

Ag Radio Programs for February 28 - March 6, 2022

Cold Weather Damage to Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Welllll, on the roller coaster known as this year's weather we took a big dive last week getting down to slightly below zero or at least zero or a few degrees above, depending on location. What did those temperatures do to the wheat crop? More than likely, nothing. In spite of above average temperatures the wheat really hadn't started to grow that much - which I'm sure will change this week though. Additionally, even on those cold mornings mid last week, 2 inch soil temperature was right at freezing. While dry soil will cool faster than wet soil, the sun is growing more intense right now so we get a lot of solar warming on those sunny days and most stations were reporting soil temperatures in the 31 to 34 degree range. Which isn't to say we won't see ANY winter damage, it's just that we shouldn't see much, at least yet! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Side Dressing Nitrogen on Corn

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. In a perfect world we would be able to apply the fertilizer that the crops need just as they need them. This would mean that the plants aren't deficient and the risk of losing fertilizer from any reason would be very negligible. We don't live in a perfect world and when it comes to our big fertilizer consumer, corn, I wouldn't be surprised if we lose 10 to 20% of what we apply, especially if we try to put a lot of it on with late fall or early spring preplant applications. When N was 35 or 40 cents a pound that loss only hurt a little. With nitrogen over a buck a pound, that can hurt a lot. So maybe it's time to reconsider side dressing or fertigation if you have irrigation. You may not want to mess with anhydrous injectors on a tool bar, but there are other ways to side dress corn and likely save a bunch of money and fertilizer! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Renovating Dry Ponds

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. A few years ago things got dry enough that some folks renovated farm ponds that had gotten badly silted in. Now, cleaning out a pond is neither cheap nor easy. In fact, new pond construction may be cheaper but more than likely the best site for a pond in that pasture, is where the current pond is. One of the main reasons for a pond is for livestock water. One of the major reasons ponds fill in, is because of livestock trampling around the edges of the pond and destroying vegetation. You may want to investigate using the pond as a water source, but installing some kind of system to get the pond water to a tank below the dam then fencing off the pond to keep livestock out of it. This will effectively maintain the pond as a good water source for a much longer time. For more questions on ponds, give me a call! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Soybean Yield Trials

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. In an era where you receive the biggest discounts for seed if you order before harvest is even over, it makes it tough to stay up with some of the latest information on hybrids and varieties. Be that as it may be, the 2021 Kansas performance tests for soybeans and corn are in the office and there should be some at Geary Grain also. One of the things that has frustrated me over the years is that more and more companies simply don't enter in the university testing programs. Yes, it costs money but it becomes a true replicated experiment where you can put credence into the yields being seen. Do I not trust the big seed companies? Let me say that if there aren't replicated experimental designs you don't really know if the differences you are seeing are due to variety differences or changes in the field. So pick up a copy today! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Alfalfa Weevils

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you grow alfalfa, you are all too familiar with alfalfa weevils. Now, don't panic, they aren't active. Yet. But a few more warm days and they likely will start hatching and then the fun begins. The fun is in the scouting for them and monitoring their numbers. I'll be sending out notices and announcements when I first find hatching activity but once the alfalfa starts to grow it wouldn't hurt to pop into fields periodically and check for holes in the leaves! Every year we hear reports of weevil resistance to insecticides but follow up investigations have yet to confirm it. What we find, to be right honest is applicator error. The weather conditions aren't right - cloudy cool mornings aren't good for control. Or not enough carrier per acre to really get everything well covered. You need to be applying 20 gallons per acre! Period. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

