

### Succession Planning

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Transferring a business from the first generation to the second generation is often and fairly easily done. But every time you try to pass it on to the next generation, it becomes harder and harder to make it successful. Many Kansas farms are already in their third, fourth, fifth generation or even beyond. Successful business succession planning isn't easy but crucial to do. Succession planning is different than simply saying who gets what land, etc. after the current generation passes on. Succession planning talks about HOW the farm operation, management, even decision making will be transferred from the current generation to the next. It isn't easy but it needs to be done. K-State Department of Ag Econ has a brand new office called the office of farm and ranch transition that is here to help you. Call me for details! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Fusarium Head Blight Update

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Fusarium head blight, or scab, is a disease of wheat that causes the kernels to turn into a worthless chalky mess unusable for anything. Infection is going to occur just as the head is blooming. Rain, especially several days of rain in a row, during flowering, starts the process. Scab can be controlled if fungicides are applied just ahead of these infection periods. If it doesn't rain during flowering, you won't have scab in your wheat. With wheat at \$11 a bushel it becomes very tempting to fly a treatment on "just in case". However, our part of Kansas is currently in a very low risk category based on the scab prediction model due to stage of development and weather forecast. As you get closer to Missouri, risk does increase and spraying susceptible varieties makes sense. But for right now in our part of Kansas it's hard to justify! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Harvesting Bromegrass - Timing

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Harvesting bromegrass this year is going to be a challenge on so many levels. There is an inverse relationship between pounds per acre and crude protein level. The recommended swathing date to balance yield with crude protein is basically early heading. After early heading, crude protein can drop at the rate of a half protein point per day dropping it from 10 or 11% crude protein down to under 6% in less than two weeks. Bromegrass is often heading just as we are trying to do a dozen other things on the farm. So bromegrass haying takes a back seat to everything else. To make things worse this year, the bromegrass is heading out at about half the height of normal. Tonnage is going to be pathetic to say the least. Lastly remember that brome should never be mowed lower than 4 inches - listen tomorrow to hear why! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Weed Invasion in Bromegrass

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Over the past 10 to 15 years I've heard a lot of producers express concern that their bromegrass just isn't doing what it used to and now days they find by the end of summer that it is nothing but a weedy mess with crabgrass and foxtail. Assuming that the brome has been fertilized appropriately, in the late fall, we often find that one common thread to these fields is mowing height. Often, and this is likely going to be one of those years, once it's hayed, you won't see brome leaf one come out until after September 1<sup>st</sup>. Fields that were mowed close to the ground, instead of the recommended 4 inches, have zero cover. Sunlight can reach the soil surface and when a little shower of rain comes along, all the foxtail and crabgrass seed left from last year's crop, has an easy time getting going. Be kind to that brome and mow it at 4 inches! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Why Succession Planning is Hard

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. You are going to continue to hear me talking about succession planning in the coming weeks. Many farm managers don't want to think about succession planning. Well let's face it, succession planning is hard. First of all we are admitting that we won't be living forever and also admitting that there will come a day, if it hasn't already, where we just can't do as much. Perhaps we've seen families get torn apart because of who got the farm and we don't want to have to live that. Or maybe it means that to really get a succession plan together we have to talk about our feelings and our fears. And we all know that farmers are so good about talking about their feelings.... Yeah, succession planning is hard. I've seen good succession plans work and I've seen what happens when there was no planning. Time to start the conversation! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.