

### Get Native Hay Harvest Wrapped Up

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Our native hay meadows are mainly comprised of warm season grasses. These grasses will stop growing in late September or early October. Once swathed these grasses immediately start to regrow which pulls down root reserves. It will take about six weeks from harvest for those root reserves to be fully replenished so the plants go into winter with a full tank of gas. All of this means that it's time to wrap up native hay harvest. The other reason you want to wrap up native hay harvest now is because hay quality is tanking quite rapidly. Once these seed stalks start to shoot up the hay quality drops equally fast. Seed stalks may give you tons of forage but they don't give you protein. Protein is in the leaves and the earlier you harvest the more protein you'll have. So get harvest wrapped up while it's still worth getting! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Evaluate Pasture Condition Now

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Right now is a good time to spend in your pastures evaluating condition. If forage resources are getting a little short then you still have time to reduce stocking rates and get a little recovery before the grass shuts down for the season. There are certainly going to be areas around waterers, mineral feeders etc where there is extra traffic. But if you are finding large areas that don't have a lot of forage left then it's a clear sign that stocking rate was higher than carrying capacity and you need to remove some of the cattle. Over the years our cows have gotten larger, 20 to 40% larger. A cow that is a third bigger than 40 years ago is going to eat a third more. But too often stocking rates have been kept the same and there is the problem. Stocking rate is how many cattle we put in a pasture. Carrying capacity is what it can sustainably support! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Watch for Grasshoppers

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I was out in a soybean field recently and as I walked in from the road I thought I was seeing lots of little leafhoppers jumping out of the canopy. On closer inspection they were little bitty grasshoppers. Little grasshoppers have little appetities. They feed on foliage but not all that much. But little grasshoppers grow. And as they grow they eat more and more and more leaf material. You will want to be keeping an eye on field edges in the coming weeks as grasshopper numbers are really starting to explode. Rarely do we need to treat an entire field but sometimes we need to treat field edges as grasshoppers move in from the grass in ditches and field margins. There are a lot of products labeled for grasshoppers in all of our crops so there's options. But just remember that little grasshoppers are easier to kill than big ones! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Tissue Testing for Soybeans

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I once felt that tissue testing was of questionable value. I still don't think it's the only answer but when coupled together with some good soil testing we can start to unravel a lot of mysteries. Right now is a good time to do some tissue testing with soybeans. At this time, in the early R stages, randomly collect 20 to 30 sets of top most fully developed leaves, place in a paper bag and get them to the office so I can run them over to K-State. The best value is going to be running the full spectrum of macro and micronutrient levels. Sometimes soil test levels may be adequate but tissue testing shows deficiencies which means we have to figure out why the soil nutrients aren't getting into the plants. Of if both show deficient, we know where to start. If you want more information or help in sampling, let me know! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Plant Early for Fall Grazing

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As we move cattle off pastures in the late summer and early fall all too often I feel that we just assume we have to start feeding them harvested forages. Many times I think we should be looking at opportunities to use early seeded cereal grains like wheat or triticale to get 30 or 60 or more days of high quality grazing and by then we could be moving into crop residue fields. The whole goal should be to let the cattle harvest the forage instead of you. The more time you aren't feeding them harvested forages, the better off your bottom line will be. In the next couple of weeks you could plant wheat or triticale so that in 45 days or so it would be big enough and well enough rooted that you could turn cattle out. Remember, this isn't a crop you're going to harvest for grain, this is a forage crop plain and simple!! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.