

Ag Radio Programs for November 9 - 15, 2020

Over-the-top Dicamba Labels Approved

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The on again off again situation with over the top dicamba is now back on and labels for XtendiMax, Engenia, and Tavium have been approved until 2025. Barring any future legal challenges. This doesn't mean we're all free and clear to use these, there are still a LOT of requirements for these. Engenia still requires annual on-line training, the other two only require every other year. Application cutoff dates for all three still apply. They are all through June 30th but two of them have an OR caveat also and one is R1 and another V4 growth stage. All need a volatility reduction agent and some require a drift reduction adjuvant as well. There's also still the requirements for downwind buffers and attention to the rain forecast and inversions. Basically you really need to read the label of the product you are using very closely! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Caution With Over-the-top Dicamba

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Yesterday we talked about the dicamba labels are back in play for the next several years of crop production. But the need to be very careful with how these are used is more important now than ever. These are complex labels and each one has slightly different requirements for just about everything from timing of the application to the application equipment you can or can't use. I feel that there is a greater risk of drift damage from dicamba than from any other herbicide we use including 2,4-D.

Additionally recent surveys showed that only 56% of soybean growers said that they intended to plant dicamba resistant beans, down from 78% this year. You're likely going to have a lot more susceptible soybeans out there next year to worry about. Awareness of what's around you and communication with neighbors will be huge! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Soil Testing for Hay Fields

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We spend way too little effort and time soil testing hay fields specifically alfalfa and brome. Forages are heavy users of phosphorus and in the case of brome, sulfur too. How often do you fertilize your alfalfa fields? Most of them would benefit from 30 to 40 pounds of phosphorus every year, more if phosphorus levels are below 15 ppm. Brome fields often get fertilized every year but do we apply more than just nitrogen? I've seen many brome fields over the years seemingly not respond to nitrogen applications only to find very low phosphorus levels when we finally soil tested. We're also finding more and more sulfur deficient soils all across the region. Brome fields should likely have nitrogen, phosphorus and sulfur applications unless you have a recent soil test that indicates otherwise and fertilize brome before January I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Soil Testing for Pastures

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I will periodically see articles in the popular ag press about fertilizing pastures which then sometimes gets producers around here cranked up to fertilize pastures. If that pasture is cool season grass like fescue or brome, then sure, get it fertilized and the sooner the better. But when it comes to our native bluestem pastures we don't fertilize. Our native pastures evolved over thousands of years to grow plant species that do very well on low nitrogen and low phosphorus levels. If you soil test just about any native pasture in our area, you'll find nitrogen and phosphorus levels both in the single digits. But the native plants are fine with this. Now, you could fertilize these pastures with nitrogen and phosphorus and you would see a response. Unfortunately the end result of this is the plants we don't want, will respond far better. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Scout for Smooth Sumac Now

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. This is a good time of year to get out in pastures and scout for pasture condition, including for invasive woody brush.

Sometimes we get busy just about the time we need to spray brush and the green leaves of that brush blend right in with the green of the grass. But now you can get out there and we can often still find those red leaves of the smooth sumac. Or the red berries of the buckbrush. Obviously we can't treat those areas right now but we can stick an orange topped flag in the ground to help us find it, or at least write down sort of where it was so we aren't trying to reinvent the wheel every June when we go back out to spray. Sumac and buckbrush are both pretty easily controlled by herbicide which is why I mentioned those two. Dogwood is probably our toughest woody invasive to kill, we'll talk about that next spring! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.