

Ag Radio Programs for December 27 - January 2, 2022

Crop Moisture Impacts on Harvest and Yield

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Last fall was a son of a gun for soybean harvest. Beans were at 12 and 13%, dry enough to harvest without risk of dock at the elevator but the stems were still green. Yeah, we could harvest them at about 1 mph. So people let the beans dry down and the stems to finally freeze and we harvested 8% soybeans and life was better. Or was it? Harvest went faster, and probably easier, but was it better. When you take wet grain to the elevator they dock you because they have to dry it down. But when it's dry is the moisture adjusted back and you get a premium? So if you had 60 bushel soybeans and you harvested them at 8% moisture they had 144 pounds LESS water in them than 13% soybeans. 144 is 2.4 bushels. At \$12.25 per bushel, waiting for the plants to dry down just cost you about 30 bucks per acre. Was it worth it! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Potassium is Weird

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If anyone ever tells you that we know all about crop production that we need to know, they don't know what they are talking about. Soil scientists have been studying soil nutrients, potassium for about a century. And the one thing we know is how much we realize we still don't know about potassium. We know that pulling soil samples at different times of the year will result in different soil test levels. But we don't know why. We know soil temperatures, especially early in the year, can impact potassium uptake by plants. We also know that we are slowly mining our soils of potassium. Last week I mentioned that tissue testing of soybeans at the V4 growth stage may be the best determination of if we have nutrient deficiencies that need to be addressed. So let's pay close attention to our crops to see what's going on! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Fertilize Alfalfa Now

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. After ten degrees for a morning low here recently I think it's safe to say that the alfalfa is finally dormant. As long as the ground isn't frozen you can apply dormant season herbicides to help control weeds, especially if you don't have Roundup Ready alfalfa. But more importantly than that now is a good time to broadcast some phosphorus for next year's alfalfa crop. Alfalfa needs 12 pounds of phosphorus per ton of production. If you have a good year and harvest 4 tons of alfalfa per acre, you just pulled 50 pounds of phosphorus out of the soil and there aren't many fields that have those kinds of phosphorus levels. If you don't have those kinds of levels, or you don't fertilize, you won't get 4 tons per acre and you won't wind up with a stand lasting 4 or 5 years. Take the time now, to get those alfalfa fields fertilized with phosphorus! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Ag Lease Meeting

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Leases are a critical part of agriculture. Between crop land and pasture land leases it is estimated that over 67% of all ag land is leased. There are many very specific statutes that regulate ag leases. Yet most of these are not on the things that many landlords and tenants think they are. Most of the things that people think are law are nothing more than tradition, Thursday night, January 6th at 7:00 p.m. I'll be holding an ag lease educational meeting at the 4-H/Sr. Citizens Building at the Geary County Fairgrounds. I'll cover some of the important parts of Kansas ag lease laws and try to provide some insight on what will be changing in 2022 for rental rates, etc. There is no charge for this meeting but since it's been rumored that there will be pie and coffee I am asking folks to call the office at 785-238-4161 and register to attend! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

We Can't TELL You What to Do

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I've spent 40 years now doing this county agent gig. One thing that I've learned is that I can not tell you or any one producer, landlord or landowner WHAT to do. I've been asked a lot of questions over the years and given advice to folks that they promptly ignored. Sometimes it all came out okay, and sometimes it was a disaster. In the coming months, thanks to the rising costs of inputs you are going to see all sorts of snake oil being advertised. These are the things that concern me and drive me crazy. These people have nothing to support what they claim and people will be duped into spending way too much money on something that does little or no good. If something sounds too good to be true, please ask me about it before you buy any new or different product. I can't stop you from buying anything, but I will try! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.