

MFP Payments

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I've had several conversations with landlords, tenants and ag economists about how government farm program payments should be calculated into lease agreements or cash rental rates. Bottom line, they shouldn't be! Any farm program payment is being made because yield and or revenue was below a county or state wide average. The lease agreement was made on certain expectations of yield and price. If payments were received it was to offset low yields or low revenues. It isn't a bonus on top of the yield revenue - it was in place of. You should never ever include farm program payments in those lease calculations and negotiations. We'll discuss this topic and other ag lease considerations on January 16th at our lease meeting at 7 p.m. at the Geary County 4-H/Sr. Citizens Center at the Geary County Fairgrounds. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Sulfur Deficiency

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Fifty years ago we were all still burning leaded gas. Strict air quality standards had not been put in place. These and other ignition sources were putting tons of sulfur into the atmosphere annually. This gaseous sulfur reacted with moisture and fell to the earth often as what we called acid rain but even if it wasn't that acidic it was still putting pounds of sulfur into the ground on a regular basis. This sulfur was then used by plants as sulfur is used by plants especially as a component of many proteins. But times have changed and sulfur concentrations in the air were greatly reduced to the point that we are pulling more sulfur out of the soil than comes down with the rain. Sulfur deficiency is a real thing in our area and I'm seeing more of it every year. We need to be thinking about sulfur fertilization. Tomorrow, sulfur and wheat. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Sulfur Deficiency in Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Sulfur deficiency in wheat and other crops for that matter, can be somewhat confusing because it can look a lot like nitrogen deficiency. Producers will often see areas or patches in their field where the leaves will be pale green or greenish yellow instead of dark green. A quick hint that it's sulfur deficiency and not nitrogen is to see which leaves are showing the worst symptoms. With nitrogen deficiency the newest leaves will usually be a dark green and the older leaves will be yellower. With sulfur the newer leaves are more likely to show the yellowish leaves more so than the older leaves but over time the plant will become yellow. Soil test from these locations especially compared to normal looking areas will yield the answer. For an accurate test we need a profile soil sample so we can make a good recommendation. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Dig Safe

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Every year at our annual county agent national meeting one of the principle sponsors is the Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance. Some people may still call this Dig Safe. This past year I watched a video at their vendor booth that showed the aftermath of someone installing drain tile in a field and hitting a high pressure gas line which then caused an explosion - a big explosion. The equipment operator was fortunate that they weren't injured. It burned for several hours and that was one hot fire. Ironically, a few weeks later the same company did it again in a different field. You often think that you know what's below ground on your farm either at the farmstead or in the field. Don't take chances and don't guess, call 811 even for shallow digs. Let them come out and do a locate and then if something happens, it isn't your fault! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Anxiety and Stress

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Christmas and New Years is just around the corner. Everyone is getting busy planning for the holidays and yet in farm country the stress just keeps building. I have a very good friend from my college days who is a farmer in Nebraska. He started farming at the start of the 1980s farm crisis and survived. What I didn't know until recently though was that he was suffering from depression and just about didn't make it. The current ag economic situation is not good. Stress and anxiety is common place and nothing that you should try to hide. There are people you can talk to and you need to talk to if you are starting to feel overwhelmed. Call me here at the office, 238-4161. You can talk, I can listen. Talk to your pastor, talk to your doctor. If you don't want to talk to any of us, then please, call 1-800-273-TALK. Please talk to someone. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.