

Industrial Hemp Conference

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. File today's program under the topic of "things I thought I'd never be talking about." K-State is hosting an all day Industrial Hemp Conference in Wichita on February 4th. K-State has a year of research under their belt at the Wichita and Olathe KSU Research centers. If you register by the 28th the cost is \$50 which includes lunch. After that it's \$75. Seating is limited so if you want to go you need to get registered now. There's registration online or by phone, call me for that information. There'll be speakers talking about insect and mite management as well as disease prevention. Remember there are no pesticides labeled yet for hemp. Dr. Rivard and Dr Griffin will talk about their research at K-State. K-State Olathe will discuss their hemp testing service and KDA will talk about what the state sees for this new crop. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Snow and Ice Cover on Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I am periodically asked if snow or ice cover on wheat causes problems from suffocating. Well, no for no longer than we've had snow cover in recent years. But some years we can wind up with pretty good snow cover on wheat that lasts for several weeks - sometimes this turns into ice at the bottom of that snow. But rarely do we see any problems with long term snow or ice cover on a wheat field. There's enough air down low and the plants respiration is so slow that we rarely see plants suffocating under ice and snow. There's a few very rare diseases that can show up but I've never seen them. The potential biggest impact is from a little rodent called a vole that will make little tunnels under the snow but on the soil surface which allows them to harvest leaf material to eat. But while evidence can be seen, yield impact is nil. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Updated Crop Publications

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As we start a new year we typically get a round of new and updated publications. The 2020 Chemical Weed Control books are in the office now. We also took a big stack of them down to Geary Grain. You can pick them up at either place. We have new corn, soybean and sorghum management guides for 2020. These guides give a lot of detailed information on production practices recommended for Kansas. These should be in stock very soon or I can print them off for you. Most of the fall harvested crop variety trials have been analyzed and are now being assembled for printing. If you are interested in any one particular crop just let me know which crop and which testing locations and I can print those off from online. One bulletin not updated last year so hope it will be this year is the crop insect control bulletins. I'll keep you posted! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Crop Variety Trials

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. While at the Topeka Farm Show a couple of weeks away our booth had a rather upset individual who had provided seed to a research center and he wasn't able to get the results yet. Well, that's sort of out of our realm, but here's the short answer. Some field stations do their own testing that isn't part of the variety performance test program. Those variety tests are expensive to run and do right so seed companies have to pay an entry fee for each location. Some companies choose not to participate or only enter a few numbers. K-State doesn't control that and unfortunately many companies are now doing their own yield trials but we often don't know how they are being managed from a statistics point of view. Are they replicated and properly analyzed? Proceed with caution with data from any of those private testing sites. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Can You Burn Brome

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We burn pastures, to some extent, nearly every year. We know how those native warm grass pastures are going to respond when we burn them. I am routinely asked if brome grass can be burned and the answer is yes. Bromegrass can be invaded by cedars just like native range. It can get thatchy and just have weeds and other debris that you may want to burn out of it. The reasons are all the same. The thing to keep in mind is that brome is a cool season grass and will start growing earlier so timing of your burn will likely be late February to early March, OR sometimes in August as the brome is coming out of summer dormancy. The only caveat is that if you fertilized, don't burn until there has been adequate precipitation to move the fertilizer into the soil so it doesn't get burned up. Other than that, everything else is the same. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.