

Didn't See This Coming

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. On the 20th of May I left for ten days of vacation. I'm convinced that if we are having dry weather, I just need to leave the state for a week or two to make it rain. And it happened again. This was in nobody's long range forecast. The cooler weather was certainly good for the wheat crop - at least it partially compensated for earlier season heat. What it may also do is crank up some late season leaf diseases, but in all honesty, it's too late to do anything now. What we do need to look out for though is a rush of weeds growing in thin wheat fields. Due to time required for harvest aid herbicides to work we probably need to be applying these 10 to 14 days prior to expected harvest. If you've got thin wheat stands and it looks like there's a good flush of weeds coming, give me a call so we can look it over and make plans! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

2022 Custom Rates Book

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. A few years back the bluestem pasture rental rate report and the custom rates book ceased to be published due to budget constraints. More recently, K-State department of ag economics took over the data collection and publication of these reports in an every other year fashion. This year it was the custom rate's book turn to be updated and it is now available on line, or you may pick up a printed copy here at the Extension Office. It seems like every new edition has some nice additions or reorganizations that make the book even better. Be advised though that due to the timing of when this information was gathered, rates may have gone up further to reflect rising fuel prices. To find the book online do a search on Kansas Custom Rates 2022, or stop by the Extension Office for a copy! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Wet Weather - Grain Sorghum

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. While the recent wet conditions have brought a lot of field work to a halt, the good news is that we are in good shape for grain sorghum planting. I don't get too worried until we get into late June. There are also some extra advantages to have a spate of rainy cool weather and that is that this weather helps control chinch bugs. We don't worry about chinch bugs like we used to, but they are still out there and they can still cause problems. BUT, wet weather causes naturally occurring fungal diseases to attack and kill chinch bugs, and grasshoppers too for that matter. One thing to be alert too however is that rain and now some warmer weather and we will get a flush of weeds - a major flush of weeds. Make sure you get a good burndown applied and soil residual herbicide to keep things going the next couple of months! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Wet Weather - Soybeans

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We were talking about wet weather impact on grain sorghum yesterday and many of the same thoughts apply to soybeans.

While we know that soybeans planted in May generally will yield better than later plantings, we also know that you can plant late into June and still get good yields. And with new crop beans running at or over \$14 that's good news! But just as with milo, these recent rains are bringing up a major flush of weeds that really need to be dealt with pre-plant as well as getting a good multi-mode of action soil residual herbicide down. Waterhemp and Palmer amaranth can literally double in size in two days under these growing conditions so pay close attention and get those burndowns applied in a timely fashion. If you have breakthrough weed issues, get on them in a hurry and don't let things get out of control! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Nitrogen Losses - Wet Soil

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The downside to these recent rains is the impact on nitrogen fertilizer. If you applied stabilized nitrogen sources I'm not quite so concerned, but if you didn't be advised that your crop may come up a little short.

Nitrogen is very mobile in a wet environment. Wet conditions can leach nitrogen out of the root zone moving it into ground water or at least out of the reach of plant roots. Additionally we can have denitrification occur. This happens in saturated soils - doesn't even have to be standing water, just saturated soils with no soil oxygen. It can be released as nitrous oxide or just nitrogen gas. Either way, it winds up being lost to the environment and plants lose out! Keep an eye on your corn as it grows in the coming weeks and be ready to dribble on some side dress or apply it through the center pivot if possible 1 I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.