Evaluation

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Over the next 30 to 45 days there'll be a lot of cattle coming off pasture. Even before you do that it'll be a good time to start evaluating pasture conditions. How much grass and desirable forbs do you still have out there? If it's sketchy, then you probably over-grazed and you need to back off on stocking rates next year. Let's face it, with the rainfall over the past 12 months, if you over-grazed this year, then your stocking rate is truly too high for average years. Pastures with lots of ironweed and broomweed are also prime indicators of hard grazing, at least in certain areas. Now is also a good time to be checking for sericea that was or wasn't treated, but needs to be treated next year. It's also a good time to start evaluating opportunities for prescribed burning next year. Compared to 2019, weather depending, I figure we'll have more. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Wheat Stand Issues in Soybean Stubble

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As we've moved into more and more no till crop production we are regularly seeing stand issues planting no-till wheat.

What may surprise some of you is that the biggest problem isn't in wheat following corn or sorghum, but wheat following soybeans. Because we think that soybeans don't have much residue we often don't pay as much attention to down pressure with the drill as we should. We wind up with a lot of soybean residue between the rows, the drill openers punch through the residue but not the soil and the seed gets planted on top of the soil, not IN the soil. The seed sprouts and grows because the residue acts like mulch. And for this fall it looks just fine. But next spring, the plant is trying to develop a crown from which it grows those crucial secondary roots, but it doesn't really have a crown so the plant just sits there. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Basal Bark Treatments on Trees

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. From now through early winter is a wonderful time to initiate control of trees in pastures and fence rows using basal bark treatments. Basal bark treatments are highly concentrated herbicide in a kerosene or diesel fuel carrier. Triclopyr is about the only product we do this with and usually in a 25% mixture so one part triclopyr to 3 parts diesel or kerosene. This is then applied to the bottom 15 to 20 inches of the trunk. You thoroughly wet all that basal bark area as well as any exposed roots, crown buds or ground sprouts. You literally apply until it starts to runoff the tree. You can do this on most any deciduous tree species but it seems to work really good on honeylocust and hedge. Locust and hedge treated and killed this way BEFORE cutting down rarely seem to have resprouting. Treat mid July through the middle of January. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.