

## Ag Radio Programs for September 27 - October 3, 2021

### Soil Testing for Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I once heard an equine veterinarian say that the biggest killer of horses was tradition. Today's program isn't about horses, it's about wheat fertilization. I don't see nearly enough soil samples from any fields, including wheat, come through my office. Which means, that we're fertilizing by tradition. With the genetics that are in those wheat varieties now days, this is just asking to leave yield in the field. These varieties need to be pushed and to do that we need to know where we currently are with nutrient levels. I'm willing to bet that over half the wheat fields out there do not need phosphorus, unless we're planting in late October, they likely aren't having any, or enough chloride going down and not nearly enough nitrogen. You do know that there's one quick way to prove me wrong don't you? Yeah, soil test. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Taking Notes Through Harvest

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I'm old school, I still use notepads. Sure, I'll also use the notes app on my phone, but I really prefer notepads. In the weeks ahead, as you are running combines through crop fields I hope that you keep a notepad or your phone handy and keep track of what you are seeing from the seat of the combine. Make notes of where you are seeing low yields on the monitor and anything that might correlate to that. It might be weeds, it may be less thrifty looking plants, just anything. Then we can set out after harvest to figure what's going on there. Yes, I know you think that you can remember what you see, but by the end of harvest you'll have watched a whole lot of acres go through that combine header and things will start to run together. It doesn't matter if it's a voice memo on your phone, a note on a notepad or whatever, just keep track somewhere! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Slow Down When Planting Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I talked about this before and now that we are starting to plant wheat we need to talk about it again. Without a doubt the most common problem that I see in wheat fields in recent years is poor placement of seed and most frequently it's in soybean stubble fields where the seed doesn't get that one inch into the soil that we need for good crown and root development. What appears to be happening is that downpressure is being properly set but with autosteer and all we have the ability to just punch the throttle up a little too fast and then the openers start to ride up especially going through some of that residue in between rows and the seed gets placed literally at the bottom of the residue but on top of the soil surface. It comes up fine this fall and looks good until early spring when we have heat stress. Slow down and get it planted right! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Safety on the Road, PLEASE!

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. There isn't a week goes by without hearing of some sad traffic accident somewhere in the state. We're right smack in the middle of crop harvest and wheat planting will gear up before much longer. We are all going to be encountering ag equipment out on the highways and secondary roads. They invariably are in front of us on that day that we are running late to begin with and our patience is shot. But what I want you to remember is that they have the same right to be there as you do. You both have to abide by the same rules of the road. So please, just chill out, relax and be patient! Don't cross a solid yellow line to pass. Don't try to whip around them at an intersection. They aren't as fast as you, they can't maneuver like you can, but if pulling a load, they are much bigger than you. Just relax, be patient and let's all PLEASE be safe! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Wheat Seed Treatments for Insects

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Last week I was talking about the importance of fungicide seed treatments on your wheat seed. Their value has been shown time and time again. Their real value comes in that the only way you can prevent many of those disease problems is with a seed treatment. Insecticidal seed treatments have not consistently shown the same advantage. Early season insect infestations are not a routine occurrence and if they do happen, we can usually take care of them with over the top treatments when they show up. There are also several potential negative impacts to non target species that need to be more seriously examined. The little bit of protection we may gain early in the season with insecticidal treatments on wheat seed simply can not justify the expense. Save that money and spend it on gas to go scout your fields. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.