

Ag Radio Programs for May 30 - June 5, 2022

No Program - Memorial Day

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent.

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Farm Future - Family Considerations

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As we talked about last week, farm succession planning is hard and really needs to take into account the entire family. The current active operator needs to sit down with all of their children and their children's spouses to discuss how the farm is going to be transferred. If no one wants to come back to the farm is it going to be sold or split up and how will it be split up? Remember that the further future generations are removed from the farm, the less interest they will have in owning it. If the next generation is coming into the operation, lay out a plan of how and when, and that how includes transfer of decision making authority. Don't treat the next generation like hired labor - they are the managers of the future farm. It may be hard to let go but you need to start turning management over to them eventually! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

After Talking, Do Something

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The process of planning for farm succession is not an easy path. There will be many conversations and some hard conversation. As hard as these conversations may be, the hardest part is yet to come. You actually have to do something. As they say, talk is cheap! Write down a plan. That's right, put it on paper. Let it set awhile then have everyone take a look at it. Hash it out some more and then rewrite it. Honestly, this could take months or even years. This is important, it needs to be done, but not rushed. Once it's where everyone, all the generations, are happy with it, then all involved need to sign off on it. This is more than just a legal document, it is everyone's statement that they are comfortable with the plan and willing to abide with it and move forward. If you need help doing this, let me know. Help is available! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Brush Control in Pastures

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It's early June - it's very early June. If you don't have enough to do already, here's something else to put on your to do list. Brush control in pastures with foliar applied herbicides. If you only want to treat brush once and get the biggest bang for your buck, early June is probably the best time to do that.

Unfortunately, for many operations, rangeland brush control is done when it is gotten to. After planting is done, after wheat harvest is done...and then there's double crop beans after wheat.

Suddenly its mid July and you've missed the best time by a month and you'll wind up griping about the herbicide not working. If you are serious about getting those woody shrubs under control then you need to make it a priority to treat it at the right time. In the end, timing choice may be more crucial than herbicide selection! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Japanese Beetles

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. An insect pest that will simply keep increasing in the years ahead is Japanese beetles. These smallish scarabs with the green and copper colored back with white spots on the sides of their abdomen, will feed on almost anything. The larval form is just another white grub that is rarely a concern. But adults can feed on corn silks which can hinder pollination. Adults can feed on the foliage of soybeans turning leaves into a lacey looking mess. We probably won't be seeing them yet for a couple more weeks, but with May's warm weather who knows! So far we haven't had to treat for them because their damage has been pretty limited and spotty. So looking for them now, gives you the opportunity to become familiar with them and their feeding styles. It's not a question of if they become a treatable problem, but when! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.