

Ag Radio Programs for September 30 - October 6, 2019

Watch Your Speed When Planting

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The newer ag equipment is absolutely amazing. We can perform so many field operations at much faster speeds than we ever have before. But it doesn't mean that we should! When planting wheat, especially in soybean stubble with no till drills, I've seen some folks really flying. The problem is that as you start to exceed 5 or 6 mph the openers tend to ride up and then you've got seed not placed deep enough OR under the soybean mulch but not IN the soil. Modern semi-dwarf wheats need to be planted 1 to 1½ inches deep. We need that inch or so between the seed and the soil surface for the wheat plant to make a crown. Without a crown the plant struggles to develop an adequate root system. Seeds planted too shallow will sprout and look fine this fall, but after spring greenup they'll just sit there and then you'll be calling me to look! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Payment Yield Update

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. One of the critical parts of the 2018 Farm Bill is that you have an opportunity to update payment yield sometimes called PLC yield. This option was also offered in 2014 but a lot of producers didn't take advantage of it so it's being offered again and the plug yield, or the minimum yield used in case of low yields due to drought, like last year, has been increased. You don't have to update all the yields on a farm. If one crop would benefit but another one wouldn't, then you just update the crop that would benefit. Each FSA farm number farm can be done independently. You take your yields in to the FSA they plug those yields in to the system and tell you what your new yield would be. If any of them are better than your current payment yield then you really need to update. We have a bulletin on this update if you're interested! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Fall Bindweed Control

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Fall is a good time to apply control measures on field bindweed. Granted, Roundup Ready crops have really reduced this weed pest in crop fields, but I still see a lot of field bindweed around. From now up until well into November, when we routinely have night time temperatures into the low 20s, is a good time to get herbicides applied as they are readily taken into the roots of the plant for maximum control. We used to rely on Tordon plus 2,4-D or dicamba for fall treatments and could get into the 80% control range with a fall treatment. Now days, the bindweed control product of choice really needs to be quinclorac either as Facet L or QuinStar. Fall treatment with quinclorac alone can give you 91% control come spring. Add just 4 ounces of dicamba per acre and you can jump that up to 98% control which is pretty good. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Pretty Yellow Flowers in Pastures

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Pastures that I've seen around the area are about to explode into yellow blossoms if they haven't already. Don't worry about it and certainly don't go out there spraying. We have numerous yellow blooming wildflowers that can be in pastures including goldenrod, broomweed and various sunflowers and sunflower relatives. This is a byproduct of the 2018 drought and then all the rain early this year. These plants aren't taking over your pasture, they are merely reacting to normal ebbs and flows of nature. What you, as the pasture manager needs to be doing, is to be monitoring the remaining grass in your pastures as you get ready to move cattle out here soon. If you find that you don't have a lot of obvious grass left then you are stocking the pasture too heavy and you will need to make adjustments to stocking rates. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Fall Grazing of Cereals

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Fall grazing of cereal grains is something that we need to do more of around here. This could be wheat planted early that you intend to harvest for grain in 2020. It can be wheat, barley, oats, triticale and maybe some turnips or radishes planted as a cover crop. And yes, you can include rye but that makes me really nervous here in winter wheat country. For fall grazing I'd hope that you already had these seeds in the ground so that we can graze as soon as we have the plants up and well established. You could still plant rye, wheat or triticale for spring grazing and graze out. You want to have the plants get big enough so that there is a good root system to help hold the plant in place. If you aren't sure if it's well enough rooted, go grab a clump of forage and tug on it. If it is well rooted and doesn't pull out easily, it can be grazed! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.