

In this Newsletter

- Pg 1 Crop Insurance Review
- Pg 2 DMC Decision Tool
Effects of Delayed Plant
- Pg 3 JC Fair Schedule
Delayed Planting Cont.
- Pg 4 Crop Insurance Cont.
- Pg 5 Tractor Safety Course
WI Hemp Website
Calendar of Events
- Pg 6 Alternative Forage for Heifers
- Pg 7 Standing Alfalfa Worth
- Pg 8 CRP Update
- Pg 9 Alternative Forage Cont.
Youth Worker Safety

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For more information about programs in
this newsletter, call the UW-Extension
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<http://jackson.uwex.edu/>
www.facebook.com/JacksonCounty-UW-Extension-Agriculture

Weather-related cancellations will be
announced on WWIS Radio 99.7



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
JACKSON COUNTY

Summer 2019 Agriculture Newsletter

Saturday June 1, 2019

Greetings from your county agent.....

Untimely precipitation and below average temperatures have proven to be the themes for 2019's planting season. USDA's most recent crop progress report indicates that corn planting across the state was only 46% complete, 14 days behind average. Similarly, soybeans are 13 days behind average with only 20% planted statewide. You will find that this newsletter highlights topics related to delayed planting including information on plant health. While the weather cannot be controlled or changed, utilizing good management techniques can help make the best of this less than ideal spring.

~Jamie

Late and Prevented Planting Options and Crop Insurance for Wisconsin Farmers

Paul D. Mitchell, Agricultural and Applied Economics UW-Madison

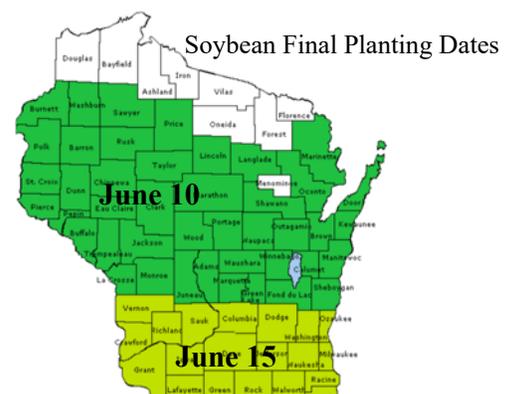
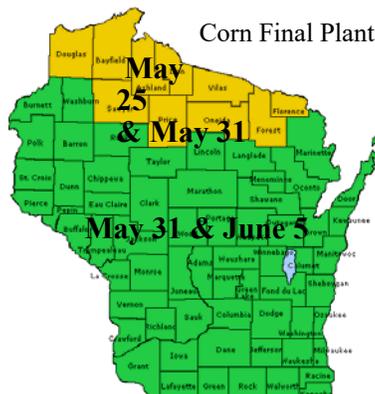
This bulletin quickly reviews crop insurance rules to help Wisconsin farmers understand late and prevented planting dates and options as this cold wet spring continues.

Key Dates

For crop insurance, the final planting dates in Wisconsin differ by crop and county. The dates are May 25 for corn for grain and May 31 for corn silage in the north and May 31 for corn for grain and June 5 for corn silage in the south. For soybean, the dates are June 10 in the north and June 15 in the south (see maps for your county). Acres planted after these dates are still insured, but farmers must notify their crop insurance agents, even if they do not have late and prevented planting coverage. Small areas do not trigger late and prevented planting; the area must exceed 20 acres or 20% of the unit's acreage to qualify.

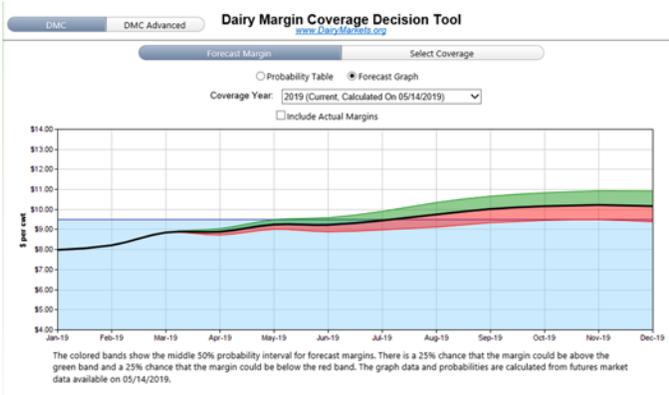
Explaining the options for a hypothetical case will help insured farmers understand their options. However, farmers should consult with their crop insurance agent so they clearly understand their specific options and the associated restrictions and implications.

Assumptions: You bought crop insurance with a yield history of 160 bu/ac for your corn and 40 bu/ac for your soybeans. With 75% Revenue Protection, your yield guarantees are 120 bu/ac for the corn and 30 bu/ac for the soybeans. Revenue guarantees are 120 bu/ac x \$4.00/bu = \$480.00/ac and 30 bu/ac x \$9.54/bu = \$286.20/ac. The final planting dates in your county are May 31 for corn, June 5 corn silage, and June 10 for soybeans. By May 31, you planted 250 acres of corn and by June 10, you planted 150 acres of soybeans, leaving 100 acres unplanted. You trigger Prevented Plant since at least 20 acres or 20% of the insured acres are affected. (Cont. on pg 4)



Dairy Margin Coverage Tool

A new decision making tool was released in May for dairy producers interested in signing up for the Dairy Margin Coverage program. Developed in partnership by the FSA and Mark Stephenson (UW-Center for Dairy Profitability), this tool allows producers to calculate premium costs as well as expected payouts at various coverage levels. A review of MPP premium repayment options is also available for those who were previously enrolled in the program. Current margin forecasts are updated daily on the site to offer additional information for decision making. The Dairy Margin Coverage Decision Tool can be accessed at the USDA's Dairy Program webpage, or by visiting <https://dairymarkets.org/MPP/>. Sign up for the Dairy Margin Coverage Program begins June 17th.



Coverage Level	Tier 1				Tier 2			
	Price	Premium	Expected Payment	Probability*	Price	Premium	Expected Payment	Probability*
\$9.50	<input type="radio"/> \$0.1500	\$7,500.00	\$19,250.00	100%				
\$9.00	<input type="radio"/> \$0.1100	\$5,500.00	\$8,541.67	100%				
\$8.50	<input type="radio"/> \$0.1050	\$5,250.00	\$3,291.67	11%				
\$8.00	<input type="radio"/> \$0.1000	\$5,000.00	\$41.67	1%	<input type="radio"/> \$1.8100	\$47,138.00	\$21.67	0%
\$7.50	<input type="radio"/> \$0.0900	\$4,500.00	\$0.00	0%	<input type="radio"/> \$1.4100	\$36,738.00	\$0.00	0%
\$7.00	<input type="radio"/> \$0.0800	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	0%	<input type="radio"/> \$1.1070	\$28,782.00	\$0.00	0%
\$6.50	<input type="radio"/> \$0.0700	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	0%	<input type="radio"/> \$0.6500	\$16,900.00	\$0.00	0%
\$6.00	<input type="radio"/> \$0.0500	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	0%	<input type="radio"/> \$0.3100	\$8,060.00	\$0.00	0%
\$5.50	<input type="radio"/> \$0.0300	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	0%	<input type="radio"/> \$0.1000	\$2,600.00	\$0.00	0%
\$5.00	<input type="radio"/> \$0.0050	\$250.00	\$0.00	0%	<input type="radio"/> \$0.0050	\$130.00	\$0.00	0%
\$4.50	<input type="radio"/> \$0.0025	\$125.00	\$0.00	0%	<input type="radio"/> \$0.0025	\$65.00	\$0.00	0%
\$4.00	<input checked="" type="radio"/> \$0.0000	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	<input checked="" type="radio"/> \$0.0000	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%

How Will Delayed Planting Influence Crop Diseases in 2019?

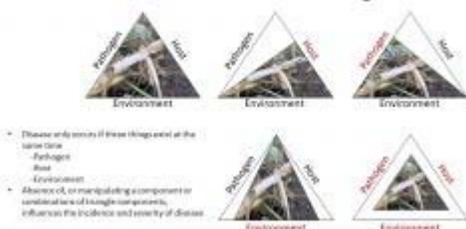
Damon Smith & Darcy Telenko, Extension Field Crops Pathologists

We keep getting this question, because as we write this, it is storming yet again in many locations in the Midwest. Rain, rain, and more rain has pushed back timely planting everywhere. Concern is starting to mount about not only yield loss simply from delayed planting, but what increased risk of yield loss due to disease there might be in 2019. As we consider this issue, we will use tar spot of corn and white mold of soybean as just two examples of where this could be an issue.

The Plant Disease Triangle. Remember that the plant disease triangle is the foundation for understanding how plant diseases develop and how to manage them. In order for a plant disease to occur you must have a virulent pathogen, a susceptible host plant, and favorable weather conditions to coincide at the same time. If any one of these three components is missing (or we implement a management strategy that removes or reduces one component) then a plant disease will not occur. When it comes to the host component, it not only matters that the host is generally susceptible but is also at a susceptible growth stage. Consider white mold of soybeans for a minute. All stages of soybean are susceptible to infection by the white mold fungus, but most infections occur through open flowers. Thus, the disease triangle is met when you have (1) white mold fungal spores flying around at the same time that (2) soybean flowers are open (susceptible stage), during, (3) cool and wet weather (favorable environmental condition) completing the triangle (Figure 1). The point here is that if we continue in a cool wet pattern, and delayed planting continues, we may quickly find ourselves with crops at susceptible growth stages when the weather is very conducive to disease.

Delayed Planting and White Mold of Soybean. In 2017, we had an epic epidemic of white mold on soybean across the upper Midwest (Figure 2). One of the main reasons that the epidemic was so bad is that it was generally cool for a large portion of the season. This resulted in soybeans that moved very slowly from one growth stage to the next. When it came to flowering, soybeans bloomed for an extended period of time. This left them in a susceptible growth stage for about twice as long as normal. These cool conditions also coincided with wet weather that was favorable for the pathogen. In 2018, planting occurred reasonably on-time and we accumulated heat units quickly. Bloom started early in the season and was about half as long as it was in 2017. This meant that soybeans "escaped" infection in large portions of the upper Midwest. Fast-forward to 2019. (Continued on pg 3)

White Mold Disease Triangle



Delayed planting in 2019 Continued.....

If this cool rainy cycle persists, and planting is delayed, then soybeans may bloom later and over an extended period of time during wet/humid weather conditions. Keeping an eye on weather before and during the soybean bloom period along with consulting the [Sporecaster smartphone app](#) can help you make the educated decision to spray fungicide or not.

Delayed Planting and Tar Spot of Corn. In 2018 Tar spot of corn (Figure 3) created quite a stir. The epidemic was widespread and caused some significant yield losses in areas that it occurred. The tar spot fungus is residue-borne. There is also decent evidence that it can survive over-winter on corn residue (Figure 4). Our laboratories have been investigating tar spot fungal survival on corn residue collected after snow-melt in Wisconsin and Indiana. Regardless of whether there was fall tillage performed or not, survival of tar spot fungal spores (ascospores) on the residue collected ranged between 15 and 40%, with an average around 20%. These are VERY preliminary findings (and the numbers might change once we finish counting and analyzing data), but the point is that there is viable tar spot fungal inoculum present in Midwest corn fields. Therefore, one component of the triangle is met! As for the other two components, corn is being planted later than normal and conditions are cool and wet. Again, if this cycle of cool and wet holds, conditions will be favorable for the fungus. Delayed planting of corn will also push corn into conducive growth stages for the fungus to infect and cause heavy yield losses (although, we have seen infection at all growth stages as long as there was green tissue available). One of the reasons that the 2018 tar spot epidemic was so significant, was that many areas of the upper Midwest had cool and excessively wet conditions around the V6 growth stage and again near or after the VT growth stages. When foliar diseases of corn start at early growth stages (V6 or V8) the risk for yield loss can be much higher than if they start after R2 or brown silk. Keep an eye on the weather between the V6 and R2 growth stages and consult with your local extension personnel to decide if a fungicide might be warranted for corn to prevent tar spot, or other foliar diseases.

Scouting and Watching Weather Reports Might Pay in 2019. Once corn and soybeans are planted, take the time to scout and pay attention to the weather. While thorough scouting can take time, it may be worth it in 2019. Catching a plant disease early can be the difference in being successful in managing it or not. Pay attention to the weather leading up to, and during, the critical crop growth stages. This can also help you make an educated decision about in-season application of fungicides. If it is cool and humid/rainy, and the crop is at a susceptible growth stage, then a fungicide application might be warranted. If it is hot and dry and the crop moves quickly through susceptible growth stages, then a fungicide might not be warranted. Study the disease triangle and use it to your advantage. The 2019 field season could be a year that this knowledge might be handy!

JACKSON COUNTY FAIR

JULY 31ST-AUGUST 4TH-BLACK RIVER FALLS

Wednesday July 31st

- Carcass Judging 9a.m., Livestock Building
- Sheep Show 3p.m., Animal Arena
- Outstanding Farmer Award 6:30p.m., Food Tent

Thursday August 1st

- Swine Show 8:30a.m., Animal Arena
- Plant & Soil Sciences 12:30p.m., Lunda Arena

Friday August 2nd

- Jr. Dairy Show 8:30a.m., Animal Arena
- Rabbits 9a.m., Small Animal Barn
- Beef Show 9:30a.m., Animal Arena
- Monarch Butterfly Presentation 10a.m., WWIS Stage
- Horse Show 2p.m., Outdoor Arena
- Goat and Llama Show 3p.m. Animal Arena
- Jr. Livestock Auction 6:30p.m., Animal Arena



Saturday August 3rd

- Horse Show 8a.m., Outdoor Arena
- Poultry Show 9a.m., Small Animal Barn
- Cat, Small Animal Show 9a.m., Small Animal Barn
- Open Class Dairy Show 10a.m., Animal Arena
- Dairy Basket Silent Auction 6p.m., Animal Arena

Sunday August 4th

- Draft Horse Halter Show 10 a.m.
- Overall Livestock Showmanship 11a.m., Animal Arena



Late and Prevented Planting Crop Insurance Continued.....

What are Your Options?

1) Plant corn, corn silage, or soybeans late with a reduced guarantee a. Corn: guarantee reduced 1% per day per acre for each day after May 31.

b. Corn silage: guarantee reduced 1% per day per acre for each day after June 5.

c. Soybeans: guarantee reduced 1% per day per acre for each day after June 10

Example: Suppose you planted all 100 remaining acres to soybeans on June 17 (7 days late). Your guarantee on these 100 soybean acres would be $(100\% - 7\%) = 93\% \times \$286.20/\text{ac} = \$266.17/\text{ac} \times 100 \text{ acres} = \$26,617$. The guarantee on the 150 soybean acres you planted on time is unchanged.

2) Take the full Prevented Plant (PP) indemnity equal to 55% of your guarantee. a. Corn: full PP indemnity = $55\% \times \$480.00/\text{ac} = \$264.00/\text{ac} \times 100 \text{ acres} = \$26,400$.

b. Soybean: full PP indemnity = $60\% \times \$286.20/\text{ac} = \$171.72/\text{ac} \times 100 \text{ acres} = \$17,172$.

On these acres, you can plant a forage/cover crop (including establish alfalfa), but you cannot harvest or graze the forage/cover crop until after November 1.

3) Take a partial Prevented Plant (PP) indemnity equal to 35% of your full PP indemnity a. Corn: partial PP indemnity = $35\% \times \$264.00/\text{ac} = \$92.40/\text{ac} \times 100 \text{ acres} = \$9,240$.

b. Soybean: partial PP indemnity = $35\% \times \$171.72/\text{ac} = \$60.10/\text{ac} \times 100 \text{ acres} = \$6,010$.

On these acres, you can plant any forage/cover crop you want and harvest as you want.

4) Leave the acres uninsured – you pay no premiums for these 100 acres, will receive no indemnities, but have no restrictions on planting & harvesting/grazing a forage or cover crop.

Comments

A. Acreage Limits: Your planted acres plus Prevented Plant acres for a crop cannot exceed the maximum acres planted of that crop in any of the last 4 years. In this example, the farmer has already planted 250 corn acres. If the farmer had planted at least 350 corn acres in any of the last 4 years, he could only claim up to 100 acres for corn Prevented Plant indemnities.

B. Loss of Enterprise Units: To be eligible for enterprise units (which have lower premiums), a farmer must plant 20 acres or 20% of planted acres in at least two sections. Prevented plant acres do not count in this calculation and so a farmer may lose eligibility for enterprise units and so have to pay larger premiums for their insured acres.

C. Yield History Impacts: Late planted crops (option 1) use actual yields for future yield history calculations. Acres

claimed for reduced Prevented Plant (option 3) use 60% of the yield history from planted acres for future yield history calculations. Acres claimed for full Prevented Plant (option 2) and uninsured acres (option 4) generate no yield history.

D. Commodity Program Impacts: Prevented plant payments do not affect Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments and prevented plant acres are considered planted for calculation of base acres. If Market Facilitation Program (MFP) payments are made using the same rules as in 2018, they would only be paid for harvested yield, not prevented plant, but a new MFP program for 2019 may have different rules.

E. Alfalfa Establishment: Growers can establish alfalfa with or without a nurse crop on prevented plant acres (options 2 or 3). If planted by July 1, 2020 production can be insured with a 2020 Forage Production policy. If planted during August 1-24, 2019, it can be insured against winter kill with a 2020 Forage Seeding policy written agreement.

F. Agronomic Considerations: Agronomic considerations such as switching corn maturity dates or from grain to silage should be part of the decision. See the UW Extension corn and soybean agronomy web page: <http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/> and <http://www.coolbean.info/>.

Replant Provisions

If the crop stand is poor so that projected yield is less than 90% of the yield guarantee, a farmer can receive an indemnity for part of the actual cost of replanting. An insurance adjuster must inspect the stand and



the area must exceed 20 acres or 20% of the unit's acreage. The maximum indemnity is the price election multiplied by the 20% of the yield guarantee, up to 8 bu for corn, 3 bu for soybeans and 1 ton for corn silage. The replanted crop has the same production guarantee as for the original plant date (i.e., no reduction for late planting is imposed).

Replant Example

Suppose a 200 acre unit of corn for grain has a yield guarantee of $150 \text{ bu/A} \times 200 \text{ A} = 30,000 \text{ bu}$ with a $\$4.00/\text{bu}$ price election. All acres are planted before May 31, but cool wet weather reduces the stand to less than 20,000 plants/A on 80 acres of the unit. The farmer can replant these 80 acres to corn and keep the 150 bu/A yield guarantee, even if the corn is replanted after May 31, and receive an indemnity of up to $\$2,560.00$ ($8 \text{ bu/A} \times \$4.00/\text{bu}$ price election $\times 80 \text{ acres}$) towards the actual cost of replanting these acres.

2019 Wisconsin Safe Operation of Tractor & Ag Machinery Certification Program

Dates/Times of program: June 18-20, 2019, 8a.m. to 4 p.m. (Tuesday - Thursday)

Place of program: Black River Falls High School agriculture room (use the greenhouse door)

Instructors: Brad Markhardt, Jamie Pfaff & Tom Dobbs

Youth that should attend:

-any youth 12-16 years of age who will be operating tractors or self-propelled implements of husbandry on a public road under direction of their parent or guardian for work related to their family farm operation.

or

-any youth 14-15 years of age who will be employed or working without pay on a farm other than their family farm.

or

-any youth 12 years of age or older that desires tractor and machinery safety instructions.

Parent or guardian is asked to be present for the first 20 minutes on June 18th to know program requirements.

Students should also bring:

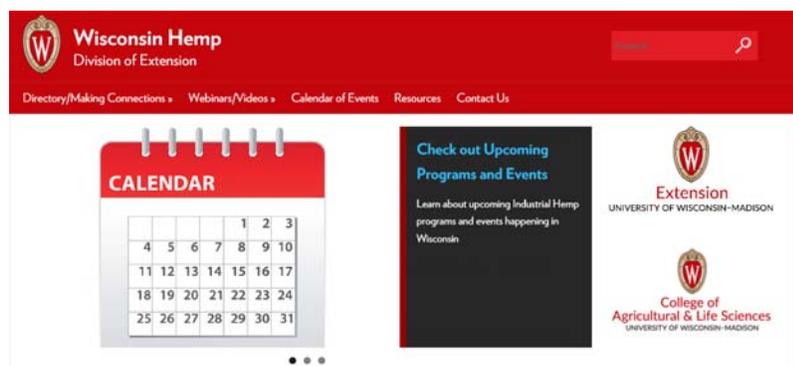
- an emergency phone number
- \$25.00 per participant (cash or checks payable to UW Extension)
- alert the instructors of any special needs of the youth(s)
- students will need to bring their own lunch each day
- *no sandals!*



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“Wisconsin Hemp” Website Unveiled

In response to the growing demand for Hemp production resources, the University of Wisconsin-Division of Extension has recently launched the Wisconsin Hemp website. This website offers growers throughout the state the ability to connect with one another through an online directory and networking list. It also provides resources in topic areas such as fertility recommendations, planting considerations, and DATCP industry updates. Information on upcoming field days and meetings will be accessible through the page as well as access to the Wisconsin Hemp YouTube Channel. Content will be updated regularly as more information is gathered through University test plots this summer. The intention is for this page to serve as a resource for all things Hemp related. Please visit <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/hemp/> to access the website or to add yourself to the online industry directory.



Mark your Calendars

June Dairy Breakfast

~June 1st~

District Holstein Show

~June 13th~

Youth Tractor Safety

~June 18th-20th~

Farm Tech Days

~July 23rd-25th~

Jackson County Fair

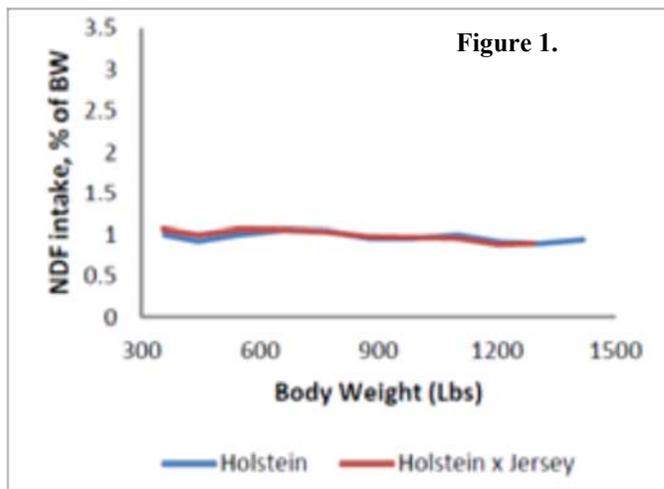
~July 31st-Aug 4th~



Alternative Forage Options for Dairy Heifers

By: Matt Akins, UW-Extension

High quality corn silage and alfalfa are often used for feeding dairy heifers. These can work well for young heifers up to ~8-12 months of age depending on forage quality. However, pregnant dairy heifers have lower energy needs than younger dairy heifers and feeding the correct diet energy is important to control weight gain. Pregnant heifers require ~58-62% total digestible nutrients (TDN) depending on environment while corn silage and alfalfa silage are usually well above this level. In research studies in which corn silage/alfalfa silage diets (65% TDN) are fed to pregnant heifers, gains can be 2.5 lbs/day or greater. Recommended gains are 1.8-2.2 lbs/day with higher gains leading to greater internal fat deposits and potentially more difficult calving and transition to lactation. Delaying harvest for more mature alfalfa or grasses reduces energy; however, the main goal of dairy forage production is usually to produce high quality forages. Use of higher fiber forages such as warm season perennials, straw, corn stover, sorghums, or cereal grain forages at heading can be used to dilute diet energy and restrict intakes when combined with corn silage and alfalfa silage. Higher fiber diets not only lower energy content but also reduce intakes since dairy heifers eat ~1% of body weight (BW) as neutral detergent fiber (NDF) each day (Figure 1). For example, a 1,000 lb heifer will eat ~10 lbs NDF. If the diet contains 45% NDF, the heifer will eat 22 lbs dry matter (DM). However, at 50% NDF the heifer will eat ~20 lbs DM.



Recent work at the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station (MARS) looked at growth and management of the warm-season perennial grass, eastern gamagrass. Based on multiple years of data, the greatest forage yield was from a single harvest in mid-September with the forage quality being ideal for partially replacing corn silage to reduce diet energy. Dry matter content at cutting is 30-40% so minimal to no wilting time is needed prior to harvest. Typical yields are 3-4 tons DM/ac when harvested in early fall. NDF content is ~75% and crude protein 5-7% DM when harvested in September. In a heifer feeding study, use of eastern gamagrass at 20-30% of the diet helped control gains within recommended guidelines. One unique feature of gamagrass is that heifers readily consume the silage with minimal or no sorting that can occur when using straw to dilute diet energy.

Commonly used roughages to lower energy in heifer diets include straw and corn stover. Typical inclusion rate is 10-20% of diet DM to obtain desired diet energy content. Sampling of the roughage is needed as variation exists in fiber content and digestibility and mineral content. These have been used successfully in recent studies to control intakes and gains; however, heifers can sort these roughages, with corn stover being more sortable than straw. Sorting can be reduced by pre-chopping to 2-3" length and/or adding water for a target diet DM of 45-50%. It is advisable to feed for minimal refusals (bunk score of 1 out of 3; few feed particles in bunk) to ensure heifers eat the entire diet and not sort only for the higher quality forages.

Cereal grain forages (e.g., wheat, rye, triticale, barley) are an option more farmers have potential to use with increased growing of cover crops. Harvesting at boot stage will produce higher quality forage. Harvesting at heading stage will be more ideal for pregnant heifers. When harvested at boot to heading, protein and energy can be close to ideal to feed the forage alone or with minimal other ingredients. Yields have been 1-2 tons DM/ac at these stages (harvested mid- to late-May) with potential for double cropping. (Continued Page 9)

What's Standing Alfalfa Worth in 2019?

Greg Blonde-Waupaca County Extension

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: $(0.10 \times \text{stems}/\text{ft}^2) + 0.38$. 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:

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

In this example, the sale or purchase price for all cuttings the entire year would range from \$440 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.

USDA Reopens Continuous CRP Sign-Up

Extensions Also Available to Many Expiring Contracts

WASHINGTON, May 15, 2019 – USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) will accept applications beginning June 3, 2019, for certain practices under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) continuous signup and will offer extensions for expiring CRP contracts. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized CRP, one of the country’s largest conservation programs.

“USDA offers a variety of conservation programs to farmers and ranchers, and the Conservation Reserve Program is an important tool for private lands management,” said FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce. “CRP allows agricultural producers to set aside land to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, provide habitat for wildlife and boost soil health.”

FSA stopped accepting applications last fall for the CRP continuous signup when 2014 Farm Bill authority expired. Since passage of the 2018 Farm Bill last December, Fordyce said FSA has carefully analyzed the language and determined that a limited signup prioritizing water-quality practices furthers conservation goals and makes sense for producers as FSA works to fully implement the program.

Continuous CRP Signup

This year’s signup will include such practices as grassed waterways, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restoration and others. View a full list of practices approved for this program.

Continuous signup enrollment contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration. Soil rental rates will be set at 90 percent of the existing rates. Incentive payments will not be offered for these contracts.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Signup

FSA will also reopen signup for existing Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) agreements. Fact sheets on current CREP agreements are available on this webpage.

Other CRP Signup Options

Fordyce said FSA plans to open a CRP general signup in December 2019 and a CRP Grasslands signup later.

CRP Contract Extensions

A one-year extension will be offered to existing CRP participants who have expiring CRP contracts of 14 years or less. Producers eligible for an extension will receive a letter describing their options. Alternatively, producers with expiring contracts may have the option to enroll in the Transition Incentives Program, which provides two additional annual rental payments on the condition the land is sold or rented to a beginning farmer or rancher or a member of a socially disadvantaged group.

More Information

On December 20, 2018, President Trump signed into law the 2018 Farm Bill, which provides support, certainty and stability to our nation’s farmers, ranchers and land stewards by enhancing farm support programs, improving crop insurance, maintaining disaster programs and promoting and supporting voluntary conservation. FSA is committed to implementing these changes as quickly and effectively as possible, and today’s updates are part of meeting that goal.

Producers interested in applying for CRP continuous practices, including those under existing CREP agreements, or who need an extension, should contact their USDA service center beginning June 3. To locate your local FSA office, visit www.farmers.gov. More information on CRP can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.



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Alternative Forage Options for Dairy Heifers (Con't)

Sorghums (forage sorghum and sorghum-sudangrass) are lower energy options to replace corn silage with similar production. Conventional (non-BMR) and photoperiod sensitive sorghums have an ideal fiber and energy content to blend with a moderate or high quality haylage or a protein byproduct (e.g., distillers grain, gluten feed) in pregnant dairy heifer diets. Harvesting strategy affects yield with a single harvest having 1.5-2 times greater yield than a 2-cut system. At MARS, two-year yields of conventional forage sorghum and sorghum-sudangrass planted in early June in 15" rows and harvested one time in October or early November yielded 6-8 tons DM/ac. The NDF content was 55-60%, and protein was 5-7%. Expected inclusion rates could be up to 50-75% of the diet depending on the quality of other forage ingredients. Moisture content can be a problem using a single fall harvest when planted late; cutting and wilting may be needed earlier in fall. This situation occurred in a recent trial with sorghum-sudangrass in a 12-acre production field at MARS (planted July 4, 2017) yielding 2.3 tons DM/ac when harvested in mid-September.



Figure 10. Eastern gamagrass following a prescribed burn in early-May at Marshfield, WI.

Farmers have several forage options to blend with corn silage and haylage. The choice will depend on cropping and rotation systems for each operation as well as cost of production. Before trying a new forage it is suggested to discuss options with your agronomist and nutritionist about best management practices and how it will affect forage inventory and diet formulation.

Seven Steps to Help Youth Prepare to Work Safely on the Farm

1. Explain your farm's safety policies and procedures. When can a cell phone be used? Are friends allowed to visit them at work? What are your policies if they consistently use unsafe practices.
2. Provide them with the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and explain when they need to wear the protective gear and how to correctly wear it. PPE may include eye protection, hearing protection, safety shoes, dust respirators or gloves. Also, for outside work remind them to use sunscreen and appropriate dress for the work task.
3. Give them clear instructions and explain safety precautions for each task. Review safety features and safe operation for machinery/equipment they may be operating. Review the operator's manual and safety decals with them as a means to recognize hazards. If operating tractors and machinery, prior to any operation as an employer you must provide training.
4. Have the youth repeat your instructions and give them a chance to ask questions. Youth workers lack work experience and may not be comfortable asking questions. If you seem in a rush or disinterested, the youth worker probably won't ask a question.
5. Demonstrate to the youth worker how to perform the task safely and according to your procedures.
6. Watch them perform the task and correct any mistakes.
7. Ask if they have additional questions and continue to supervise their work. Don't let a youth worker take shortcuts and be sure other workers follow safe work practices too.
8. Prepare a youth worker on what to do in case of an emergency. Agriculture has employees working outside and need to be prepared for severe weather. Explain who to call if another employee is injured, where to go for first-aid treatment and how to report an injury or near injury incident. Written directions to your farm or other locations where the youth may be working are beneficial in case of an emergency. Having a worker prepared for emergencies helps reduce your overall business risks too.

For more information on youth employment in agriculture visit <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/agsafety/> or contact the Jackson County Extension Office at (715)284-4257.



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



2019 Coulee Grazier Pasture Walk Schedule

July-Werner Haas, Taylor-12p.m.

August-Jerry and Shirley Wagner, Black River Falls

September-Nate Kling, Taylor

October-TBD

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