

### The Impact of Wind Chill

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Living in the Great Plains we deal with wind most of the time. Elsewhere people ask IS the wind blowing. Around here we ask how hard is the wind blowing. While we need those breezes in the summer, they are our bane in the winter. Cattle feel windchill too. With cattle we usually refer to lower critical temperature as that point where cattle need more energy to maintain warmth. With a dry winter coat the lower critical temperature is a wind chill of 32 degrees. But make that coat wet and it raises to 59 degrees. A simple windbreak can raise that windchill temperature 10 to 20 degrees. Remember that for every 1 degree windchill below the lower critical temperature that cattle will need 1% more energy. This is why wet spring snowstorms are so devastating - get that hair coat wet, crank up the wind and you've got problems! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Protect Yourself from Winter Weather

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Yesterday I talked about lower critical temperature and windchill for cattle. Now let's talk about you and me. We suffer from windchill effects also and trust me, it gets worse as we get older! We have the advantage that we can put on more layers or get into a heated tractor or truck cab or go into a building. But that doesn't change the fact that there are times when we'll have to be outside in the wind, in the cold and in the snow doing chores or dealing with emergency situations with livestock. When those times happen we need to take care, as cold can be a killer and even though global warming is real, we can still have extreme cold. Dress in layers. Some of the newer materials provide excellent insulation even if wet and can do so without bulk. So do some shopping, check out the new stuff and get ready for cold weather. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Everything Needs Water

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. All creatures including humans and livestock, have three basic needs: food, shelter and water. Lack of water is what will get any creature in trouble in a hurry and it is every bit as critical in winter as in summer. Even in cold weather cattle are going to need 5 to 11 gallons per head per day based on body size, stage of production and weather. There are many different ways to provide water to cattle and in the cold of winter it needs to be unfrozen. There are heaters, there are freezeless waterers and some people depend on a spring fed tank which usually works pretty darn well. This winter is looking to be dry so many of our natural sources may not be quite as reliable. Before winter gets too heavily set in take the time to make sure that all your water sources are working and going to provide the quantity of water needed! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Start Preparing for Calving Season

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Christmas is upon us and the new year is about a week away, whether we like it or not. For many cow herds we're probably somewhere between 5 to 8 weeks out from the start of calving season. The coming weeks would be a good time to spend getting everything ready. All your doctoring supplies and items you need to deal with those new calves. Make sure you have some colostrum laid in just in case you lose a cow or get a heifer that won't nurse. Getting that colostrum into new born calves is so crucial! Also spend some time talking to your vet to establish a game plan of when they want you to call them. They know your abilities probably better than you and each producer has a different threshold. Find out when your vet wants you to call to help with problems. Teamwork is important for you and the cow herd. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Christmas Day - No Program

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