

To All Ag Reporter Email Recipients:

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Voting Begins for 2019 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections

Eligible Voters to Receive Ballots Week of Nov. 4

WASHINGTON, October 31, 2019 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin mailing ballots on November 4 to eligible farmers and ranchers across the country for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee elections.

“Our county committee members play a key role in our efforts to provide assistance to producers,” said FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce. “We value the local input of the over 7,000 members nationwide who provide their valuable knowledge and judgment as decisions are made about the services we provide, including disaster and emergency programs.”

To be counted, ballots must be returned to the local FSA county office or postmarked by December 2.

Each committee has three to 11 elected members who serve three-year terms of office. One-third of county committee seats are up for election each year. Newly elected committee members will take office January 1, 2020. County committee members help FSA make important decisions on its commodity support programs, conservation programs, indemnity and disaster programs, and emergency programs and eligibility.

Producers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program to be eligible to vote in the county committee election. Producers who supervise and conduct the farming operations of an entire farm, but are not of legal voting age, also may be eligible to vote.

Producers can find out if their local administrative area is up for election and if they are eligible to vote by contacting their local FSA county office. Eligible voters who did not receive a ballot in the mail can pick one up at their local FSA county office. Visit fsa.usda.gov/elections for more information.

Reducing Weed Problems for 2020

George Koepp, Columbia County Extension Ag Educator

I realize that spring planting was delayed, growing degree days were short this summer, fields are wet, and now snow and cold have added to your harvest challenges. Time is of the essence, and when you get days to harvest, you want to go, go, go.

Please keep safety in the front of your minds at all times. This includes your personal safety, the safety of family members and workers, and the safety of other people on the road where you may travel with large machines and grain hauling equipment.

Secondly, don't let your rush to harvest fields end up causing you major weed challenges in 2020. We already have major challenges with giant ragweed and waterhemp in many soybean and corn fields. It is even showing up in hay fields. You need to be vigilant so that you do not spread it any further or worse yet spread waterhemp's more powerful and highly reproductive relative Palmer Amaranth throughout your fields. If waterhemp is a problem in your fields, spreading Palmer Amaranth is much worse.

Do yourself a huge favor and take 30 minutes to clean your combine, tillage equipment, or planters before you move from a field that is infested with these nasty weeds. Here are some quick pointers from Dan Smith, Pest Management Specialist, on combine cleaning that can save you major headaches in the future. Take 30 minutes or less with a leaf blower or compressed air to do this cleaning after a weedy field and before you move to a new field.

Wear Personal Protective Equipment:

- P100 or N95 dust mask or better
- Safety glasses or an approved face shield
- Long sleeves, pants, cap and gloves

Most important areas of a combine to be cleaned (places where weed seeds hide)

1. Feeder house
2. Rock trap
3. Rotor, concaves, and grain cleaning area
4. Grain Tank
5. Wheel treads or tracks

Spending 30 minutes now, even in the rush to complete harvest will help to reduce tillage costs to bury weed seeds and chemicals to kill weeds next growing season. Don't make your weed challenges worse next year by being the vector that moves weed seeds from field to field.

[Mark Your Calendar for the Columbia County Corn Growers Meeting](#)

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Club 60, W2164 State Road 60, Columbus, WI

Contact Jennifer Evans to register by Friday, December 13. 608-742-9687 or jennifer.evans@co.columbia.wi.us

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| 8:00 | Registration |
| 8:30 | Welcome and Sponsor Recognition – Garry Gard |
| 8:40 | Land and Water Conservation Update – Kurt Calkins |
| 8:55 | NRCS Update – Twyla Kite |
| 9:10 | FSA Update – Lexie Meyer |

- 9:25 UW Extension – George Koepp
- 9:40 Waterhemp Management and Prevent Plant Acres Management for 2020
Rodrigo Werle, UW Weed Specialist
- 10:20 Break
- 10:30 Soybeans – Sudden Death and White Mold - Damon Smith, UW Plant
Pathologist
- 11:15 Grain Marketing – Presenter TBD
- 11:55 Announcements and Sponsors Thank you
- 12:00 Lunch and networking with our sponsors and growers

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@wisc.edu.