

## Ag Radio Programs for August 29 - September 2, 2022

### Get Wheat Seed Tested

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you are keeping back your own wheat seed for planting this fall I can't emphasize enough the need to get it germination tested. Usually it's all good, but sometimes things happen. Kansas Crop Improvement Association's seed lab is in Manhattan and results are usually back in 10 to 14 days. You can also ask for an accelerated aging test if you think it may be planted in the latter part of October. Ideally you want your seed wheat to be over 60 pounds per bushel test weight. You can get it cleaned and this will often boost test weight at least a couple pounds per bushel. If you are having it cleaned you can likely also get it treated with a fungicidal seed treatment. While I'm not too concerned about seedling diseases, I'm very concerned about smut and bunt, which are both easily controlled with a seed treatment! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Keep an Eye on Grasshoppers

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. One of the things I've noticed in recent weeks while out field scouting, is a fair amount of grasshopper feeding damage. A lot of this has been on field edges and field margins, but that's always where the problem starts. Corn had a fair amount of damage but it's winding down. Soybeans and milo need to be monitored though as damage could still occur that would hurt yield. Damage normally starts on the field edges and then moves in from there. Often we don't need to treat an entire field but just the area that is showing damage. Check sides of fields bordered by native grass, brome, or alfalfa as well as next to county road ditches. We have quite a few insecticides that are very effective on grasshoppers if we do need to spray. If you are spraying, treating into the border area can often also help to reduce numbers. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Soil Testing for Wheat Planting

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. A month from now there will be wheat in the ground. How much moisture it'll be planted into is another story. But you have to go after each and every crop year with the expectation that you're going to have a good crop. If you go into the crop year with sub par expectations and manage it as such, you will become a self fulfilling prophecy. As you get ready to start planting your wheat crop, let's start by getting a basic soil test. I'm of biggest interest with soil pH and phosphorus levels. Wheat is tolerant of moderate acidity, but once that pH drops below 6.0, you need to add lime. It's just that simple. With phosphorus, if the soil test level is below 20 ppm, you need phosphorus, over 20, you likely won't see any impact on yield. Yes, you can stockpile phosphorus, but maybe it'd be better to do that when fertilizer prices are lower. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Be Kind and Patient With My Replacement

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I'm sure most of you have heard that I'm retiring, very soon. There will be a few months break until a new agent is in the office. The process is proceeding, but it takes time. If questions come up, call the office and they'll refer you to a neighboring county. I've covered for them often enough, so they can pay Geary County back. I have no idea if the new agent will be an agronomist, an animal scientist or a natural resource specialist. Just like it took me several years to get to where I am today, it'll likely take the new agent some time as well. My request for all of you is to please just give them the time, the support and the space to become the best agent that they can be. Y'all did that for me back in the 1980s and it worked out pretty well for both of us. Don't be afraid to ask that new agent, but give them time to get back to you! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## It's Been an Amazing Career

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Well folks, this is it; my last radio program. I've been doing this for over 40 years and by my count it's well north of 4,000 recorded programs. Thank you to KJCK for giving me so much air time over the years. But more importantly, thank you all of you who allowed me to be your county extension agent and for the friendship you've offered me. While it's hard to leave this job and turn you all over to a new agent, it is time. I know I'll run in to many of you from time to time because I'm not moving away from the area - I'll still be here. The process is under way to get a new agent in to the office and with any luck they'll be here before Thanksgiving. But for now, it's time for me to sign off and head out to the farm to finally spend more time gardening, orcharding and birdwatching. So once again, thank you one and all... I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.