

Evaluate Pasture Conditions

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As we move well into August it's time to really spend some time evaluating pasture conditions. You first of all need to evaluate the pastures for right now. Is there enough grass out there to get cows through to the end of your grazing season. That also includes leaving enough grass to carry a fire next spring. If there isn't enough grass, what are you going to do now. Then you also need to evaluate the pasture for long term management needs. If the pasture is going backwards, then an adjustment in stocking rates is probably in order. Look over brush invasion to decide what direction we need to go. While you're out and about start looking for sericea lespedeza as well and then check fence and gate conditions. The fences may be keeping the cattle in now, but come spring will they still. Start now so you know what you need to do! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Kansas Fence Law Seminar

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We all know the old saying, "Good fences make good neighbors" and there's a lot of truth in that phrase. Over the years I've had to answer a lot of questions about fences and to be right honest, much of the traditional thoughts about fences and fence law, is not correct. We are having a Fence Law Seminar on Tuesday evening, August 23rd starting at 7 p.m. at the 4-H/Sr. Citizens Building at the Geary County Fairgrounds. Roger McEowen, Washburn University School of Law, KSU Ag Economist and noted agricultural law specialist will cover a whole spectrum of subjects surrounding Kansas Fence Law. The program is free, it's open to the public although we would like you to call in and reserve a spot so we can have enough hand out materials. This is going to be a great program that you won't want to miss! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Southern Corn Leaf Rust

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Corn producers need to be out scouting their fields right now as Southern Rust was recently found in Shawnee County. This detection was a big jump from southeastern Arkansas and northwestern Mississippi where most of the reports this year had come from. Now, this doesn't mean you all rush out there and start spraying. We don't recommend treating a field unless it is being found in that field. You also need to check to see what your hybrid's susceptibility is as well and then you need to take into account growth stage of the corn. Susceptible hybrids will likely see a yield response up through R5 or dent stage. Right now you need to just be out looking for southern rust. Don't get fooled by common rust but if you aren't sure, bring a few leaves in or give me a call and we can meet at the field and check things out! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Fall Armyworm Alert

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Remember the fall armyworms last year? The ones I said we generally only have about once every ten years? Well, in late June large numbers of fall armyworms were being seen in the Texas panhandle and now we are finding a lot of fall armyworm moths in traps in southwest Kansas which means that they may be headed back this way for back to back year appearances. Right now we just need to be out there looking for early damage which is generally windowpane feeding on leaves. Alfalfa, corn and sorghum are going to be the biggest at risk crops right now. Later on as wheat starts to be planted and emerged it will be at risk. At this time we have not seen adults or larvae yet but we will be on the lookout. Soybeans are not generally at much risk. For now, be alert for fields that seem to be going backwards! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Soybean Gall Midge

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It just isn't a late summer crop season without drought concerns and insect issues. It also seems that just about every year there's something new to be on the lookout for. So this year's insect du jour is the soybean gall midge. To our knowledge it is not yet here in Kansas BUT it is just across the border in Nebraska. It was discovered in Nebraska in 2011 but was not officially described as a new species until 2018. So far it's been confirmed in Nebraska as well as Minnesota, South Dakota, and Iowa. Given it's proximity to Kansas, we are probably next. Heavy infestations can kill plants. Look for areas of soybean fields that appear to be dying for no obvious reason. Then check for darkening and swelling of the stem, especially lower stem. And of course, if you see something weird, give me a call! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.