

Wednesday – July 15, 2020

BILL: And good morning and welcome it's our Wednesday edition of Ag Talk. Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. It's a wheat Wednesday and we're zeroing in on wheat straw today Ed.

ED: Some general things on our straw this year, you know, actually it's pretty good quality most places didn't have a lot of disease but the big thing of it is is that the wheat is short this year and of course it's the stems that we're harvesting that for the straw and so if we got shorter wheat plants we got less straw so we got less straw yield. I don't know if there will be a shortage but there definitely will be less straw available for livestock bedding and gardens and other things than some years so I don't know if it's going to effect our price but it could if it becomes tight out there. But there's other values that people put on wheat straw, Bill, that besides what we use for mulch and everything else. Common practice for a farming neighbor or somebody else who has baling equipment to come to somebody and say hey if you don't mind I'd like to make an arrangement where I can bale your straw and then there comes that discussion what it's worth. You know you do have the market value that comes in there as far as what the going price is for straw and coming in discussion. But another one that comes in there is for the farmer that knows their going to take that straw off that he was going to leave is I'm going to lose nutrients. There is nutrients that's going to be in that straw and they may try to price it on what the value of nutrients that's in the straw that they are going to lose from field by not leaving it there. And so there's a lot of different analysis, you know, OSU's got it, we can get on the web and find all sorts of values but number we've been using for research studies that we've done in Ohio is that generally for ever ton of straw that you have you are only getting eleven pounds of nitrogen, three pounds of phosphate, and twenty pounds of potash. And that's probably a good number so you can just take those numbers and say okay, how much does nitrogen cost in fertilizer, phosphorous and potash and say a ton of that wheat straw is at least worth that for nutrient value that you're getting from me. Really for organic matter the most benefit is really not getting a lot of it nutrient wise. Also remember if we leave it laying out there for a while the potash will leach out of that straw and so that comes in play. And then if we do remove the straw a farmer is going to have to replace more potash than he would otherwise. And a soil test it the best way to use to find out how much you lose. So there is nutrient value and they can work with the farmer on that and try to balance that off. For the farmers prospective a soil test is going to be the best way to know what he needs in the future but this discussion so I just wanted to talk about what we get nutrient wise in a ton of straw.

BILL: Thank you Ed. For Ag Talk this is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Good morning to you.

Ed: Good morning.