

Smoke Forecast Model

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We all know that fire is an integral management tool for maintaining the productivity of the tall grass prairie. But that tool comes with a lot of responsibility to use it wisely particularly when it comes to smoke management. To that end there are two important tools. The first is the special burning restrictions in the Flint Hills region during April. More on that the next two days. Also key is the Flint Hills Smoke Management forecast model. This is an online tool and now also a version that is smartphone friendly that will very quickly tell you whether today or tomorrow will be a good day to burn or a day to avoid because it would send excessive smoke where we don't want it. The web address is ksfire.org. It's easy to use, it loads fast and tells you quickly if the wind and weather conditions are favorable. KSFIRE.ORG I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Flint Hills Burning Restrictions, Part I

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. In an effort to reduce the risk of adverse air quality conditions in large urban areas during the month of April there are open burning restrictions from April 1 to April 30 in the Flint Hills. Geary and Riley counties are impacted by these rules, Dickinson and Clay counties are not. The basic context of this rules is that the only open burning basically allowed is pastures. Brush piles can not be burned during April in the 16 county area. Residential yard waste and trash burn barrels are allowed. Crop residue burning is not allowed, not that we do that much in April anyways. There are some other conditions but that hits the high points. Oh, and camp fires are allowed as well. While we are still a couple of weeks away from those going into effect it's important that you either get those brush piles burned now, or wait until May! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Flint Hills Burning Restrictions, Part II

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Continuing today with yesterday's discussion of the Flint Hills open burning restrictions. It is important to note that none of these regulations over shadow any local ordinances. If you live in Geary County you still need to have an active burn permit in place with Geary County Emergency Management. Make sure you call for permission before you burn at 238-1290. If it's after hours your call will be redirected to the Sheriff's office or you will be given an alternate number. Ideally you want wind speeds of 5 to 15 and burns are safest when conducted in the daylight hours. I know that night time burns are spectacular to watch and higher humidity/lower wind speeds make them easier to control, but they are more dangerous in so many ways. We need to keep fire as a management tool but we have to use it safely! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Prescribed Burn Prepping

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We are starting to get prescribed burning activity which is likely going to be going on for another 6 weeks. Sometimes we get lots of days that are good for burning and other times we have limited good burning days so it would behoove you to take some time to prepare for burning. If your target burn area has good natural boundaries, like roads or wheat fields, etc then that's great but if you have boundaries that need protection, start mowing and even burning firebreaks days or weeks ahead of time. Take time in the coming days to make sure that fire fighting equipment is operational as in pumps are pumping and tanks are holding water. If you don't figure this out until the day of the burn you could have problems. Then also clean up and get your drip torch ready. If you don't own a drip torch, they're a great investment! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Control Marestalk Now!

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Marestalk is a weed that was never well controlled by glyphosate. In fact, no till and Roundup Ready technology took a weed that was of minor interest and put it into a whole new realm. Marestalk can be both a winter and a spring annual. Regardless, it is starting to grow now and if you want to control it you need to get on it before it gets very big. It's going to be the most problem in soybeans so look at using burndown products tank mixed with your glyphosate like FirstRate, Classic, Sharpen, Optill or 2,4-D. Watch the label on 2,4-D as different products will have different waiting periods prior to planting. If you are using Xtend soybeans you can also use one of the approved dicamba products with no preplant waiting period. BUT it is important that you get that marestalk controlled now because in crop control is a real challenge! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.