

### Alfalfa Weevil Update

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The middle of last week I found my first active alfalfa weevils feeding on some very small alfalfa. The alfalfa weevil were very small as well, but it has started. Cold weather following my finding them is highly unlikely to have caused much reduction in numbers. It will be important to monitor this as the spring moves along. If we spray too early it simply means we'll have to treat a second time so we want to try to delay treatment as long as possible without losing too much yield. Cooler weather and cloudy weather will slow down weevil development, and hatching, far more than it will the alfalfa. That's a good thing. We'll still have weevil eggs hatching for a couple more weeks. When time does come to spray make sure that you do so on a sunny day when temperatures are above 50 and then use 20 GPA carrier! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## National Ag Day

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Today is National Agriculture Day. Many people have a real problem making a connection between the food they eat and even the clothes they wear with agriculture. Food and clothing comes from the store or often from a website. It just magically appears. Yes, food costs are going up. But it isn't farmer greed that's doing that. Food costs are going up because input costs are going up, rapidly. Fuel, fertilizer, literally every input that farmers have to use have risen double or more in the past year. Sadly the prices that producers receive for their commodities likely haven't gone up as fast or as much as the input costs they have to pay. Nobody likes the current situation, but don't blame the farmers and ranchers as they are caught in the same squeeze that you and I are. Rather be appreciative that you have food on your table. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Impact of Early Planting Soybeans

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Over the past 30 years, as the number of acres of soybeans grown in the state has skyrocketed, the average planting date has gotten earlier, to the tune of about 7 to 10 days. While yield potential is the driving force, and simply more experience with the crop, we have to look at all the impacts that this earlier planting date has on soybean production management. Two things that I feel are really crucial with earlier planting. First, you have to have fungicidal seed treatment on those beans if you are planting before the last week of May. Cooler soils delay germination giving fungal seedling rot diseases a better chance to get going. Secondly, earlier planting also stretches out the time between your burndown herbicide and soil residual herbicide and that big flush of pigweeds. Don't skimp on rates and treat early if you have breakthroughs! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## 2021 Geary County Crop Stats

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. A few weeks ago the national ag statistics service released the fall 2021 harvest stats to go along with the 2021 wheat crop. I'm going to throw a lot of numbers at you in a hurry. For Geary County, soybean yield was below 10 year average and others were up. Wheat acres were below 10 year averages and others were up. Wheat yield 54.2 bu/ac, and acres harvested were 7,700 down from the average of 9,100 acres. Corn yield was 145 bu/ac up from 141, the 10 year average. Acres harvested was up slightly at 11,200 acres. Sorghum acres were finally above 10 years average but were still only 2,670 acres. Average yield though was over 10 bushels above average at 99.3 bu/ac. Finally, soybeans. Acres harvested was up 2500 acres over 10 year average at 18,700 acres. But yield came in at 40 bu/ac down from average of 42. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Nitrogen Loss from Surface Fertilizer Applications

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Nitrogen containing fertilizers and their interactions with soil, residue and weather conditions in the field are very complex. Subsequently, loss of nitrogen from volatilization, especially with surface applications, is equally complex. If we can use anhydrous ammonia and inject it into the soil, we will normally have very minimal nitrogen loss due to volatilization assuming there is soil moisture present in the area of the injection. Even knifing in UAN solutions will help reduce this. In general, though, surface applications of urea or UAN result in very nominal nitrogen losses with 20% being on the high side. But at today's prices, 20% can be costly. Unfortunately, the more residue we have on the soil surface, the more volatilization we can have. We have an excellent new bulletin on this subject - call or stop by the office to pick one up. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.