BILL: And welcome into our Friday edition of Ag Talk. Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Ed a lot of people out doing a lot of yard work and some good tips for them this morning.

ED: They are going to look at their yards. A lot of people don’t think about the lawn mowers, where the cutting height should be and other things. And this is probably one of the biggest mistakes thing that comes through with people when they mow. How often they mow, what the height of the grass is, and of course we always say make sure we keep that mower blade sharpened because we want it to cut the grass as it goes there and not tug the grass and basically rip it. Rips are going to make it a lot harder. So we do recommend that people, if the haven’t done it yet this year, is get their mower blades sharpened. The biggest mistake I see, Bill, is that people should really cut when it is three to three and a half inches tall. Everybody seems to like or think about the green on a golf course. They like that nice low-cut situation. The species we put in our yard are not made for those golf greens. So we want it to be at least three to three and a half inches tall before we cut it. If you let it go too tall you may stress the plant. And one thing you definitely recommend is don’t cut lower than two inches. That’s where a lot of people are down there to one to one and a half inches. It may look real pretty but you are stressing the yard. As we get heat that comes in later on in the summer and it goes dormant it may not have enough of reserves built up to recover from the stress we caused on that and we may allow areas for weed to come in there because we may not have what I call a nice healthy thick growing turf out there in our yards. We also recommend trying not to cut more than one third of the leaf area off at one time. This is really a challenge in the springtime when it comes on quickly or we get a wet period when we get a lot of rain and we just can’t get out there. But it’s a target to go for. We try to when do I mow is when I got a third of the leaf area that are growing on there and then I will cut that off. For those that are looking at putting herbicides on their yard, too late for the crabgrass. Now this crabgrass you are not going to see until later on in the summer when things get dormant in the fall when the crabgrass likes to grow and you think what is this weed growing out there that is unsightly with my dormant bluegrass. However, we can still go after the broadleaves out there. Your dandelions and other things the clovers and so forth you want a pure grass lawn on there. The thing to keep in mind though, most of the herbicides we use there have dicamba in then and as a result of that you don’t want to apply these if the temperature is going to be 80 degrees or if going to be above 80 degrees for the next several day because this herbicide can move to areas off of your lawn to your other gardens and that may cause some damage. So just some tips for us to do out there for yard care so we can enjoy it this year and the years ahead.

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

Ed: Good morning.