

## Ag Radio Programs for February 15 - 21, 2021

### Start Scouting Wheat for Early Diseases

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. A couple of weeks ago when I was lining up topics for these programs for the next couple of weeks I thought we may be out looking for wheat diseases by now. Needless to say all the wheat foliage has now been torched to the ground and it'll be a while before we have any green leaf material for leaf diseases to grow on. The good news is that given how far south this really cold weather goes, Leaf rust is going to have to blow a long way to finally get here. And if we have a dry spring that will likely slow all disease development down. But once we start to get some good growth in March, likely, let's get out in those fields and check that new foliage out for leaf diseases like powdery mildew and speckled leaf blotch. Early development of these can be a sign that we'll need to treat later on but likely at heading, not before. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Do Early Season Fungicides Pay in Wheat?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Yesterday I was talking about early scouting for leaf diseases in wheat, once we actually have green leaves out there again. Which just naturally leads to whether we should be applying early season fungicides when we are topdressing wheat. It's been a popular practice in recent years but in all honesty, it is likely without merit in most situations. We can stop early season leaf diseases in their tracks with those fungicide applications. We can make that early season wheat field look really amazing. But we don't get paid for pretty looking wheat, we get paid for yield. We can statistically show that fungicide with top dress will make wheat greener and less disease, in fact virtually disease free, for a while. But when we go on out to harvest we have yet to be able to pick up a yield difference between sprayed and unsprayed at top dress. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Why Don't we Grow Spring Wheat?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Everybody knows that we grow winter wheat, hard red winter wheat. But do we know why we grow winter wheat and not spring wheat? In a nutshell wheat doesn't like high temperatures. When temperatures get above 80 or 85 wheat stops growing and above 90 it starts to die. Period. We've gotten high yields in recent years by getting wheat to head and flower earlier so we can have as much grain fill as possible before hot weather. Spring wheat isn't that much different. We CAN grow spring wheat here but it's heading at all the wrong time. Our best shot would be northwestern Kansas. Many spring/winter wheat yield trial comparisons over many decades have time and time again resulted in spring wheat yielding about half what winter wheat yields. Same for spring and winter barley. Heat is a wheat killer, and that hasn't changed. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Freeze Damage to Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Well, we finally had to have winter I guess. In fact this is likely some of the coldest weather we've seen in the last 25 years. So naturally the question is, was the wheat hurt? There will always be SOME winterkill of wheat. Seed that didn't get well established or a terrace blew clean of snow or just something always goes wrong. In general we had some pluses and minuses going into this. On the minus side, we hadn't really had cold weather to get the wheat as dormant as I'd have liked. But we did have some snow cover, again not as much as I'd like. And most of the soil had good moisture. Wet soil is better insulating than dry soil. We won't know for a few more weeks. I think we will see some winterkill damage and a few fields are going to show some hurt. But for the most part I'm thinking we'll be at least okay! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Cattleman's Day is Going Virtual

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The Annual Cattleman's Day at K-State, this year will be the 108<sup>th</sup>, is scheduled for the traditional first Friday in March, this year March 5<sup>th</sup>. Last year we snuck Cattleman's Day in just before the pandemic shut everything down so it should be no surprise that this year's cattleman's day will be virtual. As always they have a great group of speakers. They've got a trio of nationally known individuals who will be talking how the Covid-19 pandemic affected the US Beef industry from the producer and processor to the end consumer. There'll even be a presentation from K-State's own Liz Boyle, Extension meat science specialist about how the pandemic has affected small Kansas meat processors. To view the event you will need to register but it is free. The easiest way to do it is online at [asi.ksu.edu/cattlemansday](http://asi.ksu.edu/cattlemansday) I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.