

Ag Radio Programs for October 18 - 24, 2021

Use Starter on Late Planted Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We are slowly moving past the preferred wheat planting window, but that doesn't mean we won't still be planting wheat for a while. With ever shortening hours of daylight, even if air temperatures stay fairly warm during the day, soil temperatures are cooling off as we move towards the end of the month. One thing that we know about cooling soil temperatures is that they make many nutrients in the soil less available, or at least the plants ability to take them up is reduced. Soils, that according to soil test results, should have adequate phosphorus levels will often have young wheat plants that are deficient in phosphorus. While I know it will take a little more time I really feel that from here on out you should be putting down about 20 pounds of phosphorus with the planter regardless of soil test levels, just to be sure. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Soybean Cyst Nematode Testing

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Soybean cyst nematode, or SCN for short, is a microscopic little worm like creature that can infest soybean roots and at high enough levels cause significant yield loss. There also appears to be a correlation between SCN infestations and the occurrence of sudden death syndrome in soybeans. SCN is not widespread in our area yet, but it is out there. As it builds up levels in the soil potential impact becomes a much greater probability. We do have SCN resistant or tolerant soybean varieties but we can't use them if we don't know it's out there. Once harvest is over, go take some soil samples in your bean fields. Go right down the row and pull soil from the top 4 to 6 inches in several places. For a small fee KSU can test for the presence of SCN. If it is found we then know that we need to monitor that field for future management changes. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Time to Start Bumping Up Seeding Rates

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. While I always prefer to talk about wheat seeding rates in seeds per acre I also know that most producers are thinking pounds per acre. We're just coming out of the "sweet window" for wheat planting and most of you have been planting 70 to 80 pounds of seed per acre. Higher number with bigger seeds, lower number with smaller seeds. But once we hit October 20th I really feel, for several reasons, that we need to boost those rates by 10 to 15 pounds per acre. Then on November 1st, if you're still planting, boost it another 10 to 15 pounds. By November 10th we need to seriously consider NOT planting anymore wheat. A few years ago we were still planting at Thanksgiving time so if you're still planting after November 10th go up to 120 pounds per acre. But never plant more than 120 pounds per acre under any circumstances. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Fertilizing Brome and Alfalfa

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If there were two things I could get brome and alfalfa producers to do it would be just fertilizing in general and getting enough on and then the timing of the fertilizer application, especially in brome. All plants respond to the care that they are given. If brome grass has not been responding to fertilizer we need to look at timing and amounts. I firmly believe that we need to fertilize brome grass in late November and early December and make sure we are putting phosphorus and sulfur down with about 80 to 100 pounds of nitrogen. If that seems like a lot, then let's get a good soil test done! Alfalfa also needs to be fertilized annually with 20 to 40 pounds of phosphorus. I think we also need to have more use of dormant season herbicides on non Roundup Ready alfalfa. These applications can be done together. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Replant Wheat or Give it Up?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Every once in a while I'll get a call in late October or November regarding whether a particular field of wheat needs to be replanted or not. About the only time that I truly recommend replanting is when you get it planted early and it starts coming up well and then is hit hard by armyworms or cutworms. In these cases we know that a stand has been significantly impacted and we likely have time to get a reasonable stand back re-established. But when we have uneven stands due to dry weather I think it's just throwing good money after bad to try to plant more seed. Most times we just need to ride it out and see what happens. That wheat can and will still emerge in November and December. We can wait to top dress until early March and make a decision then if we have enough to justify keeping it or if we graze it out and plant a spring crop. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.