

Ag Radio Programs for January 4 - 10, 2021

Happy New Year

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It seems only appropriate to start today with a Happy New Year! 39 years ago today, January 4, 1982, I walked into the Pottawatomie County Extension Office to start a month of training to be the Geary County Extension Agent. 2020 was unlike any year we've seen and the new year is going to start off with some amazing similarities to the old year. We aren't going to be able to have any face to face ag extension meetings for a while yet so we are looking at other options. I think we will slowly return to a more normal way of life before the year is out but it won't be flip a switch instant, it'll be gradual and cautious. Just know that I'm still here to help you with your ag production questions. I can still come out and look at issues. All you have to do is call or text me and I will be right there for you as I have for 39 years. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Ag Lease Virtual Meeting

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It's going to be several more months before we can hold face to face ag producer meetings. Which means until then, we are forced to written communication via newsletters or virtual meetings via Zoom or similar technology. To that end, my annual ag lease meeting is going virtual this year. Certainly not my preferred method of doing this and it will likely preclude some people from attending or watching, but it's the best and safest we can do given the situation at hand. I'll be conducting it via zoom on January 13th at 7 p.m. You need to have an email address so I can email you the link and password. I will record it and have the whole meeting available after the fact for you to view. But for now, email me a request for the link and the password, I will email that back to you and if you've never done zoom before, let me know! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Pay Attention to Cattle Hoof Issues

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you've ever had a foot or ankle that hurts when you walk you know that pretty soon, as you favor that foot it starts to throw the rest of you all out of whack and then the knee or the hip hurts or you get a pain in your back - we've all been there. Well, it can happen to cattle as well. We live in the Flint Hills. I once heard someone refer to the Flint Hills as the area where rocks have teeth. Those toothy rocks can cause problems with cattle hooves as it does with horses hooves. It's not easy to deal with hoof problems in cattle because of lack of facilities. But we need to keep an eye out for cattle that obviously have a hitch in their get along. Sometimes a problem can be dealt with just with antibiotics. But if an infection turns into an abscess something more may need to be done. So keep an eye on how the cattle are walking! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Start Wrapping Up Lease Negotiations

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Kansas statutes state that if an oral ag lease is to be terminated that notice must be in writing and in the hands of the tenant at least 30 days prior to March 1. With 2021 not being a leap year that means January 30th is the deadline. IF you have an oral ag lease, pasture or cropland, it will automatically renew if a notice to terminate is not delivered. Which means that if you are wanting to change the terms, you need to be getting those negotiations wrapped up now! If you don't come to terms with the landlord or tenant and we pass the January 30th deadline, the lease continues for another year under the previous terms. If a tenant and landlord can not agree to terms then the landlord needs to provide a notice to terminate. One way to avoid this in the future is to have simple written leases for a fixed period of a few years and go with that! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Windbreak Trees and Shrubs

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. After the 1930s droughts and again after the 1950s drought rural homesteads planted a lot of trees for windbreaks or shelterbelts. It was long known that slowing down the wind reduced erosion in dry times and slowing down the cold winter winds made it easier to keep homes warmer. New construction techniques and insulation have come a long way in making it easier to cool and heat our homes, but windbreaks still serve an important role around farmsteads and cattle lots at reducing that wind speed. The Kansas Forest Service sells seedling trees and shrubs in bulk to make it more economical to get windbreaks planted. Ordering is easy but knowing how many and how to design the windbreak can be a challenge. I can visit with you and we can figure out how many trees you need and where to plant them! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.