

## Ag Radio Programs for November 29 - December 5, 2021

### Dealing With Herbicide Uncertainties

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. With the uncertainty of availability of herbicides and certainly the cost of same it becomes crucially important whether you are applying dormant season herbicides now, burn down herbicides next spring or pre-plant herbicides that you take steps to maximize the effectiveness of every ounce of herbicide you are applying. Auto-steer and other technologies have allowed applicators to cover more ground faster and often at higher speeds, but this may not be the most efficient application methods. Check all equipment daily including nozzles. Driving a little slower allows you to make sure the herbicide hits the intended target uniformly. Lastly, apply more water per acre. Yes, it means refilling more often but more carrier also makes sure that the intended target is being covered with adequate amounts of herbicide for good control! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Cost Return Budgets, Part 1

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. With the increasing cost of production inputs there's been a lot of pencil pushing to figure out if anything will make money next year. The Kansas Farm Management Association has just released cost and return budgets for 2022. Keep in mind that these are not esoteric wild guesses. These are production figures from real farms in Kansas adjusted to current reality. They reflect practices representative of the various regions of Kansas and that includes average yields from those member farms. Fertilizer prices are punched in at 80 cents for nitrogen and 63 cents for phosphorus. Herbicide prices may have been about 10% low from when the budgets were put together and now. But even making those adjustments, our four major crops, wheat, corn, milo and beans, were all making a profit over total meaning all) costs. More tomorrow! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Cost Return Budgets, Part 2

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I kind of left you hanging yesterday saying that cost return projections for our four major crops for 2022 all showed profits. Clearly with increasing input costs, which the analysts are NOT expecting to decline by next spring by the way, are going to impact profitability and if things go totally haywire all bets are off. But if you are hesitating at applying full fertilizer rates, I would not. Yes, you're going to carry some big costs for quite a while, but it should still pay out! It should be no surprise that the crop with the lowest profitability was wheat, granted it was only projected to make \$60 above fixed and direct costs, but it was still a profit. Also no surprise, milo was projected to make the most money at a plus \$250 per acre. Corn and soybeans came in very similarly at a plus \$149 and \$131. Contact me to see the full budgets. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## The Value of Crop Residues

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I routinely encourage cattle producers to graze crop residue if they have it. We know that corn stalks are more delicate and break down quickly. I really encourage producers to use corn residue within the first couple of months of harvest. Sorghum residue is much tougher and will last well into late winter. But studies over the years have also pointed out that there are some feed value differences between the two and possibly not what you'd expect. In combining a whole group of studies researchers looked at crude protein, fiber and TDN of leaves and stalks of corn and sorghum. Sorghum leaves and stalks, at all periods post harvest had significantly higher protein and slightly higher TDN than corn residue. Corn leaves ran 4.6 to 6% crude protein while sorghum leaves were 8.3 to 11.7% protein, a big difference! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Does Grazing Crop Residues Cause Compaction

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Yesterday I was talking about sorghum and corn crop residue and utilizing it for cattle forage especially in the late fall and winter time frame. Many crop producers, or landlords, are hesitant to allow crop residue to be grazed due to compaction concerns. Various states have looked at this over the years and granted, the risk of compaction is directly proportional to soil moisture conditions during the grazing period. It has generally been found that compaction from cattle grazing is limited to the top 2 inches and easily taken care of with shallow tillage. In a pure no-till crop production system it may be a problem, but in most crop fields, a little light ripping won't impact surface residue. An interesting study out of Nebraska several years ago showed that compaction in crop fields was not an issue and long term increased yields. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.