

Ag Radio Programs for March 25 - 31, 2019

Alfalfa has broken dormancy

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Alfalfa finally broke dormancy around the 15th of March. That may be the latest that I ever remember it breaking dormancy. Heck, 2 or 3 years ago we were spraying alfalfa weevils by now! Well, first of all, if you were going to spray a dormant herbicide, it's too late. If you still have weeds, consider Pursuit or Raptor. If you have cheatgrass and annual brome, Raptor is the one to use. You can also still apply some phosphorus and get some good out of it. What about alfalfa weevil though? Well, they aren't very active yet. We just hit the threshold to start scouting the end of last week and I will be out there this week checking fields. We won't need to worry about spraying weevils for a couple of weeks yet, unless really weird things happen. Warmer days are ahead so keep looking and keep listening for alerts! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

KSFIRE.ORG

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I've already seen smoke in the air from prescribed burns and that's a good thing. We need to keep working on getting those prescribed burns spread out over as much time in the spring as possible. To help plan your fire for periods when the potential air quality impacts are minimized, I encourage you to visit the ksfire.org website on a regular basis. You can see what the next two days look like for overall burning opportunities. You can even take a look at what your fire is likely going to do over the next two days. Remember we want temperatures from 45 to 70, 40 to 55% relative humidity, 5 to 15 mph winds, a mixing height of greater than 1800 feet and a 30 to 50% maximum cloud cover. And in Geary County, you also need to have a burn permit and call in to 238-1290 to obtain permission to burn! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Does the March weather forecast anything?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Folks always want to know if the weather from one month is any prediction of what's going to happen in coming months. The short answer is no. Where we are in the middle of the continent though, we do tend to get in patterns that continue for some time. We saw it with the drought of 11 months and now we've seen it with rainfall for the past nearly 8 months. I do put some stock in the climate prediction center however. And here is their brief analysis. There is a strengthening El Nino in the Pacific. This often leads to wetter than normal conditions for us. Because of that much of Kansas is currently in an area that has a higher probability of being wetter than normal through the next month. An updated three month outlook is due out soon so we'll see what that says. Bottom line, if you get a chance to be in the field, do it! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Bromegrass Fertilization

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Once again we have a year when a November application of bromegrass fertilizer would have been far preferable to trying for it in the late winter. Because here we are the last week of March and there just haven't been a lot of opportunities for getting that bromegrass fertilized. Which brings up the question that I was asked a lot last week, is it too late and how late can I apply? Working in our favor is the fact that the bromegrass didn't really start growing until about 10 days ago. So there's still time. The later you wait the less tonnage you'll have, but the protein will likely be higher. In the absence of a recent soil test I would apply 70 to 80 pounds of nitrogen, 25 to 30 pounds of phosphorus and 10 pounds of sulfur. If you haven't fertilized yet, then try to get it done just as soon as possible. Later applications will be less valuable. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Pre Plant Anhydrous Application

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. At the corn school last week we got into a discussion, which isn't a surprise given the weather, of how long we need to wait between applying anhydrous ammonia and planting corn. After applying anhydrous it expands out to form a 5 to 6 inch cylindrical zone. Within this zone there is a lot of free ammonia that is in the process of interacting with the water to become some other nitrogen compound. Free ammonia is toxic to plant roots. There is a lot of discussion about how long you should wait between application and planting. Some sources say a week is enough, I prefer 3 to 4 weeks. If you will be planting sooner than three weeks, place the anhydrous as deep as possible as in 8 to 10 inches, or make sure you apply at right angles to the planting direction to avoid interactions between germinating seeds and the NH_4 zone. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.