

Ag Radio Programs for January 27 - February 2, 2020

Not Much Kochia, but...

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We are fortunate that unlike our producer friends further west in the state, we don't have to worry too much about the weed kochia. Kochia is a prolific seed producer and was one of the first major weeds to start to develop serious herbicide resistance. Crop producers in the western part of the state learned that you have to attack it early with burn downs and combo modes of action soil residual herbicides. Like I said, we don't have much kochia at all to worry about. But we have amaranths, namely waterhemp and palmar amaranth. The lessons that were learned out west with kochia need to be followed here with these two weeds. Use aggressive burndown products early and use combo residual products pre plant or pre-emerge. We're a few months from applications, but it's time to get your weed control plan together! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Dicamba Training

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you want to apply dicamba to your resistant soybeans you have to take an annual training. This is not a one and down situation. You took the training in 2018, you took it in 2019 and you'll get to take it again this year IF you want to do your own spraying. Just like last year the Kansas Department of Ag said that Extension would not be offering the training, the companies labeling the products have to do it. There are trainings coming up during February in Manhattan, Abilene and Clay Center and I'm sure that more will be added soon. I can help direct you to where you can register online or talk to your dicamba supplier. There is supposed to be online training available but last time we checked those sites were still being updated. Personally I'd rather go to an in-person training but contact me if you need help finding one. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Get on Weeds Early in Thin Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We had a lot of wheat that was slow coming up last fall because of dry weather. Recent wet weather and above normal temperatures have certainly helped get more plants above ground and more growth but it also raises a red flag of concern in my mind. Thin stands of wheat allow more sunlight to the soil surface. More sunlight and abundant moisture are going to equate to lots of weed pressure early. Don't wait around but make sure that your wheat is big enough to spray. Some products say fully tillered while others will say something like 2 or 3 leaf stage. The sooner you can get the topdress and herbicide applied the more use both will be. If you wait until April to see if you've got a stand, you've missed your window of opportunity. Start making plans now and arrangements on the book to maximize effectiveness! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Balance Sheets

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I've been helping with a series of farm financial skills workshops lately. It's a good review and a really good update for this time of year. Balance sheets are probably required by your farm lender about this time every year. But don't look at them as homework you have to do - look at it as an annual measure of how your doing. I know that right now many of you may not want to know how you're doing compared to last year or five years ago. But if you do these religiously in early January every year and are very real about them with your lender you'll find them to be a great tool to begin discussions with your lender and it will be a great way for you to not be surprised by things. Every year you may remember things you forgot to include last year and that's okay. Add them in and use it as a learning opportunity! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Stay on Top of Farm Accounting

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Many of you are wrapping up your 2019 farm books as you get them to the tax preparer. You breathe a sigh of relief and say to yourself, boy I'm glad that's over for another year! But wouldn't it be better if you didn't have to pull the midnight oil getting all your records together and in the farm account book or the computer the night before the appointment with the tax preparer? No one, or at least very few people enjoy doing their farm records, but if you take time once a week or even once every two weeks to catch them up, you'll find the end of the year and getting ready for the tax man far less stressful. Just set a time every week to do this. Probably an hour a week is all it's going to take to get those books done. So even though we're a month into the new year, make that resolution to get January books done and stay caught up! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.