

Will My Fertilizer Show Up in My Soil Test?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I routinely am asked if fertilizer that has been applied will show up in a soil test. Which always leads to the ultimate, well that depends answer. It depends on how long ago the fertilizer was applied and how many chemical reactions that fertilizer has to go through to be plant available and therefore detectable. Nitrogen under most conditions in the growing season will show up in a soil test soon after rain or irrigation. If the soils lab is testing for nitrate and you applied anhydrous ammonia the anhydrous has to go through some conversion reactions before it can be detected and utilized by plants. Phosphorus and really most all of the other macro and micronutrients will take more time as well. So if you know that you applied a bunch of fertilizer and it just isn't showing up, that's why and it doesn't mean you've lost it! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Herbicide Resistant Grain Sorghum

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Grain sorghum has long been the step child to corn and soybeans when it comes to improved herbicide resistant traits, GMO traits, etc. Part of this has been politics. A lot of the grain sorghum produced is headed to overseas markets where GMO traits may not be approved or acceptable. Part of the reason is also just common sense science. If you created a Roundup Ready sorghum plant it would only be 3 years until you had a Roundup Ready shattercane population. It looks like we have two traits that will be limitedly available in 2021 and another that may be in 2022. I'm honestly not sure if these are GMO hybrids or not - I know that some of the traits that were being looked at were not GMO traits but I'm not sure if the iGrowth and Inzen traits are or aren't GMO. Both of these will be helpful with shattercane and possibly pigweeds. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Dicamba Label Updates

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Last week I was talking about the reapproval of over the top dicamba labels for soybeans in 2021 and already this week there are some changes or additional information being provided. For example, last week it looked like Xtendimax only needed the training every other year, but by this week it now needs to be updated annually. By the way, don't ask me for those trainings. Just like last year each company will be doing their own training online. One interesting thing that may not be new this year but the labels are calling for a forecast with no runoff producing events for 48 hours indicating that in that first 48 hours rainfall can move the dicamba off the plant and move it into areas with sensitive plants where volatilization could be an issue. Bottom line is that you need to be reading all these labels, carefully, prior to use! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Poor Wheat Stands

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Most of the county received a third of an inch to three quarters of an inch of rain last week. That is going to be enough to get that seeding zone soaked up for any wheat that isn't up yet. Of course, the cold that came with that rain also dropped soil temperatures into the 40s. Which, by the way, given the rain and the soil temperatures I'm comfortable with making anhydrous applications now. But those soil temperatures are going to slow the germination down which doesn't concern me too much. Even if that small plant isn't showing much green above ground, that root is working like crazy to get itself well established. Sure, those late emerging fields, regardless of when they were planted, are going to have a yield hit because of slow development this fall. It may mean a little more top-dress nitrogen is in order too! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Start Working on Ag Leases

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Fall harvest is winding down and cattle are getting moved out of summer pastures. So it's time to get to work on leases and visiting with your landlords. With pasture leases let the owner know the condition of fences and how they want to proceed with repairs. Talk about stocking rates and need for brush control and who's going to handle that. Never assume anything with a lease - talk about everything. Crop leases are the same thing regardless of if it's a cash lease or a crop share lease. Talk about how the crop did this year, and why. Talk about any conservation work that may need to be done. Talk about what your plans are for next year's crop. Ask the landlord what questions they have. If the landlord wants to talk about next year's lease, that's great. If not just mention that you'll be back after the first of the year to visit some more. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.