

### How's The Wheat Doing?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I had someone ask me last week if it was normal for the wheat to be as green right now as it is. Given the nice snow cover in mid December and the wet December that we had, it's not at all surprising. Wheat, as well as brome grass and many lawn grasses will grow slightly during the dormant season. It doesn't mean that the wheat has broken dormancy, it just means that there is still a little bit of growth occurring. Overall, the wheat locally is in pretty good shape, albeit many fields still have limited growth due to a dry autumn. December had above normal precipitation, which is a good thing as the top soil was getting dried out. During that sharp cold snap in December we had good even snow cover. Future cold snaps will be tempered by the good topsoil moisture. We've got a lot of winter left, but so far, so good, at least locally! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Dicamba in 2020

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We have four dicamba herbicides that will be available again this year for use on Extend soybeans. Engenia, FeXapan and Xtendimax all fall in this category as well as one combination production, Tavium which is dicamba and S-metolachlor, or Dual. All of these are federally approved through December 20, 2020. Be on the alert for any additional labels that the state could impose. It does not appear that any new restrictions have been put in place for the 2020 season. Buffers are the same, weather conditions are the same and that inversion layer requirement is crucial. Wind speed is a big one and if you don't have an anemometer (wind speed gauge) yet, I can help you acquire one. Record keeping requirements are once again crucial as is the required clean out before and after a dicamba applications. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Dicamba Buffers

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. When the EPA approved the dicamba labels for Extend Soybeans last year they labeled them through December of 2020 so as of now we know that we're approved for using them. There were a lot of additional requirements with those new labels last year and states can tighten up those usage requirements so we need to stay alert for any state changes. One thing that I am asked about from time to time is the additional 57 foot buffer requirement, in addition to the 110 foot buffer where endangered species are encountered. Fortunately, Geary County is not impacted by the endangered species pesticide label acts. The only county in Kansas that is impacted by these additional buffer requirements is Anderson County. But the 110 foot buffer for downwind movement or along sensitive areas still needs to be followed. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Planning Ahead for Soybean Cyst Nematode

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Soybean cyst nematode can be a serious problem in soybean production. While SCN has been detected in Geary County soil populations haven't yet gotten high enough to impact yield. But the time is coming when it will be an issue and the Kansas populations are slowly overcoming the known resistance. The best way to slow this down is through long term rotations and rotating resistant varieties if you are planting resistant varieties. I bring this up because in recent years, due to the economics, I've seen more producers doubling up on soybeans in back to back years, or even when rotating with wheat, they wind up double cropping beans back after wheat. I understand the economics, but eventually the piper will have to be paid. And with increasing SCN we see increases of sudden death syndrome. So start planning now! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Bromegrass Fertilization

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The best time to fertilize bromegrass fields is in late November or early December. The second best time is in February. If you have already fertilized your brome fields, excellent!! The December precipitation took all that fertilizer right into the ground and the bromegrass is already starting to slowly pull it in to the root system. Naturally we are always at the mercy of the weather but if you haven't fertilized your brome yet, get things lined up and ready to go just as soon as it gets dry enough. You never want to apply fertilizer on frozen ground, not an issue right now, but even if it's only late January and it's dried out enough, go ahead and fertilize. What happens though is February turns into March and then it's April and you've missed the window. Remember to include phosphorus and sulfur in addition to nitrogen in your application I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.