

Importance of Vitamin A to Cows

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Cattle are not that much different from humans especially when it comes to the importance of proper levels of vitamins in their diet. Pregnant cows really need high levels of Vitamin A as they approach calving time to help in minimizing scours and prevent or reduce a whole host of other potential health issues for the cows and the calves. Vitamin A deficiency is one of the leading causes for what's known as weak calf syndrome. Vitamin A is also crucial for helping the cow produce quality colostrum, so important in getting the calf started off right. Best sources of vitamin A in feed is in legumes, alfalfa, current year's hay crop, winter cover crop, really any leaf green forage and yellow corn. If cows are primarily getting things like stalks or sorghum hay, they really need some supplemental Vitamin A as they approach calving! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We're half way through February already which means that in a few weeks producers will likely start burning pastures. It also means we're only 6 weeks away from April and April brings us the Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan. Yes, Geary County is blessed with that but Dickinson and Clay are not bound to it. During the month of April, the only outdoor burning that will be allowed is pastures. No wood piles can be burned, no construction debris can be burned. Either get those tree piles burned by April 1st or wait until May 1st. March 1st is also when the smoke management website becomes active. This website is great for helping you decide whether today or tomorrow will give you weather conditions that will produce smoke that may be a problem. On the other hand, if we don't get some rain, nobody will be burning! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Start Planning Your Spring Burns Now

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It is none too early to start making plans for prescribed pasture burning this spring. The first thing you will need to decide this year is whether you want to burn at all. Things are getting dry out there and unless we start getting something close to normal precipitation, this may be a year to leave well enough alone. In fact, you may want to assign some priorities to pastures. Those that have a lot of small cedars or other brush you are trying to deal with, give them a higher priority. Pastures that will hold yearlings or early intensively stocked, priority. Pastures that will hold cows and calves, probably not nearly as crucial. Once you have your priorities set, start laying out your action plan. What direction wind do you need? What neighbors do you need to notify. Get out and mow and burn firebreaks so when the day is right, you can go! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Soybean Production Meeting

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Need to remind y'all of the soybean production meeting for Wednesday, March 2nd. We'll be at the 4-H/Sr. Citizens Building at the Geary County Fairgrounds and starting at 4:30 p.m. We'll break for BBQ at 6 and then be finished up by 8 at the latest. Topics we'll be covering include weed control - Sarah Lancaster will be bringing us the latest update on that roller coaster situation. We've got Dorivar Ruiz-Diaz to talk about soil fertility, especially in light of high prices. Jeff Whitworth will be discussing insect issues, specifically I've asked him to talk about stink bugs. We've got someone coming from Ignacio's group to talk about planting dates, rates and row width. Still working on getting a pathologist to come on board also. Be sure to call the office at 785-238-4161 to register or email or text me to reserve a spot and some BBQ! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Don't Delay Any Longer on Fertilizing Bromegrass

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. You may not realize it, but your bromegrass is growing already. Sure, it isn't a carpet of green, but roots have gotten active, in spite of the dry weather, and if you were to dig down through all that brown grass you'll see a little bit of green pushing up. Which means, if you haven't done so already, get your bromegrass fertilized NOW! I have seen many producers not happy with the response from their fertilization but it wasn't applied until late March or even early April. Then we have a dry spell and it just doesn't get down to the roots in time to do any good. It doesn't take much precipitation to start moving that fertilizer down into the root zone so the sooner you get it applied, the better off you'll be. This year, in the absence of a recent soil test, my blanket, better be safe than sorry recipe is 60 lbs of N, 25 lbs of P and 10 lbs of S. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

