

Transitioning to Grass

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I don't know whether you've ever thought about it, but when we turn cattle back out to new grass in May, it's going to be quite a shock to most herds digestive system. For most of the spring up until then, they've been eating dry forages that are low in moisture, moderate in protein and high in fiber. Then all of a sudden they're out on succulent new growth that's 85 to 90% water, 15 to 20% protein and very low in fiber. Just like when you turn cattle out on to wheat pasture, a day or two later you don't want to be standing too close behind them! Their gut will adjust given time. One other thing that can happen, though not often with native grasses, with the turnout into pasture is a condition known as grass tetany which is essentially low magnesium. Keep an eye out for cattle not acting right and don't hesitate to call the vet! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Land Values and Trends

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Every year, K-State in conjunction with the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers publishes a great booklet called Kansas Agricultural Land Values and Trends. The edition based on actual sales in 2021 is available on-line and is now in the Extension Office. This booklet is based on actual sales as recorded by the county and state. Because these data are based on actual sales there may not be entries in every county for every kind of land for every year. So you may have to look at a neighboring county. This is a great publication and takes a multi-year look at trends region by region. Across most of the state, land values for all classes is up. 2021 was the second year in a row for increases after a drop in 2019. And after a spike in the early twenty-teens prices have settled back in to trend lines again. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

After the Burn

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you are able to get your pasture burned this year, I'd encourage you to spend a little time checking the pasture a week or so afterwards. Just start driving back and forth looking for, well anything. Carry some Tordon or 2,4-D and dicamba in a sprayer. If you see some musk thistle rosettes, spray them. Look for areas of woody encroachment, see if it was impacted and figure out how you may want to treat it, if not this year, then start thinking about it next year. I know you're going to check the fence line all the way around. Take some kind of flagging material and flag any wooden posts that need to be replaced so you don't struggle to find it in a couple of weeks. Take a can of spray lube, not WD-40 but spray lube to lube up any metal gate hinges and latches. Take time now, to do these things so you aren't cussing later on! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Start Planning for Brush Control

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Okay, it's only the middle of April but it's time to start planning on your brush control plans in pasture and non crop areas. Most failures in brush control with herbicides is NOT the fault of the herbicide, but failure to treat at the right time. You basically want to treat any brushy species shortly after it reaches full leaf stage in the mid to late spring. If you've burned a pasture you just have to monitor regrowth and basically let it get 6 to 8 weeks of growth before you treat. If you have multiple species and want a one size fits all, then spray the first half of June but understand that control may be less than desired. Buckbrush is best controlled in early to mid May, sumac, mid to late June, plum late May to mid June. Dogwood, let the leaves tell you but blooming time may be good. If you have a particular problem species, call me. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Johnsongrass

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Johnsongrass is a perennial weedy grass that's related, distantly, to grain sorghum. It is also a noxious weed. It used to be a far bigger issue because it was very difficult to get it out of crop fields once it got established, which it often did if you had bottomland fields that flooded. Then Roundup Ready crops came along and glyphosate is very active on johnsongrass. But it is still around and we can find it in ditches, farmyards and occasionally even creeping into pastures. In addition to glyphosate we have numerous other herbicides that are effective in controlling established plants. The key though is to treat the plants after they are 18 inches tall but before they are fully headed out. Johnsongrass can develop viable seed very quickly after blooming so you want to spray it well before that happens. Call me for more details! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.