

Uneven Wheat Emergence

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The early planted wheat, that went in before or just after that rain the end of September is coming up pretty good, real good in many locations. I did see some uneven stands and that was often in turn row areas where compaction is going to make things a little tougher. The big question now is what about the wheat we'd normally be planting after beans. I think it's pretty well agreed on that a lot of this isn't going to come up until we receive some decent precipitation (meaning ½ to 1 inch). There will likely be some spotty emergence if seed went into an area that had a little residual moisture. We need to be increasing seeding rates about 10% per week from here on. Planting depth is also going to be a challenge - there'll be some inclination to put it in shallow so it'll take less rain, but we need to have seed at least 1 inch deep! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Compaction Is Taking A Toll

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Farming operations have been evolving to larger and larger machinery to cover more acres faster. Unfortunately we are starting to pay the price for that and the price is reduced plant growth and yield because of compaction. This fall may be a good time to see it when you have wheat emerging under tough conditions. If you can see wheel tracks from equipment, that's compaction and while it may disappear with more growth, it's still robbing yield. The real problem is that we don't have a lot of good ways to deal with compaction. Deep ripping is less effective than we once thought. It helps, but it's not a cure. Ultimately we need to be looking at preventing compaction rather than fixing it. One thing that that means is keeping anything with road tires, on the road. Road tires can create 5 to 8 times the compaction load. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Asian Bush Honeysuckle Control

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We do a pretty good job of trying to control things like musk thistle and sericea lespedeza in our pastures but we have an increasing problem in some areas of the county on that timber/grassland interface. This is a shrub known as Asian Bush Honeysuckle. This time of year it becomes fairly easy to see because it is still holding on to some bright green leaves and often is covered with red berries. This shrub is not native and can crowd out just about everything else in our native timber. The fact that it holds green leaves so long into fall actually gives us a good control opportunity. Glyphosate - usually in the form of Rodeo - is very effective at controlling bush honeysuckle and being late in the season we don't see much collateral damage. If you think you have Asian bush honeysuckle or want info on controlling it, please get in touch with me! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

The Most Important Investment in a Cow Herd

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Over the years I've seen a lot of discussion about what is the most important management item that a cattle producer can do with their cow herds. Is it this supplement or some set of vaccinations. Is it a certain type of formulated feed or just what. Well, in the long run the single most important investment that you can give a cow herd, is your time. It's taking the time for attention to detail. Looking out for the early signs of illness. Taking the time to see that the forage in the pasture is matched up to the animals that need it. Taking the time to make sure that pest control is taking place that nutrition being supplied matches the needs of the animals and time to go over the records so that cows are sent to market before they become a burden to the herd. You get out of anything what you put in, so if you aren't putting in very much time.... I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Grazing Stalks

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. While I was driving around the county recently checking on harvest I saw a lot of harvested corn fields and the first thing that hit me was look at all of that usable cattle forage! Corn stover can be a valuable 30 to 60 day forage source for spring calving cows. Cattle are very efficient at finding ears that didn't make it into the combine. They'll next move to eating leaves and husks and once those have been cleaned up they move on to the stalks. When you see them working mainly on stalks it's time to be moving them somewhere else or bringing in harvested forage. The thing about corn stover though is that it is fragile. It needs to be used by the first of the year to get the most good out of it. While some landowners are concerned about compaction this isn't much of a problem, and especially this year given the dry conditions! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.