

To All Ag Reporter Email Recipients:

Here is your weekly update for ag information. Click on the topic and it will take you directly to that article. In order of appearance:

[Can I Use Corn or Soybeans as a Cover Crop on Prevented Plant Acres?](#)

[New Rule for Forage Production on Prevented Plant Acres](#)

[Tar Spot on My Mind!!!](#)

[Dairy Margin Coverage Program](#)

[Soybean Flowering Fallacy](#)

[Giant Ragweed Management Challenge Plot Tour](#)

[Wisconsin Pest Bulletin](#)

[Can I Use Corn or Soybeans as a Cover Crop on Prevented Plant Acres?](#)

June 20, 2019

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

Office: (608) 265-6514 Email: pdmitchell@wisc.edu Web: <http://www.aae.wisc.edu/mitchell/extension.htm>

As many Wisconsin farmers are taking prevented plant payments for their insured corn or soybeans acres, they are asking what they can use for cover crops on these acres. Traditional cover crop seed is hard to find this year with all the prevented plant acres in the region and farmers already have corn and/or soybean seed. Thus the question: *Can I use corn or soybeans as a cover crop on prevented plant acres?* The short answer is yes, but only if planted sufficiently late and if the cover crop is never harvested for grain or seed. Note that after September 1, a cover crop can be grazed, baled for hay or baled for straw/stover for bedding, or harvested for silage, haylage or baleage, including a corn or soybean corn crop. This bulletin provides guidance to farmers, examining at three options. For agronomic information on corn and soybeans as cover crops, see <https://coolbean.info/2019/06/13/soybean-corn-considered-cover-crop-options-wi/>.

Corn end of late planting



Soybean end of late planting



First, if a farmer takes the full prevented plant indemnity, planting the same crop as a cover crop before the end of the late planting period is not allowed. Instead, the farmer should report it as late planted with a reduced guarantee. For all but northern Wisconsin, June 25 is the end of the late planting period for corn grain, June 30 for corn silage. For soybeans, the late planting period ends on July 5 for the northern two-thirds of Wisconsin and on

July 10 for the southern third. **Therefore, after taking a full prevented plant indemnity, planting corn or soybeans as a cover crop before these dates is not allowed.** These maps show the dates for the end of the late planting

periods for each Wisconsin county. If a farmer wants to plant a cover crop during this period, something other than corn and soybeans should be planted.

Second, if the goal is to harvest forage from prevented plant acres, then farmers should take the partial prevented plant payment (35% of the full payment) and acknowledge forage as the alternative crop. However, on June 20, the RMA announced new rules pertaining to forage production on prevented plant acres that offer better forage production options. Previously, farmers had to wait until after November 1 and could only graze the cover crop or bale it as hay for feed or as straw/stover for bedding. *Now, for 2019 only, they only have to wait until after September 1 and can also chop the cover crop for silage, haylage or balage. These dates and practices are less risky for forage production in Wisconsin and some farmers may want to take advantage of this new option.* Note that farmers can still take the partial prevented plant payment (35% of the full payment) and acknowledge forage as the alternative crop and not worry about the September 1 date. If farmers have questions, they should consult with local agronomic experts for recommended crops for forage production as an alternative crop. Potentially, a full season corn hybrid (105-110 days) planted in early July may be a viable option for corn silage production, but it will not be insurable.

Third, the RMA does not have an official list of approved cover crops. 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."* (<https://www.rma.usda.gov/en/Fact-Sheets/National-Fact-Sheets/Cover-Crops-and-Crop-Insurance>). Thus a local agronomic expert, such as a University of Wisconsin Extension county crops agent, could provide a letter to a farmer and crop insurance agent that corn or soybeans was an acceptable cover crop in their county. Alternatively, a University of Wisconsin Extension state agronomic specialist could provide publically available written guidance on how to use corn or soybeans as a cover crop on prevented plant acres in Wisconsin including recommended agronomic practices. If farmers use corn or soybeans as a cover crop, they should carefully document the destruction of the corn or soybean cover crop (e.g., with dated photographs), that it was not harvested for grain or seed, and if they grazed it, chopped it for silage, or baled it for hay, straw/stover, or baleage, that they did not do so until after September 1, and that was it clearly for bedding or silage. Potentially, this documentation could include a written statement from an Extension county crops agent or other third party expert witness documenting and certifying these activities and their dates. Finally, many farmers have been wondering about the impact of prevented plant acres on USDA support payments. The market facilitation program (MFP) has been announced for 2019, with Secretary Perdue making an official press release on June 10: <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2019/06/10/secretary-perdue-statement-disaster-and-trade-related-assistance>. At this time, it seems that MFP payments will not be made for prevented plant acres (see item 4), but these interpretations can evolve, as MFP is authorized by executive order, not an existing law. Prevented plant payments do not affect Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments. Lastly, how the USDA Farm Service Agency will count prevented plant acres as acres planted for determining base acres is officially unclear and has to be clarified by Congress.

New Rule for Forage Production on Prevented Plant Acres

USDA RMA announced relaxation of the rules restricting forage production on prevented plant acres: <https://www.rma.usda.gov/Policy-and-Procedure/Bulletins-and-Memos/2019/MGR-19-015>

Main point: Farmers only have to wait until after Sept 1 and now can also make silage, haylage or baylage from the cover crop planted on prevented plant acres. Previously, they had to wait until after Nov 1 and could only bale

hay or graze the prevented plant acres. This will help many WI farmers dealing with forage shortages due to low hay stocks, winter kill and the wet spring.

Tar Spot on My Mind!!!

An Article from Damon Smith, UW Plant Pathology Specialist

The Summary

While weather has been conducive for tar spot over the last month, do a little homework and evaluate the likelihood that tar spot might develop early in your field. Remember, if you have no history of the disease, then the likelihood of local inoculum being present is low. Saving the fungicide application for later in the season might be a better option. If you have a history and you know you have a susceptible hybrid coupled with a no-till situation, then the risk is higher and you need to evaluate the economics of doing an application of fungicide as early as V6. Remember, if you do a V6-V8 application of fungicide, conditions could stay conducive later in the season for tar spot. Those early applications will "burn out" but the time the tasseling period rolls around. So if you do put a fungicide spray on at V6, you might have to come back at VT with another application to protect plants during the reproductive phase, should we stay in favorable conditions for tar spot. Keep an eye on the weather and keep scouting!

For the entire article please follow this link: <https://badgercropdoc.com/2019/06/19/tar-spot-mind/>

Dairy Margin Coverage Program

Recommendations from UW-Extension:

- Sign up for 5 year coverage with discount
 - It's a small benefit, but use a "set it and forget it" mentality
- If I'm a smaller farm (less than 250 cows), buy as much production history as I can at \$9.50. It's inexpensive risk management, and it offers good coverage for all your milk production.
- If I'm a medium to large sized farm, buy as much \$9.50 coverage as you can and put the Tier 2 at \$5.00 coverage. You will maximize your Tier 1 payments and you get low cost catastrophic coverage.
 - Consider your additional risk management needs with Dairy-RP, LGM-Dairy, futures or cash forward contracts.
 - There are no restrictions with DMC and other coverages
- Check out the DMC Decision Tool at <https://DairyMarkets.org/Mpp/Tool/>
- Contact George in the Extension Office to go over your options prior to meeting with FSA if you have any questions. 608-742-9682

Sign up by September 20 at the latest. However, the sooner you sign up, (and sign up is underway) the sooner you will get paid!!

[Soybean Flowering Fallacy](#)

Click above for full article.

Coolbeans!

Shawn

Shawn P. Conley
Soybean and Wheat Extension Specialist
Department of Agronomy
University of Wisconsin, Madison
1575 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706
Cell: 608-800-7056
spconley@wisc.edu
<http://www.coolbean.info>

[Giant Ragweed Management Challenge Plot Tour](#)

Free event!



GIANT RAGWEED MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE PLOT TOUR

Giant ragweed was ranked as the 2nd most troublesome weed species in Wisconsin row crop production in our recent survey.

Driving around the state this past growing season, it became clear the impact that giant ragweed has in Wisconsin agriculture!

To learn more about giant ragweed management in corn and soybean, join us for a tour of our research plots showcasing comparison of multiple PRE and POST-emergence herbicide programs. Come prepared to gather your own data on giant ragweed control and collect good images from our studies!

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Rock County Farm, Janesville, WI

Extension Rock County, 3506 N. Highway 51, Building A

Look for field day signs on day of event for parking directions!

Registration, coffee and donuts at 8:30 am

Tour starts at 9 am (concludes by 11:30 am)

RSVP by June 24th

Nick Arneson

njameson@wisc.edu

402-676-1618



SPONSORED BY
College of Agricultural & Life Sciences
Division of Extension



CCAs
2.5 PM credits

Wisconsin Pest Bulletin

Now available at: <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/pb/index.jsp>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LOOKING AHEAD: TRUE ARMYWORM, SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILA, EUROPEAN CORN BORER, WESTERN BEAN CUTWORM, CODLING MOTH, STALK BORER, EASTERN TENT CATERPILLAR

FORAGES & GRAINS: ALFALFA WEEVIL, POTATO LEAFHOPPER, MEADOW SPITTLEBUG, PEA APHID

CORN: CORN ROOTWORM, ROSE CHAFER, STALK BORER, WESTERN BEAN CUTWORM

SOYBEANS: BEAN LEAF BEETLE, ROSE CHAFER, SOYBEAN APHID

FRUITS: ROSE CHAFER, SAN JOSE SCALE, OBLIQUEBANDED LEAFROLLER, SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILA, REDBANDED LEAFROLLER, APPLE MAGGOT

VEGETABLES: POTATO LEAFHOPPER, ZEBRA CATERPILLAR, IMPORTED CABBAGEWORM, SQUASH VINE BORER

NURSERY & FOREST: BOXWOOD BLIGHT, EUONYMUS CATERPILLAR, ROSE SLUG, JUMPING WORMS

DEGREE DAYS:

Krista Hamilton

Entomologist | Bureau of Plant Industry | Division of Agricultural Resource Management

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

(608) 220-7378 Mobile | (866) 440-7523 Pest Hotline

Weekly Emails Online!

<http://columbia.uwex.edu/ag-calendar-and-deadlines/>

The Ag Reporter "Snapshot" is presented to you each week by George Koepp, Columbia County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent. If you have any questions about these articles or need other ag-related information, please contact George at 608-742-9682 or by email george.koepp@ces.uwex.edu.