

Sulfur Deficiency in Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Have you ever seen sulfur deficiency in wheat? I'm willing to bet that you have but merely thought that it was spotty nitrogen deficiency or soil borne or spindle streak mosaic virus. The symptoms of all of these are virtually identical as you drive by the field. The key thing to look for is pale green to yellowish blotchy areas in new wheat foliage in the spring. Sulfur is a crucial element used in making proteins within the plant and even for the formation of chlorophyll. We never used to worry about sulfur because of acid rain depositing upwards of 20 pounds of sulfur per acre annually and because of sulfur that used to be found in fertilizers like super phosphate or even rock phosphate. But with cleaner air and refined fertilizer manufacturing we no longer get the accidental sulfur. If you see something pale next spring, call me! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Be Prepared for Extremes

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I was reading a recent cattle newsletter and there was a graph showing monthly feed conversion in Kansas feedlots over the past three years. 2018 and 2020 to date were tracking really close. But 2019 especially in February and March just skyrocketed a full pound of dry matter per pound of gain over the other two years. That really caught my eye so I grabbed the weather charts and then remembered that February and March of 2019 were a couple of cold brutal months. A lot of you lost calves that winter. If someone had laid in feed supplies for cattle based on averages that year, they were scrambling looking for more. So as you are getting ready for winter and squaring away your hay and protein reserves, always be asking yourself, what happens if it's colder than normal. Can I adjust and have adequate feed reserves left? I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Start Gearing Up Cowherds

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As we race towards the end of the year it means that we are not that far away from the start of the spring, or at least late winter, calving season. In those last couple of months of gestation those cows are pumping a lot of energy and growth into those calves and their nutritional needs start to really increase. Many times we don't change the nutrition of those cows much but they have enough excess body condition that they've got fat to burn, so to speak. What most mature cows are going to find limiting at this time of year are rumen degradable protein, trace minerals and Vitamin A. Make sure you have mineral out there with Vitamin A and secondly if the cows are just on crop residue or dry grass, also give them 1 to 2 pounds per day of 40% crude protein, or 3 to 4 pounds of 20% protein or 10 pounds of good non-legume hay! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Planning For a Drought

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We've had a relatively dry fall which followed a relatively dry late summer. The climate prediction center is currently forecasting a significant probability of below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures through mid-summer. Additionally, most of the southern third to half of Kansas is already forecast to have above normal significant wildland fire potential. What all of this means is that as we work through the winter on spring burn planning, give it a lot of thought of which pastures you REALLY need to burn. Think about your crop planting including seeding rates and fertilization plans. You may also want to give some serious thought to switching some of the droughtier fields to grain sorghum instead of corn or soybeans. It'd be great if a drought didn't happen, but I think we need to be prepared. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Crucial Parts of a Written Lease

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Written ag leases do not have to be seven page documents written by a team of economists. Most of the ones I've been involved with are one to two pages. What you need to make sure they include is a fairly short list. The names of the parties involved, number of acres and legal description of the properties. If a cash lease, how much and when is it due or payments due if not a lump sum. If it's a shares lease what is being shared and at what rate. When does the lease start and stop. If you don't include that it'll be March 1 to March 1. You can indicate any dates you want however. Also include who controls hunting rights and anything else. If not specifically mentioned, the tenant legally has control of all the property mentioned. You may also want to include fence repair and weed/brush control if it's a pasture lease. But that's about it! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.