

Get Vaccinated. Please

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. This may be a touchy subject for some people, but that's never stopped me before. 14 months ago we started a pandemic journey that has had twists and turns that none of us expected. Finally now we have vaccines that can help us put this craziness in the rear view mirror. But it only helps if the shots get in the arms. If you are sitting around waiting for everyone else to get vaccinated to build up herd immunity, you are slowing down the progress. Look, you vaccinate your pets, you vaccinate your livestock. If it's important for them to be vaccinated, it's important for you to be vaccinated. It really is that simple. I've had my two vaccinations and so has my wife. It gave us a feeling of relief once we got them. We're still cautious out of respect for others, but not getting the vaccination is slowing down necessary progress. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Soybean Row Spacing

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Over the past 30 years we've seen recommended row spacings for soybeans just sort of roll all over the place with most interest, for several reasons, falling on 30, 15 and 7.5 inch rows. Each spacing has it's converts, supporters and detractors. We know that narrower row spacings allows more uniform stand and faster canopy closure to help with weed control. We also know that 7.5 and 15 inch spacing are likely going to require a drill to plant them and drills will have poorer establishment rates than planters so you'll need more seed. Lower yielding potential fields and situations will probably be just fine with 30 inch rows. So which row spacing is right for you? What are you comfortable with? More studies are being done and 30 years from now we'll probably still be discussing it. Just make sure your population level is right. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Alfalfa Weevil Update

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It was a rather strange alfalfa weevil season. In many past years it has drug on through multiple weeks and often multiple sprayings and many times we just throw our hands in the air and finally cut it. This season started off a little earlier than average but was slow developing. Then we had cold and wet weather that wasn't good for spraying. But in the end, it appears that all the fields were sprayed and damage, on average, was well below what we frequently see. It appears that we are pretty well past the weevil season. We may still see some adult damage under windrows but I don't think we are going to see as many adults as in past years. I'm not going to say that there isn't a risk of some pockets of late hatching, but I think the risk is pretty slim and we can focus now on getting it cut and baled in a timely fashion. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Lightning - Take it Seriously

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I am pretty well fascinated by weather of all kinds. I do despise ice in the form of hail or ice storms, but everything else fascinates me. Everything, that is, except lightning. Lightning scares the living daylights out of me or rather I should say, I have the utmost respect for lightning. If you can see lightning or hear thunder, then you are at risk. Granted, 99 times out of 100 you'll likely be okay. But you never know when that 1 time will be. If you see the flash or hear the rumble, it's time to get your rear end under cover. Agriculture happens out doors so we are at a much greater risk. Get inside a building or if out in the field or pasture, get inside a vehicle or inside a tractor cab. Those will give you the most protection. If you're on horseback or an open vehicle, get you and it to a low spot and the nearest building as soon as possible! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Look Out For Farm Equipment

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Corn planting is pretty well wrapped up and soybean planting is starting. Before that wraps up there'll be broomrape to swath and bale and then wheat harvest is going to start. What all of this means is that for the next several weeks there will be a higher than normal amount of ag vehicle traffic on the roads. They'll be on US highways, state highways, rural paved roads and gravel roads. To all of you who will be encountering this traffic in the weeks ahead, for crying out loud slow down and be patient. I'm out there with a lot of you on a daily basis and there's a lot of you that leave no margin of error in timing your trip to work. Leave early, if you see ag vehicle traffic ahead, start slowing down immediately. They have a right to be on that road just like you do and you still have to obey the traffic laws. Give them space and time. Please! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.