

Ag Radio Programs for September 14 - 20, 2020

Still Time to Soil Test for Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. A producer brought in a soil test a couple weeks ago that we sent on to the soils lab and the results were somewhat surprising to me when they came back. And they probably shouldn't have been. One field had a pH level of 5.6 which is getting low enough to impact wheat and definitely impact soybeans. It'll need to be limed in the next year or two. Potassium levels were under 200 which we would have never seen 30 years ago. Not low enough to need added potassium but low enough we will be watching these closely. Phosphorus levels were single digits however. Two different fields were going to need 40 and 55 pounds of phosphorus. All of this points out that we need to be watching closely our soil nutrient levels. We can get 1 week turn around on these tests so there's still time to get a soil test done before wheat planting! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Cold Weather Impacts on Sorghum

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. There's no doubt about it that the drastic weather change last week was a mixed blessing. Corn and soybeans are pretty tolerant of temperatures below 50 but for grain sorghum, that can be a shock. We pretty well know that when temperatures drop below 60 sorghum tends to just shut down. The problem is that it doesn't start back up when the temperature goes back above 60, it likely needs to get back up over 75 or 80 for it to really get back to normal physiological processes. Well, we were down below 60 for several days which likely brought sorghum to a dead halt. Fortunately we've had temperatures return to normal and sorghum should be back to resuming normal heat units for maturity. Long story short, the cold was a bit of a shock but the rainfall we received likely outweighed any negatives from the low temps. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Highway Safety, PLEASE

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. There isn't a week goes by without hearing of some sad traffic accident somewhere in our region. We're really gearing up with fall crop harvest and wheat planting before much longer. We are all going to be encountering ag equipment out on the highways and secondary roads. They invariably are in front of us on that day that we are running late to begin with and our patience is shot. But what I want you to remember is that they have every right to be there as you do. You both have to abide by the same rules of the law. So please, just chill out, relax and be patient! Don't cross a solid yellow line to pass. Don't try to whip around them at an intersection. They aren't as fast as you, they can't maneuver like you can but if pulling a load, they are much bigger than you. Just relax, be patient and let's all PLEASE be safe! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Cover Crop Response to Herbicides

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As producers become more and more interested in cover crops we are going to need to be paying more attention to the herbicides that we used in the previous crop. The challenge is that we are often planting blends of different crops. Even simple ones are likely to have a cereal grain, a legume and some kind of a root crop. Three very different types of crops and differing sensitivities. Red clover is gaining in popularity as a nitrogen fixer - it's going to be really sensitive to mesotrione (Callisto) residue and pendimethalin (Prowl H2O) residue. Radishes are going to be ripped by Balance Flexx and Sharpen. Cereal grasses are less likely to be killed outright but can still be dinged a little bit. Bottom line, as you think about cover crops this fall, keep residues in mind and when you're selecting herbicides next year, think on ahead! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Cool Season Cover Crops Publication

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I was talking about cover crops yesterday and the growing interest in them. Like everything else, cover crops are not a silver bullet to solve all your problems, but they have a place. But where do you find out what might be some crops and cultivars to consider? USDA Plant Materials Program published a handy little bulletin earlier this year and it's based on research done in part at their center at Ashland Bottoms near Manhattan. There were 8 different cover crop species evaluated including 57 different cultivars. The crops evaluated were black oats, black-seeded oats, cereal rye, crimson clover, daikon radish, hairy vetch, red clover and winter or field peas. There is a lot of really good information in this little publication. If you are interested it is online or I will be happy to print out a copy for you here at the office! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.