

Enhancing Grazing Distribution

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I have long felt that far too many pastures, and the cattle in them, are managed for the convenience of the pasture manager, not for what's best for the pasture or the cattle. As we move into the last 6 to 8 weeks of the pasture grazing season many pastures will have areas that have been heavily grazed while other areas still have more than ample forage. So what can you do to perhaps encourage them to graze in other parts of the pasture. For starters, move mineral, salt, lick tubs or even a bale of hay out to where they haven't been grazing. All too often mineral and salt are placed where it's easiest for us to get to, or next to the water. Give the cattle a reason to go to the less utilized pasture areas. Next year, consider moving the salt or mineral earlier in the season. It may take longer to check on it, but you'll get more uniform grazing. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Start Looking for the Cull Cows

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Even though you may not be weaning calves and moving cattle off pastures for a while yet, it isn't too early to start making your list of those cows that need to go to the sale barn. Former KSU, beef cattle specialist Twig Marston had a little phrase that I still love about deciding what cows should be culled. He always said to look at the 4 O's. Those O's were odd, ornery, obstinate and open. If you keep a cow in the herd that didn't have a calf this year, you'd better have a darn good reason. Ornery and obstinate are similar yet different. Obstinate cows just don't want to do what you want them to do. Ornery cows put you up on your truck when you're trying to tag their calves. And odd cows are those that there's just something about them you can't put your finger on. It may be a couple months off yet, but start making your list! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

If Planting Your Own Seed

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It may be hard to imagine but a month from now there's likely going to be wheat getting ready to go in the ground so it isn't too early to start getting ready. If you are planning to plant some of your own seed you've held back there are three very basic things I'm going to encourage you to do. First of all, let's get some seed over to the Crop Improvement Association seed testing lab to get a germination run on it. I don't want you to spend any other money on it until you've got it tested. Bring in about a quart of wheat seed - a germination test for wheat is going to cost you about \$19. Once you've got that back I then want you to get the seed cleaned, to help raise test weight, and then treated with a fungicide. A commercial treatment is going to be better than a drill box treatment, but any treatment is going to be better than none at all! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Wheat Seed Treatments

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Yesterday I mentioned wheat seed treatments and I get asked every year if they are worth it. In short and simple terms, yes they are. All too often we think that saving a few dollars per unit is more important than what might happen if we don't treat the seed. Remember the flag smut problem a few years back in NW Kansas? All because some seed wasn't treated. Totally unnecessary! All that wheat seed needs is a few specks of the seed treatment on it to prevent all those bunt and smut diseases. They'll all also protect against the two most common seedling diseases, pythium and rhizoctonia damping off. Early planted wheat may not be at much risk from these but the later we get into October and cooler soils, the risk is real! Sure, the cost may be a bushel or two of yield, but the savings can be far greater than that! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Take it Easy While Planting

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I really should be doing this program in about a month, but I'm afraid I'll forget it so you'll get it now, and maybe again in about a month! Probably the most common problem that I see in wheat fields in recent years is poor placement of seed and most frequently it's in soybean stubble fields where the seed doesn't get that one inch into the soil that we need for good crown and root development. What appears to be happening is that downpressure is being properly set but with autosteer and all we have the ability to just punch the throttle up a little too fast and then the openers start to ride up especially going through some of that residue in between rows and the seed gets placed literally at the bottom of the residue but on top of the soil surface. It comes up fine this fall and looks good until early spring. Slow down and get it planted right! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.