

Corn Seeding Rates

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I didn't see very many corn fields that had been planted last week and I'm really glad. Soil temperatures last week got down into the low 40s and that is cold enough to really hurt corn that was planted and started to grow. The soil water gets cold and when those seeds imbibe that cold water to start germinating it really causes damage. But we're into a new week and soil temperatures will be rising fast now. As we get those planters rolling remember to get adequate seed numbers into the ground. Field that have historically produce under 100 bu/ac likely need to be in the 24 to 26,000 seed drop range. 100 to 150 bu/ac yield potential 26 to 28,000 seeds per acre and over 150 bu/ac potential should be pushed into the 28 to 33,000 bu/ac range. The earlier in the window you plant, lean more towards the upperside to compensate for cold soils. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Freeze Damage in Crops

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Wow - what an April so far, weather wise anyway. We have had multiple freezing weather events and parts of the county have gotten down into the low 20s for several hours. I was out looking at wheat last week and most of what I was seeing was still looking okay. Now that the weather is warming up I'll be out splitting more stems in the coming days. To look for damage cut off a wheat tiller at ground level and carefully split it open with a pocket knife or razor blade. You'll know when you get to that tiny head - there should be hollow stem below it. If that little head is light green to greenish white then it is okay. If it's looking yellow and starting to shrivel, that isn't good. If you aren't sure, call me and I'll come out and look at it. And now that we're getting warmer weather you can start spraying your alfalfa fields as well! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Early Season Fungicides in Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. This is going to be a crazy year for wheat fungicides. First of all, just ignore any leaf diseases at this time of year. While fungicides now can help clean up those leaves and make the plants look good, we rarely, if ever, see any yield response and it doesn't do anything to reduce leaf diseases later on. We really need to wait until that flag leaf is out before treating. That's the leaf that we really need to be concerned about. Right now stripe rust is in Oklahoma but as of late last week, not in Kansas yet. Stripe rust likes cooler weather. Leaf rust likes warmer weather. It's hard to tell which one will flourish this year. The challenge this year might be if we have late tillers come up in fields. Late tillers will have later flag leaves so do you spray earlier or later? There may be some tough decisions in a few weeks so stay tuned. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Sorghum Herbicides

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Sorghum planting time is still 4 to 6 weeks off for some, that is if you still plant grain sorghum. But if you do you need to be putting together your preplant pre-emerge herbicide plan now. As with all of our crops we have to have that preplant or pre-emerge herbicide application down if we have a prayer of controlling weeds. We basically have triazines, Acetamides, HPPD-Inhibitors and PPO-inhibitors. For virtually all sorghum fields the base needs to be atrazine and then at least one of the others. The atrazine is going to be the cheap side of the equation and which one of the other three you add depends on what your weed pressure consists of. There are several premixes available that include atrazine and an HPPD inhibitor that may be pricey but effective. But make sure you get those applied in a timely manner. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Are we Through? (With Cold Weather)

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As forecasted we had some cold weather since the first of April. Corn growers want to get going full speed with corn planting season. Cattle producers want to see that native grass growing so cattle can get sent to pastures soon. We've had some nicer days, finally, and the forecast is looking better. In fact the 3 month long lead forecast is indicating above normal temperatures, which of course doesn't rule out short cold spells. Surprisingly, none of these cold snaps have really been abnormal or extreme. But they do point out the importance of ignoring short term weather patterns and stay with the long standing traditional dates for when we perform certain tasks. We've long said to not plant corn until two inch depth soil temperatures are 55 degrees. We were almost there, cooled down and are back up there, so let's go! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.