Ag Radio Programs for January 29 - February 4, 2018

Winter Ranch Management

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I wanted to call your attention, before it get's any later, to a program coming up on February 7th. Olsburg Kansas is going to host a winter ranch management program titled Corrals, Calcium, Costs and Cows. February 7th is a Wednesday and the program will run from 5 to 8:30 hosted at McCormick Elementary School in Olsbug. You have to pre-register as there is a meal and a $10 cost - the pre-registration deadline is February 1st, this Thursday. You can contact me for pre-registration information. Dr. Justin Waggoner, Beef Systems specialist at the southwest Extension Center in Garden City will be talking about the bud box cattle processing systems. When it comes to cattle working facilities, bud boxes are the hot topic right now and Justin will get you up to speed and answer your questions. Jaymelyn Farney, Beef Systems specialist from the southeast Kansas Extension center will be discussing mineral supplementation strategies. Sandy Johnson from NW Kansas will be talking about cow costs, production and profit benchmarking. Lastly Bob Weaber from K-State will be discussing optimizing cow herds through cow/heifer selection. All four of these are great speakers and this will be an outstanding program. Once more, the program is Wednesday February 7th at McCormick Elementary School in Olsburg. It runs from 5 p.m. through 8:30. The cost is ten bucks and you have to pre-registers by Thursday, February 1st. Give me a call if you want to get registered! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

What do I have to do to be able to use the dicamba technologies?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. There's a lot of buzz going around the soybean and corn growing community about dicamba and the Extend technology. Most of the questions surround what do I have to do to be able to spray dicamba on my beans. First of all, if you don't own a sprayer and hire a commercial operator to do your spraying, you don't have to do anything. All the training and record keeping is up to the commercial sprayer. If you own a sprayer and you want to be able to spray dicamba on your beans there's a two step process. First, all of the dicamba formulations labeled for use on beans are now restricted use products. You need to have a current private pesticide applicators license. If you don't have one, or it expired more than a year ago, you have to start all over and get licensed. Stop in the Extension Office and pick up a copy of the study manual. It'll cost you $7.50. The test is open book but if you haven't spent some time with the manual, the test can take a couple of hours. Then you'll have to sit down at a computer here in the Extension Office and take the test online. Yeah, I know nobody likes that BUT the big advantage is that doing it this way, when you pass your test, you get your number immediately and we can print your certification card off for you. The 2nd step is to attend a specific dicamba applicator training. That's about a 90 minute program and we will be offering it during the soybean production meeting on March 14th. You can take it even if you don't yet have your applicator lic. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

You really need to consider grain sorghum

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Have you ever had a disease disaster with your wheat crop? Sure - everyone's gotten hammered by leaf rust or stripe rust sometime. Did you quit growing wheat because of that? Probably not. Did you ever had a soybean crop get way-laid by a hot dry summer? Sure, and we may have another one coming. Did you quit growing soybeans? Not based on what I've seen. So why, after one bad year with sugar cane aphids, did everyone drop grain sorghum like a hot potato? We are going to have dry years again. Regardless of how much drought tolerance is bred into the soybean and corn hybrids they are going to get hurt, likely much more than grain sorghum. Grain sorghum has a lot to offer in crop production, but you need to quit growing it like it's going to fail. I always tell people who want to grow oats to treat it with respect, not like it's going to fail. We plant grain sorghum too thickly and we plant it too late and we don't feed it what it needs. Kansas producers, not too far from here, in dryland grain sorghum production, produced over 150 bushels per acre last year. Grain sorghum has the yield potential to do it, but producers are scared of it because of any number of highly irrational things. We've got new aphid resistant and tolerant hybrids. We have seed treatments to deal with chinch bugs. We know how to fertilize it to reach those goals. But because it's sorghum instead of corn or soybeans, it gets treated with no respect. Trust me, you'll come around one of these days, you see it! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Do clovers have a place in Kansas forage programs?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I regularly am asked by land owners, often small acreage land owners, about growing clovers in Kansas. Sometimes it's clovers for forage, sometimes it's clovers for pollinators or wildlife. I recently saw an article in a forages magazine talking about this very topic and I think that the one thing that just summed it all up was when the article started off with the simple statement that clovers are good plants to grow in humid areas. Clover is not a specific plant, but a whole group of plants. Most common around here are things like sweet clover, red clover, white or Ladino clover. But there are many other clovers including alsike, ball, crimson, and rose clover. Clover has a long history in crop production. Prior to the advent of commercial fertilizer clovers were often planted in rotations to provide nitrogen for the following crop. Many clovers were often grown with cool season grasses. The clover would provide nitrogen for the grass crop as well as added protein when cut for hay. Red clover and timothy was a common forage blend especially further east. Clovers like rainfall and humidity however. Sweet clover a biennial plant, is probably the hardiest clover we have, it's an excellent plant for honeybees but not the best forage. Red clover is a short lived perennial and more sensitive to low rainfall but a pretty good forage. White clover is fairly hardy, an excellent bee nectar and pollen source, but not a good harvest forage. If you want more information on clovers, call me. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Start the year off determined to keep better records

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. It's agricultural tax season time. I've seen quite a few producers in the Extension Office recently to visit with their Farm Management Association fieldman as the first step in getting their records wrapped up and tax returns filed. It isn't a pleasant time for anyone. I think we all too often look at farm records as a necessary evil that we have to do to get our taxes done, when in reality we should be viewing farm record keeping as the best way to track what's working and what isn't working. Considering the value of the resources that you are managing, there isn't a small company out there that would try to operate the way that too many farmers do. You need to be keeping track of everything on your farm. How much fertilizer did you apply to which field. How much yield did you get from that field. How many hours were you in that field with each tractor. Sure, you know how much diesel fuel you bought last year, but can you accurately allocate it between crop and livestock operations and in each field. How much seed did you plant in each field and which herbicides did you use and when in each field. I'm not just talking income and expenses here, I'm talking everything. A county agent friend visited farms in Australia last fall. He said the one thing that he immediately saw that was different was that every single producer knew their cost of production on every commodity in every field. There marketing plan wasn't to hit the top of the market because they knew what they needed to have to break even and make a profit. Okay Kansas producers, it's time to catch up! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.