

Kansas Fence Law

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. When I present programs on ag leases I always include a short talk on Kansas Fence Law and yes, there is a whole section of Kansas statutes that pertain to fence law. What I have discovered is that landowners aren't as aware of fence law as they think they are. This is most evident when it comes to building or maintaining partition fences. Contrary to popular opinion, Kansas statutes say nothing about meeting at the middle of the fence and the half to the right or left being yours. What the statute does say is, "The owners of adjoining lands shall keep up and maintain in good repair all partition fences between them in equal shares." In a nutshell, that means that whatever the cost is to maintain or repair the fence it's a 50/50 proposition. Take the total cost, cut it in half and that's what each owner owes! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Crop Share Leases

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Crop share leases, while not as common as they once were, still account for over half the crop land ag leases in the state. Sadly, they are often done in a backwards fashion with the landowner declaring that they want a certain percentage of the crop and then stating what costs they will share. This often results in the landowner getting a greater portion of the crop than they should get based on the costs they are sharing. Landowners and tenants would be better off to decide what costs are being shared, set those aside and then total up the costs not being shared and see what fraction each is contributing. That then becomes the ratio for the shared expenses and the ratio of how the crop is divided. K-State does have an Excel spreadsheet that can be used to help with these calculations. Contact me if you're interested in this! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Herbicide Resistant Grain Sorghum a Two Edged Sword

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Ever since the 1990s when the Roundup Ready technology took off in corn and soybeans, grain sorghum has sort of been left on the side of the road. This has been intentional but it is about to change with several herbicide resistant grain sorghums coming on the market this year or next. But herbicide resistant grain sorghum is a dangerous two edged sword that is going to require a great deal of resistance management to avoid disasters. What's our number 1 weed problem in sorghum?

Yeah, shattercane. Where does shattercane originate? Volunteer sorghum. Volunteer sorghum from a herbicide resistant grain sorghum is going to carry herbicide resistant genes. And if great care isn't exercised we'll have massive amounts of herbicide resistant shattercane really quickly.

Resistance management will be crucial! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

No More Easy Buttons

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Let's be honest - we got just a little bit lazy starting in about 1995 or 6. It was called Roundup Ready technology. Plant our crops, when the weeds came up, we sprayed them with Roundup. It was cheap, it was easy and it worked. It worked well. It worked too well. And in less than 20 years we had created one heck of a mess. For an entire generation we forgot all those lessons we once had learned about seed bank management, residual soil applied herbicides, rotations and how to keep weed levels down. The early Roundup Ready technology was our one and only Easy Button for weed control. Once we started to get not just glyphosate resistance but multiple other herbicide resistant weed populations the real fight began. We've got to re-learn those lessons OR perhaps learn them the first time. Easy is over and we're all sorry for that. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

2021 Crop Disease Outlook

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Crop disease issues in the summer of 2020 turned out to be pretty much a non issue. This was mainly due to declining rainfall and humidity conditions in the mid to late summer time frame. We saw all the usual players on corn, soybeans and even sorghum in 2020. In fact, southern rust of corn arrived earlier than normal in mid July but it never got up to really infecting the ear leaf simply due to low humidity at crucial times. So what do I think 2021 will be like? Right now the long range forecasts are showing most of the growing season to be warmer than normal and especially early summer to be drier than normal. There's a high probability, at this time, that disease pressure will be lower than normal. We still need to on our toes because even one or two rainfall events at the wrong time can be an issue so stay alert! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.