

Fertilizing for Mediocrity

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I once had a producer astutely tell me that he never fertilized for the average yield. If you did you'd always be behind the curve. You needed to fertilize for the above average yield. Modern day crop varieties, regardless of the crop, have the horsepower to turn in some astonishing yields IF you fertilize for it. I think we all too often are hesitant to spend the money up front because we don't know what the year will be like. So we start off kind of light or just the normal amount. The problem is that once we realize it could be a good year it's too late to take advantage of it. We do this all the time with wheat and our wheat yields suffer because of it and we complain that we wasted that money. So why not quit fertilizing for mediocrity and go into every crop every year as if it's going to be a bin buster. Let's use that genetic potential! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Enlist Herbicide

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. With all the talk the past few years of the Xtend trait and using dicamba in beans, the Enlist trait has really been flying under the radar screen. The Enlist trait allows growers who use corn or soybeans, or cotton further south, with this trait to use Enlist One or Enlist Duo 2,4-D choline formulations. Enlist does have many label restrictions just like Xtend soybeans and dicamba but here's one of the things I find very interesting about the Enlist trait. Enlist E3 soybeans are tolerant to the 2,4-D choline herbicides as well as glyphosate AND glufosinate a.k.a. Liberty. Using this trait gives you a lot of flexibility for post emerge weed control but we still need to focus on small broadleaf weeds. The label says under 6 inches, I'd shoot for under 4 inches for enhanced control and again, follow all label restrictions! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Benefits of Pasture Burning

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We have known for years that burning pastures is something we have to do. Stocker cattle will perform better on burned pastures. Research is being done right now comparing performance on spring burned vs summer and fall burned. Advantages to summer and fall burns is assistance in controlling sericea lespedeza and some brushy species. That research is continuing and may hold some interesting outcomes. But the biggest benefits to periodic burning comes down to reduction of cedar tree invasion of pastures, which truly is a huge problem in all of Kansas, AND reduction of risks from wild fires. I know it sounds odd that we are using fire to reduce fire risk, BUT periodic burning removes fuel making it easier to get a wildfire under control. It also removes those Roman candle cedar trees which are a huge fire risk. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Start Now with Prescribed Burning Preparations

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Yes it is only the middle of February but pasture burning could be starting in another six weeks, maybe even earlier. You probably already know which pastures are going to be burned. Which means you can take some time in the coming weeks to begin preparations. Where the terrain will allow, go around the pasture, or the area to burn, with a rotary mower and get a fire break mowed. You can even go in several weeks ahead of time and burn this mowed area so when that day arrives with just the right wind and weather conditions, you are ready to go. Go through the area and look for any potential trouble areas and work out your plan of how to deal with those areas. You may have burned this pasture 40 times before, but taking a little bit of time now to prepare is going to make it much easier come burn day! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Soybean Variety Trials published

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The soybean variety trials publication has been released and I hope that corn and grain sorghum will be close behind. I had hoped to pickup the publication mid last week but while they had been printed they were still being sorted to be sent out to the counties. Hopefully by now they have arrived in the office. When we do get them in stock they will also be available at Geary Grain. Remember, not all varieties from all seed companies are included in these trials. There is a fee that has to be paid to be included in these tests. What separates these tests from many tests is that these are known as replicated trials, meaning each variety is planted multiple times, usually three or four. This allows for statistical analysis of the results to remove field variability so it's easier to tell if yield differences are significant enough to matter. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.