

Ag Radio Programs for October 11 - 17, 2021

Evaluating Early Season Wheat Stand Problems

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It is highly unlikely that we have any wheat germinated yet. I know there was some getting dusted in back the very end of September, but dusted in is the key phrase here. Until we have a good hard freeze this fall my number one concern with emerging wheat fields is going to be fall armyworms. A good hard freeze is going to take care of these armyworms but until we get that, you need to be on your toes! Normally when we've had dry conditions the biggest issue we will run into is uneven emergence from uneven soil moisture. Hopefully time will take care of that. The other problem that shows up later on is poor growth due to poor root development caused by not getting the seed at least one inch in the soil. This most often shows up in soybean stubble and won't normally rear its ugly head until spring! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Fall Musk Thistle Control

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Musk thistle is a noxious weed that we've been fighting for about 50 years now. Years of apparent gains slipped backwards a little bit with more musk thistle being seen a year ago than I'd seen in years. I know we had musk thistles sprouting from the early September rains because I saw the rosettes. Which is a good thing because it sets us up for some good fall control. When I say fall control, keep in mind that this weed will keep growing well into December. We have several good herbicides for outstanding fall control. I really think we can forget using 2,4-D unless you put it with dicamba but better choices include Milestone at 3 to 5 ounces per acre, Tordon 22K at 10 ounces per acre or Chaparral at 1.5 ounces per acre. Tordon is a restricted use product, the others are not and all will give you excellent control! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Soil Testing Alfalfa and Brome

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. You're in the middle of trying to get harvest completed and here's the county agent telling you that you need to soil test your brome grass and alfalfa fields! But you don't have to do it today. But sometime this fall I'd like to see a bunch of soil tests come in from established alfalfa and brome grass fields. Both of these important forage crops routinely suffer from poor yields caused by insufficient fertility and often poorly timed fertilizer applications. Let's try to get some of these issues corrected and that's going to best start with some good soil testing. A six inch sample is adequate for alfalfa but with brome I want to check nitrates as well as sulfur and chloride so let's try to get at least a 12 or 18 inch profile, if not a 24. I may be wrong, but I suspect you're going to be surprised at what these test turn up! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Grazing Stalks

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. While I was driving around the county recently checking on harvest I saw a lot of harvested corn fields and the first thing that hit me was look at all of that usable cattle forage! Corn stover can be a valuable 30 to 60 day forage source for spring calving cows. Cattle are very efficient at finding ears that didn't make it into the combine. They'll next move to eating leaves and husks and once those have been cleaned up they move on to the stalks. When you see them working mainly on stalks it's time to be moving them somewhere else or bringing in harvested forage. The thing about corn stover though is that it is fragile. It needs to be used by the first of the year to get the most good out of it. While some landowners are concerned about compaction this isn't much of a problem, and especially this year given the dry conditions! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

When Should Cattle Come Off Pasture

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I know more than one landlord that has had a total conniption when a tenant has removed cattle 10 or 20 days late from a pasture. The excuse is always, you're going to hurt the pasture for next year. Now, while I firmly believe that a tenant should try to adhere to the terms of a lease, let's be upfront here. Leaving cattle on a pasture a week or even a month too long isn't going to hurt the pasture condition. It may impact the ability to burn the pasture, but not the condition of the pasture. Pastures are damaged from overgrazing in late July, August or September. By early October the grass plants have gone dormant and aren't storing anymore carbohydrate reserves in the crown and roots of the plant. If a pasture owner wants to get upset, then they need to be checking pasture condition in August and early September. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.