

Ag Radio Programs for November 30 - December 6, 2020

Scout Wheat Fields for Weeds

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Even though things are cooling off and soil temperatures are in the mid 40s, weeds in our wheat fields, and fallow fields, are still slowly growing. So the next couple of weeks is a good time to get out there and scout fields for weeds, primarily winter annual broadleaf and grassy weeds. This is going to be mainly mustards, annual bromes and marstail. In fallow or stubble fields going to corn or beans it'll be important to get some early season burn down and soil residual herbicides applied in the spring. This is important for marestail as it is so hard to control once it starts to bolt in the spring. In wheat fields, censussing weed issues will help you know IF you need to treat weeds in the late winter and what with. Excessive amounts of annual bromes indicates a rotation would sure help but we do have more herbicide options now days. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Remember to Test for SCN

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Soybean cyst nematode is a tiny little creature that can damage soybean plants root systems and ultimately yield. The good news is that the nematode is not commonly present in our fields yet and it takes time to build up to damaging populations. But early detection is important so you don't get blindsided. Testing is fairly easily done and only requires time and a little back work. You need to go into your soybean fields and pull 12 to 18 soil samples from right in the row down to a depth of 8 to 12 inches. This can be with a soil probe or a sharp shooter. Mix this all together and pull out one pint of soil and bring it in to the Extension Office. We'll send it over to the KSU Plant Pathology diagnostic lab where they will run their analysis. If it comes back positive they'll also tell you what the population is and then we start planning! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Fall Soil Testing

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you don't know where you are you have no idea of how to get to where you want to be. The saying holds true for taking a trip and it also holds true for soil nutrient levels and crop production. We often go along, somewhat blindly applying the same generic fertilizer rates cross fields. If you take that approach you'll likely get generic yields, meaning average. Take time this fall to set up a good soil testing plan where you pull samples from fields every three years. Not only do we need to monitor N, P and K, we also need to monitor soil pH, sulfur and possibly iron, zinc and chloride as well. We generally don't need to test every field every year. What crop you are growing makes a difference on what and how we test. But we need to take the time to know where each field is, so we can get a good idea of where we need to go! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Review Field Results

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It was nice to see a little precipitation last week. That's been in short supply this fall. With Thanksgiving behind us and Christmas in the headlights we sort of hit that twilight zone when field work is shutting down and about all that's left is caring for cattle and other odd jobs around the farm. Which means that with cooler weather this becomes a good time, while harvest is still somewhat fresh, to get the yield maps off the yield monitor, sit down with any notes you took during harvest and start reviewing and evaluating this year's crop, field by field. Look for areas in fields that had lower yield that you aren't sure what happened. Highlight areas for future special soil testing, cyst nematode testing or determining if weeds weren't well controlled. Next year's crop planning needs to start now to stay ahead of average! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Switch to Written Leases

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I've spent over 30 years talking about dropping oral leases and switching to written leases and progress is being made. Oral leases are a time honored tradition in farm country and legally binding, at least in Kansas. But many landlords don't realize how much control they surrender with an oral lease based on state statute. Everything is fine with an oral lease as long as the landlord and tenant get along. But when things go south it can become frustrating and issues that would have been solved with a simple written lease blow out of control. A written lease doesn't mean the parties don't trust each other. A written lease is just keeping control in the hands of the landlord and tenant and not leaving it up to the state. It doesn't have to be pages long, in fact most written leases are 1 or 2 pages. Give me a call if you need more info! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.