Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON
CALUMET COUNTY

Agriculture Newsletter

June/July 2019

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Calumet County Courthouse
206 Court Street
Chilton, WI 53014

If you will need any type of accommodation or assistance as you attend any Extension sponsored events, please contact the host county office at least two days prior to the event. All requests will be confidential.

I hope everyone was able to get first crop alfalfa off the fields and finish up with planting. This wet spring has given farmers limited options in the fields. Many feed inventories are already low and the 2019 harvest is on track to cause feed shortage for next year. Be sure to check out the resources on page 5 for land management strategies and forage considerations to accommodate for this cool wet spring and summer.

Since crops are behind schedule this year, there will be a limited number of days before it freezes to empty the manure pits for the winter. With new technology, research, and equipment, late spring application is becoming more popular. It not only allows for few more days to apply manure, but gives your crops readily available nutrients, saving a few bucks on commercial fertilizer for some. Come check out a field in Calumet County with spring application trials that include draglining hose over corn, variable rate application measuring NPK & dry matter, side dressing, top dressing, and more. The field day will also be featuring new technology involving automatic shut offs to prevent manure application in restricted areas. See flyer on page 3 for more details.

Amber O'Brien

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women caring for the land

july 10
4-8pm

perennial farms llc
N3804 county road e, waldo

Laura Grunwald and her family believe that the distance from the field to your fork should be a short one. The Grunwalds work with Mother Nature to raise organically grown and nutritious produce, free range/ orchard grazed eggs and cider.

Sept 19
9am-3pm

greenleaf fireman's park
1588 fair road, greenleaf

Maryann, Kurt Kohlmann and daughter Suzanne Wilson started grazing 3 years ago. They raise steers and chickens and have converted cropland to pasture land, improving water quality on the land. For this event, meet at Green Leaf Fireman's Park to start our day and have lunch before a tour of local farms' cover crop and no-till practices.

Women Caring for the Land was created by the Women Food & Agriculture Network to serve women farmland landowners interested in learning more about conservation. The events provide women landowners an opportunity to network with peers and learn from resource professionals. Men are welcome to join for the farm tour portion; however, we do request that the learning circle space is for women only.

Wisconsin Farmers Union — United to Grow Family Agriculture

Pheasants Forever — The Habitat Organization

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov

Potluck - please bring a dish to pass!
RSVP wisconsinfarmersunion.com/events
or 715-723-5561

Farm Technology Days—July 23-25, 2019—Jefferson County

Jefferson County — 2019 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days — Generations of Farm Pride — July 23-25

SHOW DAYS & TIMES:
July 23 - 25, 2019
Tuesday & Thursday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Wednesday, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

ADMISSION: Cash Only
$8 per person at the Gate
$5 Admission on Wednesday after 3 p.m.
Children 12 and under are free
FFA and 4-H students accompanied by their instructor/leader are free.

TRAVELING TO THE SHOW:
FROM THE NORTH:
Coming south on STH 26, turn right (west) onto STH 19, turn left (south) on CTH Q, turn left (east) on to Navan Road to the parking lot. Until 9am each day, exhibitors only will be allowed to continue past the parking lot to CTH A, where they will turn right (south), then right (west) on Reichert Lane.

Advanced Nutrient Management Technology and Application

with Field Trials and Demonstrations

Free Registration

Thursday, July 18, 2019 (rain date: July 19)

10:00 am

Corner of County BB and Custer Road, Hilbert

(2 miles north of County E, 2.6 miles south of Highway 114)

Field Trials:

- Draglined V2-V4 corn against rows
- Draglined V2-V4 corn with rows
- Side dressed corn with variable rate measuring NPK and solids
- Side dressed corn with cover crops planted during manure application
- Side dressed corn with cover crops planted before manure application
- Top dressed corn with Agrometer
- Commercial fertilizer application

Stand counts, pictures, videos, and harvest data results will be collected.

Conversations with:

- John Deere Equipment Specialists
- Vanderloop Equipment Specialists
- Bazooka FarmStar Equipment Specialist
- InDepth Agronomy
- Carrie Laboski, UW Madison Professor and Extension Soil Scientist
  - Spring vs. fall manure application and nutrient availability

Field Demonstration:

- Automatic application shut off with restriction maps, InDepth Mobile Hazard Maps, and more!

Registrations Appreciated:

Online: https://tinyurl.com/ManureDemo

Contact: Amber O'Brien: amber.obrien@wisc.edu, 920-849-1450

Kevin Erb: kevin.erb@wisc.edu, 920-391-4652

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Lead Sponsors:

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Conservation Professional Training Program

Bazooka Farmstar

Dvorachek Farm & Industry, LLC Est. 2006

Thanks to:

Woldt Farms LLC Dairy · Custom · Crops est. 1911 Brillion, Wisconsin

Country Visions Cooperative

CCASA

Calumet County Agriculture Stewardship Alliance

InDepth Agronomy

RWA

What's Standing Alfalfa Worth in 2019?[1]

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WAUPACA COUNTY

One of the challenges when pricing standing hay is the lack of a formal commodity market like we have for corn or soybeans. Another challenge is multiple cuttings during the same growing season versus a single year-end harvest for grain crops often with more variation in quality, as well as yield. As a result, the price for standing hay is often different from farm to farm, even between fields. Here's one example for pricing a field of standing hay in 2019.

Example: assume 4-5 ton dry matter (DM)/acre for the entire year of dairy quality alfalfa hay worth $200 to $250/ton baled ($0.11 to $0.14/lb DM); half the value is credited to the owner for input costs (land, taxes, seed, chemical and fertilizer) and half the value is credited to the buyer for harvesting, field loss, weather and price risk.

To estimate total annual dry matter yield potential, determine average stems per square foot at several locations in the field, then calculate using this formula: (0.10 x stems/ft2) + 0.38. Wait until stems are at least 4-6 inches and count only stems tall enough to be cut by the mower. Actual yield could be less due to environmental conditions and harvest management practices.

Using yield distribution estimates from ongoing UW-Extension field research for both three-cut (40% / 30% / 30%) and four-cut (35% / 25% / 20% / 20%) harvest systems, the following price range (rounded to the nearest $5) may offer a starting point for buyers and sellers to negotiate the sale of good to premium quality standing alfalfa in 2019:

	4 cuts	3 cuts
1st crop	$155-245/a	$175-280/a
2nd crop	$110-$175/a	$130-$210/a
3rd crop	$90-140/a	$130-$210/a
4th crop	$90-140/a	

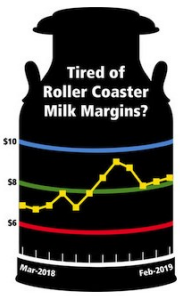
In this example, the sale or purchase price for all cuttings the entire year would range from $445 to $700/acre. Again, the same price is not always the right price for every situation. Ultimately, a fair price is whatever a willing seller and an able buyer can agree on.

To help farmers and landowners better evaluate the options, Waupaca County Extension Ag Agent, Greg Blonde, developed a mobile app for pricing standing hay. It offers quick access to current baled hay markets with a projected sale/purchase price for each cutting using your own yield and harvest cost information. The app is free to download from the Google Play Store and is also now available for iPhones and iPads thru the Apple Store (search for ***Hay Pricing***). The app also includes links to the current WI Custom Rate Guide and the NCR Alfalfa Management Guide. For more information contact Greg Blonde at *greg.blonde@wisc.edu*.

[1] Greg Blonde, Waupaca County UW-Extension Agent. April 2019

Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC)

With the enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill), Congress enhanced the former Margin Protection Program for Dairy Producers (MPP-Dairy) and created the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program. DMC is a voluntary program that makes payments when the national average income-over-feed-cost margin falls below a farmer selected coverage level. A decision making tool has been developed to help producers decide on whether DMC coverage is advantageous for their operation, or not. This on-line tool is available at https://dairymarkets.org/MPP/Tool/.



Dealing with Extreme Weather

UW-Madison Division of Extension Crops and Soils Program has a website dedicated to Dealing with Extreme Weather (https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/grain/extreme-weather/#wetspring) Information on this website includes

Wet Spring

Prevent plant and other farm program and crop insurance decisions

Please see this video and fact sheet for information on options for prevent plan. It is recommended that farmers contact their crop insurance agent with individual policy questions.

Will prevent plant acres be eligible for Market Facilitation Package? The decision will be made by next weekend, according to US Ag Secretary.

Crop planting decisions

Planting Corn in June and July- What can you expect?

Corn replant/late plant decisions in Wisconsin

Blog posts regarding late-planted soybeans from state Soybean Specialist, Shawn Conley

Management decisions

It rained again, what to do about nitrogen

Evaluating the need for rescue N treatments

Winter wheat disease management

Decisions on using cover crops or alternative forages

Forage options following alfalfa winterkill

Forage Options Follow Prevented Plant Corn and Soybeans

Several articles on alternative and emergency forages

NRCS publication on cover crop recommendations on prevent plant ground

Planting dates and rates for forages in Wisconsin

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CLARK COUNTY

Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest For June 10, 2019

Data Compiled by Richard Halopka Senior Outreach Specialist Clark County Extension Crops & Soils Agent

All hay prices quoted are dollars per ton FOB point of origin for alfalfa hay unless otherwise noted.

The information presented in this report is compiled from public and private quality tested sales and reports in the Midwest.

The past several months of hay reports are archived. To view previous hay reports, go to http://fyi.uwex.edu/forage/ on the Team Forage web site and click on the past hay reports section.

Hay auction data is collected on the first and third week of the month and posted the following Monday when possible. Prices quoted in this report are for "as fed" alfalfa hay.

Demand and Sales Comments

Hay prices were steady with some instances of strong demand. This is the first market report in months that had a decline in overall hay price along with an extreme range in price. Some new crop hay has come into the market. Many markets have reported a scarce supply of forages and bedding materials. If you are looking to buy or sell forage, connect to the Farmer-to-Farmer webpage at http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu/ to place an ad for your needs or what you have to sell. Contact your local county agriculture agent if you need help placing an ad. There is no charge for the service.

Upper Midwest Hay Price Summary by Quality Grade

Hay Grade	*Bale type*	*---------- Price ($/ton) ----------*		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	$251.00	$220.00	$320.00
	Large Square	$231.00	$150.00	$300.00
	Large Round	$185.00	$135.00	$280.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	$174.00	$150.00	$240.00
	Large Square	$194.00	$115.00	$310.00
	Large Round	$177.00	$110.00	$300.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	$185.00	$170.00	$200.00
	Large Square	$158.00	$110.00	$235.00
	Large Round	$146.00	$120.00	$185.00
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square		No Reported Sales	
	Large Square		No Reported Sales	
	Large Round	$105.00	$50.00	$180.00

In Wisconsin, prices remain strong with a demand for hay. Many reports of winterkilled alfalfa in the state and many are developing plans to cover forage needs for 2019 and 2020.

Straw prices are for oat, barley, or wheat straw. Prices were steady to strong with a demand for straw. Small square bales averaged $4.20 a bale (range of $1.50 to $6.00). Large square bale straw averaged $69.00 per bale (a wide range of $35.00 to $125.00). Large round bale straw averaged $47.00 per bale (a wide range of $25.00 - $80.00). Wheat straw may demand a slightly higher price and straw quality does affect the price.

The next Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on Monday, June 24, 2019.

The following links are **included** in this report allowing producers to obtain some state and nearby state prices, (these may or may not be quality-tested auctions, if quality, they are included in this report). The Equity Cooperative market report is at http://livestock.equitycoop.com/market_reports/. Go to the Lomira, Reedsville, and Stratford locations for their reports on untested hay and straw prices.

The Reynolds Feed & Supply, LLC of Dodgeville is at http://www.reynoldslivestock.com/what1snew/. The Tim Slack Auction and Realty, LLC of Fennimore is at http://www.timslackauctionrealty.com/market%20report.html.

The Dyersville Sales Company of Dyersville, Iowa is at http://dyersvillesales.com/hay-auction/hay- auction-results/. Fort Atkinson auction is at http://www.fortatkinsonhay.com/

The Farmer-to-Farmer website is an electronic neighborhood bulletin board that allows local farmers to get in touch with one another to facilitate the marketing of feed commodities. It has recently been expanded to connect those with productive pastures to those producers who are in need of pastures. It can be found at http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu/. If you would like assistance posting to this web site, contact your county's UW-Extension agriculture agent.

Save the Dates

July 31 Calumet County Fair Entry Deadline: Fairbooks and entry forms available at https://www.calumetcountyfair.com/fair_handbook.html

August 7 Forage Field Day

Soybean and Corn are Considered Cover Crop Options in WI

Article written by Shawn P. Conley, Joe Lauer, and Paul Mitchell

For a crop to be considered a cover crop RMA states that "*For crop insurance purposes, a cover crop is a crop generally recognized by agricultural experts as agronomically sound for the area for erosion control or other purposes related to conservation or soil improvement.*" Soybean and corn both meet this requirement. However please remember that BMP's must be followed to meet this requirement.

In a late planted, soybean cover crop situation, plant a minimum of 150,000 seeds per acre and strive to plant in narrow row spacings (<30 inches). This recommendation is intended to minimize soil erosion, maximize ground cover and weed suppression as well as provide adequate N fixation. I do however understand if a farm operation is limited by equipment restrictions (e.g. they only have a 30 inch row planter) I would not preclude them from being eligible to plant soybean as a cover crop. The next consideration is cost. Normally the cost of soybean seed to be used as a cover crop on a per acre basis would be cost prohibitive; however since soybean seed is usually not saved from year to year and treated seed is often devitalized it is often offered at a deep discount late in the year so shop around. Frankly with only 60% of the WI crop planted there should be some reasonably priced seed to be used as cover crops. Now lets talk about corn!

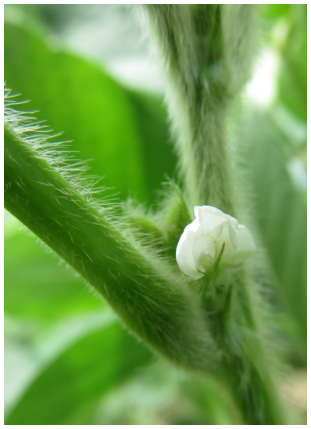
Although corn is not usually considered a cover crop due to 30-inch row spacing and slower early canopy growth than other crops, it is deep-rooted and by the end of the end of the growing season can produce more than 5 Tons DM/A of stover even when planted in July. Ultimately the decision to use corn as a cover crop is the cost of production. Typically, it would cost $400 to $450 per acre to establish corn. Production costs can be reduced by using seed that is not bioengineered, reducing N fertilizer to around 40 to 60 lb N/A, and using a narrower row corn planter (<30-inches), a twin-row planter, or grain drill to narrow row-spacing.

To be clear the intent of this article is to designate that soybean or corn can be considered as options for cover crops. The first thing you must do however is talk to your crop insurance agent and make no decisions without their input. Also please review this excellent article by Paul Mitchell entitled: **Can I Use Corn or Soybeans as a Cover Crop on Prevented Plant Acres?** (https://aae.wisc.edu/pdmitchell/CropInsurance/CornSoyasCoverCrop.pdf)

> Please remember that: ***"Farmers taking the full prevented plant indemnity should note that they cannot harvest the cover crop for grain, seed or silage, even after November 1. If they want to harvest it, then they should declare it as a alternative crop and only collected the partial (35%) prevented plant indemnity."***

This is a dynamic discussion so please check back as text and recommendations are subject to change as "to be frank" no one really has all the answers on this topic.

Soybean Flowers, Herbicide Labels, and Wheel Track Damage…Oh My!



Authored by Shawn P. Conley and Rodrigo Werle

We are starting to get the first reports of **soybean beginning to flower (R1)** in our early planted situations. As we enter the soybean reproductive growth phase there are a few things to keep in mind. The first is that soybean will produce flowers for ~3 to 5 weeks, depending upon planting date and environment. During that time soybean will abort anywhere from 20 to 80% of the flowers that they produce. Generally it is the first and last flush of flowers produced that are most likely to be aborted.

Next, the timing window for many POST-emergence herbicide applications in our early planted soybean are quickly closing if not closed already. Glyphosate labels indicate that applications can be made through R2 or full flower, however the spread of glyphosate-resistant waterhemp and other weeds across Wisconsin and beyond has led several farmers to adopt soybean varieties containing the novel herbicide resistance traits (Xtend [which confers resistance to glyphosate and dicamba], Enlist E3 [glyphosate, glufosinate and 2,4-D] or LibertyLink GT27 [glyphosate and glufosinate]), which all provide effective herbicide options for POST-emergence broadleaf weed control. The application window for the POST-emergence herbicides associated with the aforementioned traits is also linked to soybean reproductive growth stages.

In **Xtend systems**, the registered dicamba herbicides Engenia, FeXapan and XtendiMax can be applied through 45 days after planting or up until R1 (first bloom; in other words, don't apply if the soybeans are flowering), whichever comes first.

In **LibertyLink systems** (LL, LLGT27 or Enlist E3), glufosinate herbicides such as Liberty, Scout, Interline, etc. can be applied up to bloom or R1 growth stage (don't apply if the soybeans are at R2 stage or advanced).

In **Enlist E3 systems**, the registered 2,4-D herbicides Enlist One and Enlist Duo should be applied no later than R2 or full flowering stage.

When deciding the best time for a POST application, target small weeds, follow all label requirements and don't spray under adverse environmental conditions.

Soybean developmental note: on average it takes ~ 4 days to move from R1 (beginning flower) to R2 (full flower) and ~10 days from R2 to the start of R3 (beginning pod).

Last but not least, **wheel track damage made from ground applications** may start to reduce yield. Sprayer wheel traffic from first flower (R1) through harvest can damage soybean plants and reduce yield (Hanna et al. 2008). Our research suggests that an adequate soybean stand (more than 100,000 plants per acre) planted in late April though mid-May can compensate for wheel tracks made when a field is sprayed at R1. Yield loss can occur, however, when wheel tracks are made at R1 or later in thin soybean stands (less than 100,000 plants per acre) or late planted soybeans. Regardless of stand, plants could not compensate for wheel tracks made at R3 (early pod development) or R5 (early seed development). The average yield loss per acre is based on sprayer boom width (distance between wheel track passes). In our trials yield losses averaged 2.5, 1.9, and 1.3% when sprayer boom widths measured 60, 90, and 120 foot, respectively. Multiple trips along the same wheel tracks did not increase yield loss over the first trip.

Hanna, S., **Conley, S. P.,** Shaner, G., and Santini, J. 2008. Fungicide application timing and row spacing effect on soybean canopy penetration and grain yield. Agronomy Journal: 100:1488-1492.

Manganese Deficiency in Winter Wheat is Showing Up in Eastern Wisconsin

By Carrie Laboski, UW-Madison Department of Soil Science

The extended cool and wet spring appears to be causing manganese (Mn) deficiency in winter wheat in some fields in Eastern Wisconsin. Wheat has a high relative need for Mn, similar to soybean, but deficiency is not often observed in Wisconsin. The deficiency manifests as lighter colored lines parallel to the leaf margins and may have some necrotic spots. It is unlikely that an entire field will be uniformly deficient.

Mn deficient winter wheat field. Photo credits: Troy Christenson

Manganese deficiency is usually associated with neutral to high pH soils that are also high in organic matter. Soil tests for Mn are not accurate if soil organic matter levels are greater than 6.0%; in these soils Mn availability is considered low if soil pH is greater than 6.9. On soils with organic matter content less than or equal to 6.0%, Mn is considered low when soil test values are less than 11 ppm. Tissue testing can be used to confirm deficiency. Sample the newest fully developed leaf from 50 plants prior to heading. Manganese is considered sufficient if the tissue concentration is 25 to 100 ppm.

Mn deficient winter wheat field. Photo credits: Troy Christenson

In the photos, the wheat is being grown on a Sebewa silt loam which is poorly to very poorly drained. In fall 2016, this field tested 6.7% organic matter (with a range of 3.7 to 10.8%) and pH of 7.8 (range 7.6 to 8.2). Because the organic matter is over 6.0%, and pH is greater than 6.9, the availability of soil Mn is considered low and Mn deficiency in soybean and wheat might be expected. However, the grower has not had issues with Mn deficiency in this field in the past, which suggests the wet fall and extended cool and wet spring may be causing low availability of Mn. The Mn level in the tissue was 6.1 ppm, which is substantially below the sufficient range of 25 to 100 ppm. Wheat grown on another field on this farm was showing similar deficiency symptoms and was growing on a well-drained Sisson fine sandy loam with a soil organic matter of 3.6 % and pH of 7.6. While Mn was not tested on this soil, the deficiency symptoms indicate that Mn availability was low.

If you suspect Mn deficiency, take plant tissue and soil samples to confirm the diagnosis. A foliar application of 1.25 lb Mn/a in a sulfate form or 0.2 lb Mn/a in a chelate form will likely increase yield. If the deficiency is severe, multiple applications at 7 day intervals may be needed to remedy the deficiency. Consider leaving a couple of strips untreated to evaluate the efficacy of the foliar application.

Secretary Perdue Statement on Disaster and Trade-Related Assistance

Background:

For frequently asked questions regarding the USDA Risk Management Agency's prevented planting policy and losses resulting from floods, please visit the USDA RMA Flooding page. For several frequently asked questions regarding how USDA will treat prevented planting acres with regard to the recently announced 2019 Market Facilitation Program and 2018/2019 disaster relief legislation, see below.

1. **What is the purpose of the Market Facilitation Program? What is the legal authority?**
    - The Market Facilitation Program (MFP) assists farmers with the additional costs of adjusting to disrupted markets, dealing with surplus commodities, and expanding and developing new markets at home and abroad, consistent with the authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act.

2. **Last year, soybeans had the highest MFP payment per bushel, should I plant soybeans this year to get the highest payment if I have the opportunity?**
   - You should plant what works best for your operation and what you would plant in any other year, absent any assistance from USDA. 2019 MFP assistance is based on a single county payment rate multiplied by a farm's total plantings to the MFP-eligible crops (outlined below) in aggregate in 2019. *Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019*, and therefore will not distort planting decisions. Your total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed your total 2018 plantings.
   - 2019 MFP-eligible non-specialty crops: alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, millet, mustard seed, dried beans, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, rye, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, triticale, upland cotton, and wheat.
   - 2019 MFP-eligible specialty crops: tree nuts, fresh sweet cherries, cranberries, and fresh grapes.
3. **My fields never dried out enough to get *any* crop in, do I get a 2019 Market Facilitation Program payment?**
   - No, USDA does not have the legal authority to make MFP payments to producers for acreage that is not planted. To qualify for a 2019 MFP payment, you must have planted a 2019 MFP-eligible crop. Producers unable to plant their crop should work with their crop insurance agent to file a claim.
4. **I filed a prevented planting claim and I am going to plant a cover crop to prevent erosion, does that count for 2019 MFP if it's on the 2019 MFP-eligible list you announced in May?**
   - If you choose to plant a cover crop with the potential to be harvested, because of this year's adverse weather conditions, you may qualify for a minimal amount of 2019 MFP assistance. You must still comply with your crop insurance requirements to remain eligible for any indemnities received.
5. **I heard that I could get 90% of my crop insurance guarantee as a prevented planting payment through the disaster bill, is that true?**
   - The Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2019 gives the USDA the authority to compensate losses caused by prevented planting in 2019 up to 90%. While the authority exists, USDA must operate within finite appropriations limits. It is highly unlikely that the supplemental appropriation will support that level of coverage in addition to crop insurance. Congress appropriated $3.005 billion in assistance for a wide array of losses resulting from disasters throughout 2018 and 2019, requiring USDA to prioritize how it is allocated. The Department plans to provide assistance on prevented planting losses within the confines of our authority.
6. **If I plant a second crop or cover crop, can I still get my full prevented planting payment? What about an MFP payment?**
   - You must comply with crop insurance requirements to remain eligible for a full prevented planting indemnity. USDA encourages you to visit with your crop insurance agent to ensure you are aware of those various options for your operation. If you choose to plant a cover crop with the potential to be harvested, because of this year's adverse weather conditions, you may qualify for a minimal amount of 2019 MFP assistance.
7. **I have heard that only acreage in a declared disaster area will qualify for prevented planting under the Disaster Relief Act. Is that true?**
   - USDA is currently evaluating the new authority provided under the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2019. However, it is generally true that producers with qualifying losses in a Secretarial or Presidentially-declared disaster area will be eligible for Disaster Relief Act assistance. Producers with qualifying losses outside of those areas will have eligibility determined on a case-by-case basis.
8. **I have a revenue protection policy with a 'harvest price option,' do I get the higher of the projected price or harvest price for my prevented planting payment?**
   - The Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2019 gives the USDA the authority to compensate losses caused by prevented planting in 2019 and also provides additional authority to compensate producers on the higher of the projected price or harvest price. USDA is currently exploring legal flexibility to provide assistance that better utilizes the harvest price in conjunction with revenue and prevent planting policies.
9. **If I am prevented from planting but manage to get a cover crop or a forage in the ground, am I able to hay or graze that prior to November 1, given the forage shortage we're going to experience?**
   - USDA encourages you to visit with your crop insurance agent to ensure you are aware of those various prevented planting, cover crop, and harvest options for your operation. USDA is currently reviewing the prevented planting restrictions in the Federal Crop Insurance Act to determine what options may be available to address this and other issues. Further clarity regarding this haying and grazing date will be forthcoming.
10. **What if I don't have crop insurance? How do MFP and disaster relief programs work for me if I'm prevented from planting due to natural disasters?**
    - Crop insurance is not required to qualify for 2019 MFP assistance. However, USDA requires that a producer plant a 2019 MFP-eligible crop to qualify for the 2019 MFP assistance.
    - If you choose to plant a cover crop with the potential to be harvested, because of this year's adverse weather conditions, you may qualify for a minimal amount of 2019 MFP assistance.
    - The Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2019 gives the USDA the authority to compensate losses caused by prevented planting in 2019. Producers with qualifying losses in a Secretarial or Presidentially-declared disaster area will be eligible for Disaster Relief Act assistance. Producers with qualifying losses outside of those areas will have eligibility determined on a case-by-case basis.

"Update to the 2019 Prevented Planting Cover Crop Relief from the USDA" released June 20

A cover crop is defined in the policy as a crop generally recognized by agricultural experts as agronomically sound for the area for erosion control or other purposes related to conservation or soil improvement.

Currently November 1 is used as a reference point throughout procedure for cover crops. For example, a cover crop planted after the late planting period (LPP) for the prevented planted crop may be hayed or grazed after November 1 and receive a full prevented planting payment. If the cover crop is hayed or grazed before November 1, or otherwise harvested at any time, the prevented planting payment will be reduced by 65 percent.

"Otherwise harvested" as used in this context means harvested for other than haying or grazing. This could be for silage, grain, seed, haylage, etc.

Action—<u>for the 2019 crop year only</u>: Cutting for silage, haylage, and baleage will be treated the same as haying or grazing. In addition, all references to the November 1 date, as it relates to haying and grazing, in any procedure will be replaced with <u>September 1</u>.

Dairy Situation and Outlook, June 18, 2019

By Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The good news is milk prices continue to improve. The Class III price which was as low as $13.89 in February will improve about $2.40 in June to around $16.30. The Class IV price which was as low as $15.48 in January will improve about $1.30 to around $16.80 in June. Much lower milk production is the driver for improved milk prices. For the U.S. compared to a year earlier, April's milk production was up just 0.3% with May down 0.4%. Cow numbers in May were 9.333 million head, down 89,000 since January or 0.9% lower than a year ago. The continued exiting of dairy producers and the slaughter of cows running 5.0% higher than a year ago is reducing the size of the dairy herd. Milk per cow was also well below trend being up just 0.6%. Of the 24 reporting states 14 had fewer cows and 11 had lower total milk production.

In May two states lead the way in increases in milk production, Texas at 5.4% and Colorado at 3.6%. Production for other Western states were: California and Idaho up 1.3% and 1.4% respectively with production down 0.8% in New Mexico and 4.3% in Arizona. In the Northeast production was up 1.0% in New York, just 0.4% in Michigan and down 7.0% in Pennsylvania. In the Midwest production was up just 0.4% for South Dakota with production down 0.2% for both Iowa and Minnesota and 0.4% for Wisconsin. In the Southeast production was down 4.9% in Florida and 10.1% in Virginia.

Lower milk production relates to lower dairy product production. Compared to a year earlier April butter production was 4.8% lower, American cheese production 2.8% lower with cheddar 3.3% lower, total cheese production just 0.2% higher, nonfat dry milk production 2.6% lower and dry whey production 13.7% lower.

Butter and cheese sales continue to show modest growth. But, fluid (beverage) mill sales continue the downward trend with April sales 3.1% lower than a year ago and year-to-date sales 2.5% lower. While lower than a year ago, dairy exports are supportive of milk prices. With lower milk production exports do not need to be as high to support milk prices. For the first four months of the year exports on a volume basis were the third highest with 2018 being the highest and 2014 the second highest. Much lower exports to China is the major factor for reduce volume of exports. China's retaliatory tariffs and the African swine fever resulted in April exports to China being 64% lower than a year ago. Cheese exports have held up. While April cheese exports were one percent lower than a year ago, year-to-date exports are 7% higher. April exports were down 25% for nonfat dry milk/skim milk power, 71% for butterfat and 31% for total whey products. Yet on a total solids basis exports were equivalent to 14.4% of milk production.

The stock level of dairy products is also improving. Compared to a year ago April 30th stocks were 5.4% lower for butter, just 0.3% higher for American cheese stocks and 4.0% higher for total cheese stocks. However, dry whey stocks and nonfat dry milk stocks were 8.9% and 1.6% higher.

Milk prices should improve further as we progress through the rest of the year. USDA now forecasts milk production for the year to be just 0.3% higher than 2018, the result of cow numbers averaging 0.7% lower and milk per cow 1.0% higher. It looks like feed prices will be higher. Alfalfa hay prices will be higher. Current hay stocks are tight and there are reports of significant winter kill in some areas along with a challenge of harvesting quality first cutting due to wet weather. Delayed corn planting and unplanted acres means higher corn prices. Tighter feed supplies, lower quality forages along with higher feed prices will likely continue to reduce cow numbers and dampen milk per cow this fall and winter.

Butter and cheese sales are expected to continue to show modest growth. While exports will be lower exports will still support to milk prices. It doesn't look like the trade dispute with China will end soon. In May U.S. increased tariffs on China's goods and China in turn increased tariffs levied on U.S. dairy products. But, in May U.S. eliminated tariffs on steel and aluminum from Mexico and Mexico in turn eliminated its tariffs on U.S, cheese. This could be positive for cheese exports later this year and going into 2020.

As of now we could see the Class III price in the low $17's by August and in the mid to high $17's by fourth quarter. Some are predicting Class III even in the $18's. Class IV could be in the low $17's by July and in the mid $17's fourth quarter. If this holds true, Class III would average about $16.30 for the year compared to $14.61 in 2018 and the Class IV price would average about $17.00 compared to $15.09 in 2018.

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