

Farm Bill Signup Reminder

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. March 15th may sound like quite a ways off, but it really isn't. March 15th is the deadline to sign up for farm bill decisions on ARC or PLC. Don't wait until the last minute! With the 2018 farm bill you have to re-select every year, which actually is a pretty good thing as we don't have to lock ourselves in for the full five years of the bill. You can switch each crop each year on each farm. I do have a spreadsheet from KSU that can give you some ideas about what way you need to go and tomorrow I'll tell you my quick and dirty thoughts on this. If you want me to punch some numbers in just email or call me and tell me crops, and program yield. Then I can give you some price breaks where the advantage would flip between PLC or ARC-CO. As always, the final decision will come down to what you think yields and prices are going to do. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Farm Bill Decision Making

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As I mentioned yesterday you'll need to make selections soon for the Farm Bill for crops harvested in 2021. Which means do you go with PLC or ARC? My immediate response is which do you think is more likely to happen, a catastrophic drop in prices or poor yields? I was running some "what ifs" with the updated KSU spreadsheet using current new crop prices from Geary Grain. IF we have normal prices and normal yields, it is unlikely that either PLC or ARC will make payments. Given the current weather patterns it would seem there is a stronger possibility for drought which would hurt yields and could increase prices meaning that ARC would be the prudent signup option. Average yields would likely hold prices steady and again, PLC is out of the money. So right now, the decision on the farm bill is a tossup! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Replacement Heifer Development

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Replacement heifers are likely some of most valuable livestock in your cow herd enterprise. They represent the genetic foundation for years to come. It's also a long term investment as it's going to take 3 to 5 calves sold to cover the initial investment and development cost. So it becomes important to get that heifer up to size and producing a calf in a timely and cost efficient manner. For years cattlemen have aimed at getting that heifer up to about 2/3 their mature body weight prior to the first breeding season. Some of those heifers were being pushed pretty hard to reach that weight and it wasn't always cheap. Recent research has shown that getting them to only 55% of mature weight prior to breeding season can reduce heifer development costs without significantly impacting pregnancy rates, calving rates or retention. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Imiflex Herbicide Approved for igrowth Grain Sorghum

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Grain sorghum producers have a new tool at their disposal to help fight grassy weed issues. IMIFLEX herbicide was approved in late December for use on igrowth grain sorghum. IMIFLEX is imazamox which is the same active ingredient that's in Beyond and Raptor, but those herbicides are NOT approved for use with igrowth sorghum. IMIFLEX's biggest strength is going to be on large crabgrass and foxtail species specifically aimed at pre-emerge or early post emerge on grasses up to 3 inches tall. It can be tank mixed with several other herbicides but pay attention to restrictions and adjuvant requirements. It also has some good action on broadleaf weed seedlings like morningglory, velvetleaf and pigweeds as long as they are not ALS resistant. Lastly, the igrowth trait is NOT a GMO trait so no export issues! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

2020 Kansas Extreme Weather

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. When it comes to weather, 2020 was a very unusual year. The year had above normal temperatures, a full degree above normal. Average daily and annual temperatures, especially average overnight low temperatures, are rising. Yes the temperature spread - the difference between the highest and the lowest temperature of the year, was the lowest on record. Historically we have had a high low spread of over 100 degrees. Last year it was only 94 degrees. The second year in a row that we've been under 100, which has not happened over the last 75 years. Severe weather statewide while not non-existent, was at very low levels. Hail storms weren't at record lows, but were much lower than normal. From 1991 through 2020, Kansas has averaged 95 tornadoes per year. But in 2020, that number was just 17. Things are changing! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.