

The Perfect Time for Wheat Planting

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. For years we always promoted planting wheat AFTER the Hessian fly free date. The problem was that we found out that there was no fly free date because they are still flying around in early November most years. But we do know that the later in October fields are planted the fewer issues with Hessian fly they are likely to have. Which has now led us to the preferred or optimum wheat planting date or the best pest management date. These all are not the same. Our optimal planting dates are September 25 to October 20. When I look at other data, it looks like the best all around time for planting is October 10 through the 20th. Planting earlier than the 10th can lead to more insect problems and planting later than the 20th you start to lose yield. While you may target that date range you do the best you can given the year and issues at hand. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

When Should Cattle Come Off Pastures

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I know more than one landlord that has had a total conniption when a tenant has removed cattle 10 or 20 days late from a pasture. The excuse is always, you're going to hurt the pasture for next year. Now, while I firmly believe that a tenant should try to adhere to the terms of a lease, let's be upfront here. Leaving cattle on a pasture a week or even a month too long isn't going to hurt the pasture condition. It may impact the ability to burn the pasture, but not the condition of the pasture. Pastures are damaged from overgrazing in late July, August or September. By early October the grass plants have gone dormant and aren't storing anymore carbohydrate reserves in the crown and roots of the plant. If a pasture owner wants to get upset, then they need to be checking pasture condition in August and early September. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Slow Down When Planting Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I talked about this about six weeks ago and said then I needed to talk about it closer to planting so here it is! Take heed! Probably the most common problem that I see in wheat fields in recent years is poor placement of seed and most frequently it's in soybean stubble fields where the seed doesn't get that one inch into the soil that we need for good crown and root development. What appears to be happening is that downpressure is being properly set but with autosteer and all we have the ability to just punch the throttle up a little too fast and then the openers start to ride up especially going through some of that residue in between rows and the seed gets placed literally at the bottom of the residue but on top of the soil surface. It comes up fine this fall and looks good until early spring. Slow down and get it planted right! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Basal Bark Tree Treatments

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. By early October most perennial plants, especially trees and shrubs, are going dormant and moving sap and nutrient into the root zone as they shut off the leaves and start shedding the leaves. Understanding this basic bit of biology can be very helpful in our efforts to control invasive woody plants. Obviously leaves are being shed so most foliar treatments are ineffective. Soil applied treatments may be taken up by the plant if we have timely precipitation. But one form of woody perennial control that's going to work great from now through January is basal bark treatment. A concentrated spray of herbicide and usually kerosene or diesel is sprayed on the base of the tree from the ground up a couple of feet, all the way around, to the point of runoff. This is especially effective against locust trees and osage orange or hedge. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Bumping Up Those Seeding Rates

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We are at the front end of what I call the optimal wheat seeding date. While I'd rather talk about seeds per acre being planted I know that y'all are thinking in pounds per acre. At the front end of this optimal time frame I'd like to see folks planting 70 to 80 pounds of seed per acre. Higher number with bigger seeds, lower number with smaller seeds. But then on the 20th of October, boost your rate 10 to 15 pounds. Then on November 1st, if you're still planting, boost it another 10 to 15 pounds. By November 10th we need to seriously consider NOT planting anymore wheat but if you absolutely have to, and it has happened some years, you should bump up to 120 pounds of seed per acre. But there is no reason to ever plant more than 120 pounds per acre. We literally start losing yield from in row competition at higher rates of seeing! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.