

Ag Radio Programs for November 15 - 21, 2021

Every Penny Counts (Livestock Supplements)

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. In any agricultural operation, the difference between profit or loss is often attention paid to the little things. Yes, they may be little things but they add up and can make a big difference. It seems like every input in agriculture right now is rapidly increasing in price including phosphorus supplements for cattle. Phosphorus is a common deficiency in cattle so many producers just automatically put out a mineral mix because it's always been pretty inexpensive. Keep in mind that many of our protein supplements we feed can have a fair amount of phosphorus in them as well as phosphorus that's in alfalfa and grass hay. Take a look at the phosphorus levels in all the feeds that you put into your cattle and maybe you can save a few cents a day on that mineral mix that you put out for them! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Changing Tenants

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Many times a landlord changes tenants because they are unhappy with what the previous tenant has done, or not done. But sometime a previous tenant simply decides it's time to scale back or maybe even retire. (And yes, farmers are allowed to retire!) No hard feelings were involved, it was just time. Once a farmer is getting ready to step down there are usually no shortages of offers to take over that lease. As a landlord, you need to take some time to think about all the unspoken things that had evolved during the term of that lease and start writing things down. It isn't fair to the new tenant to assume that they knew all the things the other tenant had learned about your farm along the way. Get those things written down in the lease and talk about them with the new tenant. Nobody likes surprises, especially new tenants! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Still Planting Wheat?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Last week I had a couple of different producers say that they were going to still try to get some wheat planted. I tried not to visibly grimace when they said that. Yes, wheat gets planted in November every year but there's crop insurance penalties to planting after November 1 and there are more than just a few production penalties when planting after November 10th. If you are still trying to get wheat in the ground this late in the fall first of all we recommend upping the seeding rate to 100 to 120 pounds per acre. Also make sure that the seed is treated with a fungicidal seed treatment. This is really important as the soils cool down. Regardless of soil test levels, apply at least 30 pounds of phosphorus. Cold soils simply do not have as much phosphorus available as do warm soils. Then hope for an extended warm spell! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Bromegrass Cash Rental Rates

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Determining cash rental rates for hay meadows, especially bromegrass, is challenging. Alfalfa isn't a problem because that's basically crop ground. We also know what bluestem pasture rental rates are thanks to the biennial bluestem pasture rental rate survey. But hay meadows and bromegrass fields are just sort of a gray area that falls through the cracks. Here's my thoughts. Native hay fields have to be flat enough to safely drive equipment across. Which means they likely have more soil and better hay yield. They should be worth 10 to 20% more than straight pasture rent. Brome fields are going to be even better. In fact if they were just a little bit better they'd likely be in crop production. I often recommend brome cash rental rates to be at 150 to 200% that of native pasture. It's not a perfect formula, but I feel it has justification! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Start Planning for Winter Storms

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Currently, the climate prediction center is forecasting the winter to be warmer than normal and drier than normal. That, along with a couple of bucks will get you a cup of coffee. However, it does serve as a reminder that we are moving past the middle of November and the official start of winter is about a month away. We can have winter storms anytime in the next 4 to 4½ months. Cattle producers, you pretty well know where you are going to have your cattle during that time frame. Why not take this time to get some feed strategically positioned where you can get it to the cattle most easily IF we have that ugly weather like we had last February. Get a weeks worth of hay close to where the cattle will be so if it's a snow or ice storm it minimizes how much effort it'll take to get the livestock fed. Plan ahead and hope it's not used! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.