

Planting Bromegrass

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. There is an old farmer's saying that says you can plant bromegrass any month of the year that has the letter R in it's name. Amazingly, this is one old tale that has more than just a little validity to it. Now, just to clarify, this isn't one of those months and neither is next month. Basically, with a few modifications to technique, we are talking September through April. BUT, if you don't want to waste seed, you need to do a little preparation. Very much like alfalfa, new bromegrass is sensitive to soil pH and soil phosphorus levels and soil pH CAN affect phosphorus availability. In the next few weeks you need to get out to the field where you may want to plant brome and get a soil sample and bring it to the Extension Office so we can send it in. If we need to lime or add phosphorus, let's get that done BEFORE you start planting! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Let's Be Careful Out There

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. During wheat harvest we had at least two combine fires in the region. Nobody was seriously hurt in either of these incidents BUT it points out how fast things can happen! You can be doing everything right and in a matter of seconds a situation can be out of your control and you can be at risk of personal injury or death. We never think it could happen and when the situation is unfolding, we all will have some pretty wild thoughts racing through our brains. They're called accidents because we don't plan on them. We don't plan on them yet sometimes we are also setting ourselves up for something to go bad because we aren't taking the necessary precautions and trying to hurry something up. Most days it's just you out there, so like the shift sarge used to say on the old TV show, "Hey, let's be careful out there today!" I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Don't Succumb to Peer Pressure

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Peer pressure is real and it doesn't just happen to kids, it happens to crop producers too. If someone sees a neighbor's field being sprayed they suddenly feel like the need to be spraying something too. But they don't know what for. And there is the problem. We just in the past couple of weeks had the first reports of southern corn rust and gray leaf spot in the state. How fast they spread will depend on the weather, the wind as well as your hybrid's resistance. Most of the corn is at or past VT and some is already up to early R2. We've got fields that will be into early R5, start of dent, in less than a month. At that time the chance to get any good from fungicide will be over. As of late last week we did not have any corn disease in the area that concerned me. But you need to be out there scouting not waiting for someone else to spray! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Take A Day Off

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Farming and ranching is stressful hard work. It's physically hard and mentally and emotionally stressful. If you have livestock there's really no days off - there's chores to do, animals to be fed and checked on, there just isn't any way to take time off. Yet the most important thing you can do from time to time is to allow yourself a little downtime. Take a day trip that totally is not connected to the farm or ranch. Do chores in the morning and then go to a Royals game. Find something that you enjoy doing that isn't connected to work that is relaxing and restful. Yes, you take great pride in what you do and your operation, but that doesn't mean you don't deserve some you time. You need to rest your body, you need to rest your mind. You need to detach yourself for most of a day and just have some fun and enjoyable rest! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

The Fair is Over

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The projects have been taken home. The livestock are back to the farm or the locker plant. The wood shavings, manure and straw are collected and sent out for recycling. Display cases, pens are cleaned up, emptied and stored and secured away. The county fair is over. In a week or two even the smells of the fair will have been blown away by the Kansas wind. School kids are busy getting ready to go back to school. Families may be trying to squeeze in a summer vacation before back to school starts. At the Extension Office we are busy cleaning up equipment, taking inventory and storing things away until next year. And the planning for the 2022 Geary County Free Fair is already underway. It really is 51 weeks in the making. But it also means that I'm back into normal routine and readily available again to make field visits! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.