

Fetal Nutrition Crucial in Cowherds

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you have a spring calving cow-herd, whatever you define as spring, you are into crunch time. So much of the growth of that fetal calf occurs in the last trimester and stress, especially nutritional stress at that time can have life long impacts on that calf. While early gestation malnutrition can impact a calf's GI track and liver, later term malnutrition can impact muscle, ribeye size and amazingly even marbling. From now until calving you need to make sure that those cows are getting adequate protein and of course, free access to mineral blocks and supplemental vitamins. If cows are on mature pasture grasses, as many are, then alfalfa as well as protein supplementation are likely in order. The last two months pre-calving and the first two months post calving are crucial nutritional times for the cow and her calf! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Enjoy the Farm Shows

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It's early January and that means there'll likely be an ongoing round of farm shows through the state and region. I'm sure many of you will attend at least one of them - I know I'll spend some time at the Topeka Farm Show next week. There'll be the usual suspects in their booths and there will be more than just a few folks promoting what I might call snake oil. Be cautious around these folks and their claims. The better their claims sound the more suspicious of them I'd be! Take some of their materials but don't go buying into any of their claims just yet. Bring those brochures to me or stop by the K-State Research and Extension booth and ask the agents that are there what they think of the materials and claims. It's going to cost enough to grow those crops this year. Don't make it worse with unproven and questionable products. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Inoculants are Inoculants

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The first inoculants sold for use in soybeans, to assure proper nitrogen fixing bacteria were present was in the early 1940s. Now days, if a field has been in routine soybean production many producers won't bother with inoculants, which I personally think is a mistake as it is cheap insurance to be sure. Levels of bacteria in fields can be extremely variable based on how long it's been since soybeans were last grown and even what the weather was like last year! Because of all these factors, I just feel that inoculating soybean seed or using pre-inoculated seed is always a wise move. But don't go overboard on this and start buying high end boutique inoculants that are being labeled as more efficient or even being sold as PGRs, plant growth regulators. Use an inoculant, the cheapest one you can find of the right strain packaged for 2022 I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

When A New Tenant Starts

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Just a quick reminder of the ag lease meeting tonight, Thursday, January 6 at the 4-H/Sr. Citizens Building starting at 7 p.m. One question that I'm asked is if a new tenant and new lease have to be in place by March 1. Assuming that the previous tenant was given proper notice of termination the answer is no. They can't start prior to March 1 as the previous tenant has property access until March 1, but if you and the new tenant are still working out details, it can be clear into April or even May. With a written lease you can have any termination date you want, but oral leases are automatically renewable annual leases beginning on March 1. As I said, you can put any date into a written lease that you want. I always suggest using March 1 as it is a standard or don't include a date and then it will be March 1 by statute! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Weed Control Bulletin

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. One of the most popular bulletins that we hand out every year is the Chemical Weed Control bulletin. When I started in 1982 this bulletin was less than 64 pages long. This year it's 152 pages long. Yes, things have changed that much. But there is a lot more information in this publication than just what chemicals can be used at what rates on what crops. There's information on modes of action, toxicities of herbicides, what's in all those premixes, glyphosate comparisons and uses in speciality areas like non-cropland, trees and brush in pastures, grazing restrictions - really just a ton of information. It is available on line at the K-State Research and Extension website, look under bookstore, right now. I download the new copy to my iPad every year. And we should have copies in the office very soon if not already! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.