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Columbia County Extension Office Closed May 22-25.

All UW-Extension Educators will be on Furlough on Friday, May 22. That means no work, no emails, no phone calls, and no pay for that day. It is a way to cut costs for the University of Wisconsin. Most Extension Educators will experience three more of these days throughout the summer. Monday, May 25 is Memorial Day, so the Extension office and all County Offices will be closed. The Extension Office will be open again on Tuesday, May 26 and look forward to assisting with your agricultural questions. Please continue to contact George at 608-742-9682 or george.koepp@wisc.edu. Phone messages and emails are checked multiple times per day and he will respond as soon as possible.

Please continue to be safe.

General COVID-19 guidelines and resources

- [COVID-19 Information](#) from WI DHS.
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
- Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content and have it available for all participants.
- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve/elbow.
- Avoid direct contact such as shaking hands, embracing individuals, or putting yourself or others in close contact with one another.
- Between events be sure to use Clorox wipes or something similar to wipe down furniture, doorknobs, tables, chairs, and any other spaces that may retain the COVID-19 virus.
- Provide significant spacing (at least 6 feet) between participants and presenters – if you have lines of individuals consider putting tape on the floor to delineate individual spaces.

USDA Announces Details of Direct Assistance to Farmers through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced details of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which will provide up to \$16 billion in direct payments to deliver relief to America's farmers and ranchers impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to this direct support to farmers and ranchers, USDA's Farmers to Families Food

Box<[program is partnering with regional and local distributors, whose workforces have been significantly impacted by the closure of many restaurants, hotels, and other food service entities, to purchase \\$3 billion in fresh produce, dairy, and meat and deliver boxes to Americans in need.](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljaylslmJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiaWJyMDA1MTkuMjE3NDkwOTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5hbXMudXNkYS5nb3Yvc2VsbGluZy1mb29kLXRvLXVzZGEvZmFybWVycy10by1mYW1pbGllcy1mb29kLWJveD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.0rfy_whAVwW-7yPX4VJXjy48LrgiZD9ksVT5aygy9yc/br/78849283387-l></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Beginning May 26, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), will be accepting applications from agricultural producers who have suffered losses.

Background:

CFAP provides vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs as a result of lower demand, surplus production, and disruptions to shipping patterns and the orderly marketing of commodities.

Farmers and ranchers will receive direct support, drawn from two possible funding sources. The first source of funding is \$9.5 billion in appropriated funding provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act to compensate farmers for losses due to price declines that occurred between mid-January 2020, and mid-April 2020 and provides support for specialty crops for product that had been shipped from the farm between the same time period but subsequently spoiled due to loss of marketing channels. The second funding source uses the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act to compensate producers for \$6.5 billion in losses due to on-going market disruptions.

Non-Specialty Crops and Wool

Non-specialty crops eligible for CFAP payments include malting barley, canola, corn, upland cotton, millet, oats, soybeans, sorghum, sunflowers, durum wheat, and hard red spring wheat. Wool is also eligible. Producers will be paid based on inventory subject to price risk held as of January 15, 2020. A payment will be made based 50 percent of a producer's 2019 total production or the 2019 inventory as of January 15, 2020, whichever is smaller, multiplied by the commodity's applicable payment rates.

Livestock

Livestock eligible for CFAP include cattle, lambs, yearlings and hogs. The total payment will be calculated using the sum of the producer's number of livestock sold between January 15 and April 15, 2020, multiplied by the payment rates per head, and the highest inventory number of livestock between April 16 and May 14, 2020, multiplied by the payment rate per head.

Dairy

For dairy, the total payment will be calculated based on a producer's certification of milk production for the first quarter of calendar year 2020 multiplied by a national price decline during the same quarter. The second part of the payment is based on a national adjustment to each producer's production in the first quarter.

Specialty Crops

For eligible specialty crops, the total payment will be based on the volume of production sold between January 15 and April 15, 2020; the volume of production shipped, but unpaid; and the number of acres for which harvested production did not leave the farm or mature product destroyed or not harvested during that same time period, and which have not and will not be sold. Specialty crops include, but are not limited to, almonds, beans, broccoli, sweet corn, lemons, iceberg lettuce, spinach, squash, strawberries and tomatoes. A full list of eligible crops can be found on

farmers.gov/cfap<https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJldWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpiYjBGljaylslmJ1bGxldGluX2lkjoiMjAyMDA1MTkuMjE3NDkwOTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L2NmYXA_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWVpY291cmNlPWdvdmlRbGl2ZXJ5In0.1WAUA8O4Mugk5pCsPov4stYiSezQciEGaRSAPrd0ogE/br/78849283387-l>. Additional crops may be deemed eligible at a later date.

Eligibility

There is a payment limitation of \$250,000 per person or entity for all commodities combined. Applicants who are corporations, limited liability companies or limited partnerships may qualify for additional payment limits where members actively provide personal labor or personal management for the farming operation. Producers will also have to certify they meet the Adjusted Gross Income limitation of \$900,000 unless at least 75 percent or more of their income is derived from farming, ranching or forestry-related activities. Producers must also be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions.

Applying for Assistance

Producers can apply for assistance beginning on May 26, 2020. Additional information and application forms can be found at

farmers.gov/cfap<https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJldWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpiYjBGljaylslmJ1bGxldGluX2lkjoiMjAyMDA1MTkuMjE3NDkwOTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L0NGQVA_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWVpY291cmNlPWdvdmlRbGl2ZXJ5In0.Yurgk_Wt1QekS-l1qxowqiwoFtoRiYxfvZK8fBS0t4g/br/78849283387-l>. Producers of all eligible commodities will apply through their local FSA office. Documentation to support the producer's application and certification may be requested. FSA has streamlined the signup process to not require an acreage report at the time of application and a USDA farm number may not be immediately needed. Applications will be accepted through August 28, 2020.

Payment Structure

To ensure the availability of funding throughout the application period, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remaining portion of the payment, not to exceed the payment limit, will be paid at a later date as funds remain available.

USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only, and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing

to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus <[Questions?](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxzZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpbGljaylsmJ1bGxldGluX2lkjoiMjAyMDA1MTkuMjE3NDkwOTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lc nMuZ292L2Nvc m9uYXZpcnVzP3V0bV9tZW RpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.zNP1Gf YLqn4yZEdsvdXeNU43t_8i3rwFNfc21mNRXGU/br/78849283387-l>.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Please contact your local FSA

2020 Lodi Agricultural Fair is Cancelled

The Lodi Agricultural Fair has been a strong community tradition for more than 154 years. The fair provides an opportunity to showcase and share agriculture in a four-day, family-fun event, while supporting our local youth clubs and non-profit organizations. Thanks to an army of dedicated volunteers, the fair gates open to thousands of visitors, exhibitors, volunteers and first responders each year who become our Lodi Fair community.

It is with deep concern for the health and public safety of our Lodi Fair community that the Lodi Agricultural Fair Board announces the cancellation of the 2020 Lodi Agricultural Fair, which was to be held July 9-12, 2020. We have been communicating with our county health officials, state and national fair associations and others in the fair industry for the most current COVID-19 information available. The health and safety of all people associated with every aspect of our fair are top priorities. We thank you for your understanding. Please know this cancellation has been the most difficult decision our fair board has ever faced.

Fairs are all about bringing people together, but planning for the safety of thousands of people, including keeping all areas of the fair as clean as possible and practicing social distancing, we soon realized it would be too great of a challenge to host the same high quality event for all to enjoy.

We look forward to bringing our Lodi Fair Community back together in 2021! Please mark your calendars for our 155 Lodi Agricultural Fair to be held July 8-11, 2021

Terry Quam

Lodi Agricultural Fair Board President

2020 Columbia County Fair Cancelled

May 20, 2020

Every year since the 1850s, the Columbia County Fair has joined with the people of Columbia County to provide a place to gather with friends and family to catch up with each other. The mission and purpose of the Columbia County Fair Association has been to promote the interests of agriculture, household economy and the industrial, mechanical and cultural arts through its annual fair and its exhibits. It provides an arena to showcase the efforts of both junior and open class exhibitors.

After contact and consultation with the city of Portage and the Columbia County Health and Human Services department, the fair board of directors met to discuss the future of the 2020 Columbia County Fair. After consideration of the health, financial and societal issues surrounding the Covid-19 Global Pandemic, it is with an extreme deal of sadness and regret that the difficult decision to cancel the Columbia County Fair scheduled for July 22-26, 2020 was made.

We fully realize how Covid-19 has had negative effects on big moments, experiences and milestones in all of our lives. The cancellation of the fair brings a great deal of disappointment to those people who plan, attend, exhibit, participate and support the fair. However the safety and well-being of all involved are of utmost importance. The difficulties encountered in social distancing, limiting the number of attendees, maintaining a high level of sanitization and insuring a safe and healthy experience as well as the liability involved were huge.

The Columbia County Fair Association is so grateful and appreciative for all the effort and support from everyone who has had a part in the planning of the 2020 Columbia County Fair, no matter how large or small. It was one of the most difficult decisions that the board of directors had to make. We wish everyone good health and thank you for your support during this time. We are going to work hard on the 2021 fair making it one to remember to celebrate our past traditions and to make new memories at the 2021 Columbia County Fair scheduled for July 21-25, 2021.

Thank you,

Paul Becker, President of the Columbia County Fair

Dairy Situation and Outlook, May 20, 2020

By Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Milk price forecasts can change rather dramatically from one month to another. This is the situation between the April price forecast and the May forecast. In April it looked like the May Class III price would be about \$11.00. The particularly good news is that it now looks like the May Class III price will be more than \$2.00 higher near \$12.35. This increase is the result of unexpected rather strong rally in cheese prices. On the CME since the beginning of May barrel cheese increased by \$0.66 per pound and 40-pound blocks by \$0.72. Since the beginning of May butter has increased \$0.45 per pound and nonfat dry milk \$0.20. But since the increase has been mostly since the past 10 trading sessions the May Class IV price will also be higher than forecasted in April, but only about \$10.65 versus \$10.15.

Questions are what has driven this unexpected increase in dairy product prices, and will these increase hold? The low dairy product prices earlier were driven primarily from a loss in demand due to the impact of COVID-19 closing of restaurants and food service. Since then retail sales of butter and cheese has increased but only partially offsetting the loss in restaurants and food service. Further restaurants in some states are slowly reopening. On May 4 USDA announced there will be an additional \$120 million of Section 32 purchases of dairy products with delivery in July. Also, as Part of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, USDA will purchase at least \$317 million of dairy products for the Farmers to Families Food Box Program with delivery from May 15 through June 30. And through the Food Purchase and Distribution Program USDA plans to purchase \$68 million

in dairy products to mitigate the impact on farmers of unjustified trade retaliation by foreign nations. Another major factor is a slowdown in milk production as dairy farmers attempt to lower their milk production through means such as culling of dairy cows, change in feeding, drying cows off earlier, going from 3 times of day milking to 2 times. Also, some dairy cooperatives asked some dairy producers to dump some milk.

Milk production did slow down in April, 1.4% higher than a year ago compared to 2.8% higher in March. Milk cow numbers fell by 4,000 head from March to April but were still 0.5% higher than a year ago. The increase in milk per cow declined being up just 0.9% compared to an increase of 2.2% in March. This perhaps reflects the attempt by dairy producers to reduce milk production. Compared to last year milk production was just modestly higher in California, up 0.3% and Minnesota up 0.4% with production unchanged in Wisconsin, down 0.3% in New Mexico and 1.0% in Florida. Milk production was around 1.6% higher in Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, and Iowa. Relatively strong increases were in Idaho up 6.3%, South Dakota 6.6%, Colorado 7.1%, Texas 4.9%, and Kansas 4.4%. Each of these states had added milk cows with 29,000 head in Idaho, 6,000 in South Dakota, 12,000 in Colorado, 28,000 in Texas and 7,000 in Kansas.

What can we expect for milk prices for the remainder of the year? Right now, Class III and Class IV dairy futures are quite optimistic. June and July Class III futures are in the \$17's and in the \$16's for the remainder of the year. Class IV futures reach the \$14's by July and in the \$15's November and December. But for these prices to materialize milk production needs to continue to slow down, domestic demand needs to increase through the opening of restaurants and food service and dairy exports need to hold up. USDA is forecasting milk production for the year to be up 1.6% (Leap Year adjusted) from an average of 0.2% more milk cows and 1.3% more milk per cow. This level of milk production requires good exports to hold up prices. Thus far exports have held up. In March exports were above year-ago for the seventh straight month. Southeast Asia continues to be the main source of growth. According the US Dairy Export Council in the first quarter, the value of U.S. exports to the region were up 54% from a year ago, led by a 40% increase in skim milk powder and a 27% increase in cheese volume. However, there is a concern with exports to Mexico, U.S. largest export market. Mexico's economy is struggling, and the peso has fallen sharply making U.S. dairy products more expensive to Mexico. On the positive side U.S. dairy product prices are competitive on the world market and neither of the two leading dairy exporters, EU or New Zealand are expected to have increased products to export.

There is a lot of uncertainty as to where milk prices end up for the remainder of the year. But the outlook now appears more optimistic than a month earlier. However, USDA's latest forecast is not overly optimistic. They forecast an average Class III price of \$13.35 compared to \$16.96 last year, Class IV of \$11.90 compared to \$16.30 last year and an All Milk Price of \$14.55 compared to \$18.63 last year. The way things look right now milk prices will end up better than this. Current Class III futures offer an opportunity to protect profitable milk prices. Dairy producers may want to consider some price protection such as the use of the Dairy Revenue Protection Program, cash forward contracting with their milk buyer or purchasing put options.

Post Emergence Corn and Soybean Herbicide Restrictions for Broadcast Applications

RODRIGO WERLE, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON CROPPING SYSTEMS WEED SCIENTIST AND EXTENSION SPECIALIST

Favorable spring weather has given Wisconsin farmers a great start to the season with a fair amount of corn and soybean acres planted already. The recent trend in warmer temperatures will also lead to weed germination and emergence. However, the lack of significant rain events over recent weeks has left fields that

had PRE-emergence herbicides applied without the moisture necessary for activation. This will likely result in weed escapes and place additional pressure on POST-emergence herbicides. In anticipation for heavy reliance on early POST applications to control troublesome weeds in corn and soybean, the Cropping Systems Weed Science program put together a handy guide for over-the-top broadcast application windows of commonly used POST herbicides in corn and soybean.

The application window tables ([CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#); Table 1 – Corn, Table 2 – Soybean) were generated based on information obtained from each of the product's label. For additional information on recommended adjuvants and tank mix partners consult individual product labels and/or your local agronomist.

When selecting a POST herbicide program, it is important to consider the weed species present, weed height, and crop growth and/or height.

Inclusion of specific products does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement. Always read, follow, and understand the pesticide label. *The label is the law.*

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-Madison 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.