

Fall Soil Testing

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Good intentions get us nothing if we don't put them into action. I don't know how many times over the years I've had a producer call me a week before planting in the spring wanting to know what fertilization rate they should use. They were going to soil test since last harvest but they just didn't get it done. Okay, as harvest wraps up and you're going back out to each field to do your post harvest field evaluation (listen Friday for that), take your bucket and soil probe or sharp shooter and at least pull enough of a sample that we can check pH, organic matter, phosphorus and potassium. Take a little more time and get a profile sample and lets check nitrogen as well as sulfur and chloride. Then when next spring comes, you already have your fertilizer recommendations, you aren't shooting in the dark and we're all happy! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Fall Brome Fertilization

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Long term fertility studies of brome grass have consistently shown that fertilizing brome in November and early December is superior to a late winter early spring application. Basically, spring only applications are only recommended for spring grazed brome fields. I'm not sure when we got into this late winter application but it needs to stop. A planned March application either isn't made because of wet conditions or it is applied and we have no rain to carry it into the soil. So then you are complaining that the fertilizer did no good. Apply that fertilizer, especially in hay fields, in November or early December. Volatilization losses are nominal and we are likely going to get some form of precipitation to get it into the soil so that once the brome starts to grow in the spring, the fertilizer is there and ready to go! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Fall Musk Thistle Treatments

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. This spring I've seen more musk thistle than I've seen in well over a decade. That's no surprise. Summer of 2018 drought really reduced grass growth in pastures. Fall of 2018 was wet so we had lots of moisture to sprout seeds and little competition. This fall has been wet enough to create a good germination season. At least it has for the little broadleaf weeds in my yard! As we roll on into November and December it'll be a good time to start looking for those musk thistle rosettes. As the grass dies down the rosettes will stick out like a sore thumb. Controls, especially those containing picloram or Tordon, can be applied anytime that the ground isn't frozen. You know where the musk thistles were this spring, they're likely going to be in the same places, and downwind, this fall so start looking there and let's get treating! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Sample for SCN this Fall

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. So far we have been fortunate not to build up high levels of soybean cyst nematode in soybean fields. But we are planting more and more soybeans every year and the more soybeans you plant, and the more often you plant soybeans, the more likely you are to eventually develop a population of cyst nematodes. If they go undetected they can hammer your yield. If we know they are present, and building up to a damaging level, we can isolate the race and then select cultivars that have resistance to that race. But it starts with a soil test. Go out and sample right down the row, between the plants in 6 or 8 location 4 to 6 inches deep and make a composite sample of about a pint. We'll send that in to the plant pathology lab and they will sample it for nematodes for a small fee so we know what we've got! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Post Harvest Field Evaluation

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. One of the most important things that you can do ONCE you are finally through with harvest, is to go back and walk each harvest field. Why? To take time to remind yourself what happened this year. Take a notebook and write down notes about each field. Did you have extra weed problems in some part of the field and what were they. Was there excessive lodging? Find those spots and start looking at plants for clues to why. The 2019 growing season will quickly become a fuzzy memory as we move closer to the holidays. Write things down now that you need to remember. As I talked about earlier this week, get soil sampling done. Pull samples from soybean fields to get tested for soybean cyst nematode. We may think we can remember everything crystal clear, but it's more than just yield we need to remember! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.