

## Ag Radio Programs for March 1 - 7, 2021

Remember, Cattleman's Day is Virtual

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Cattleman's Day is this coming Friday but don't get in your truck and head to Manhattan. It's going to be virtual this year, that's the downside, but the upside is that it's free to register and to watch from your computer, tablet or smart phone. Same bunch of great speakers including a series of talks about how the pandemic this past year has impacted beef supplies from the producer all the way through to the consumer AND some special segments on the impact on Kansas small scale meat processing facilities. If we remember back about 10 or 11 months ago, it was pretty crazy for a while! Anyway, the program looks good, you can stay home where it's warm and put your feet up to watch this. To get registered get online and go to [asi.ksu.edu](http://asi.ksu.edu) and right under the picture click on the link to Cattleman's Day! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Should I Burn or Not?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. There's going to be a lot of pasture managers trying to decide whether they burn this year or not. Right now, I feel we have enough soil moisture to insure we'll get good early season growth which is the criteria we often use in the Flint Hills. If you are running stocker cattle then they will perform slightly better if you burn your pastures, especially if you use early intensive stocking. If you have a cow herd we simply don't see the same response on calf performance. Then we start to go back to looking at other priorities of why we burn. Do we need to control small cedars or limit the spread of invasive woody shrubs? If the answer is yes then you have a reason to burn and I see no reason at this time not to. When you burn depends on what woody species you are trying to control. And that I'll talk about on tomorrow's program. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Timing of Spring Burns

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Once you've gone down the checklist and have decided that you have a reason to burn, the next step is to determine when to burn. And that decision comes to what you want to accomplish. If your biggest priority is controlling cedars or simply removing last year's growth then you can burn anytime from mid March to early May. Burning in March, when it is cooler, can result in less ozone production and can also help spread the smoke season out. The more we can burn before April, the better. If you are trying to control other woody species then the later you can burn the better. Burning woody shrubs before they leaf out halts the spread of the brush, but doesn't hurt it. Ideally wait as long as you can until the species is leafing out. This will cause the plant to use more food reserves and weaken it which helps slow it down! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## April Burning Restrictions

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Again this year, or still, Geary County is part of the Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan. There's a lot of different nuances to all of this but in Geary County, during the month of April, only pasture burning is allowed. If you live in rural Geary County and have a brush pile to burn, do it in March or do it in May, but not April. Dickinson and Clay Counties are NOT under these same restrictions and that sometimes causes confusion. The entire goal is to manage the smoke so that burns during the month of April are conducted on days that will not send heavy smoke towards heavily populated areas like Wichita, Topeka, Kansas City, Lincoln and Omaha. To facilitate planning there is a website with a smoke behavior management model that will show potential impacts. That model went active Monday and will run through May 1. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Calf ID Records

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Let's face it, there were a fair number of calves being born in those bitter cold two weeks in February. Producers were so busy they may not have been able to do much more than to keep those calves alive and hopefully get an ear tag in them. Things have slowed down a little bit now or at least warmed up, so if you did get a little behind in your record keeping on those calves, now would be a great time to get caught up on that record keeping. Go back through and make sure that every calf ID has been recorded once you've determined that everybody got ear tagged. In the notes section of your record keeping you may want to indicate any issues that arose with that calf due to cold weather. Just any little thing you can remember may not seem important but could be helpful later on when decided what to keep, and what to sell! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.