

# Columbia County Ag Reporter

September/October 2020



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
COLUMBIA COUNTY

## WHAT'S INSIDE...

Agricultural newsletter for Columbia  
County landowners and residents

### This issue's highlighted articles:

- ◆ Calendar of Events (pg. 2)
- ◆ Cover Crops following Corn Silage in WI (pg. 5)
- ◆ Columbia County Land & Water Dept. Updates (pgs. 10-11)
- ◆ Dairy Situation & Outlook (pgs. 12-13)
- ◆ NRCS News (pgs. 14-15)
- ◆ USDA News (pgs. 16-18)

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## Ag Reporter Calendar of Events

### September

All Month—Watch for On-line Seminars and Virtual Field Days

- 4 George on Furlough—No calls, no emails...
- 7 Extension Office Closed for the Holiday
- 9 Badger Crop Connect Webinar—Winter Wheat & Combine Cleaning
- 22 First day of Fall
- 23 Badger Crop Connect Webinar—Topics TBA
- 30 FSA PLC Yield Updates Deadline

### October

- 12 Columbus Day
- Indigenous People's Day
- 31 Halloween

### November

- 1 Daylight Savings Ends
- 3 Election Day—Be sure to vote!
- 11 Veteran's Day—Be sure to thank a Veteran!

UW-Madison, Division of Extension is committed to keeping people safe during the coronavirus pandemic. We are receiving guidance from UW-Madison about the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to determine what types of programming we may perform during the following month. Currently, we are restricted to only hold meetings of 10 or less people and must secure permission from our Area Extension Directors in order to hold these events. Special safety plans must be in place for meetings to take place. Watch for more up to the minute changes in the Friday "Ag Reporter Snapshot" electronic newsletter.



The Columbia County **Ag Calendar and Deadlines** webpage is located at

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

Columbia County Extension  
Office Hours - 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Sarah Millard, Administrative Assistant, is in the office Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, her normal working hours. Guidance from UW-Madison is allowing Extension Educators to slowly return to the office on a limited basis. We must continue social distancing, wear facemasks when meeting the public and may not have more than two Educators in the office at a time. Columbia County Extension Educators are taking turns coming to the office to keep the office open until 4:30 pm to serve our county residents. At other times we continue to work remotely using appropriate technology.

George is able to make farm visits again. He needs to complete a programming request form and obtain permission from the Area Extension Director. This takes a couple of days to complete so please understand and be patient. We are doing our best to keep our clients, the public, and our Educators safe from Covid 19. It will take awhile to get back to normal, or to whatever the new normal might be.

Columbia County Extension is still only a phone call or email away. That has not changed. We are still able to provide up to date, University research based answers and advice in a timely manner.



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
COLUMBIA COUNTY

## Private Pesticide Applicator Testing

Do you need to update your Private Pesticide Applicator License for 2020? Due to Covid 19, farmers that were due to have their licenses renewed this year were given an extra grace period. We have the materials here in Columbia County for you to purchase and can schedule a time with you to take the exam. No trainings are being provided at this time. You may purchase the materials, do the self-study, and then take the exam. Call Sarah or George at the Extension office to make arrangements,

**608-742-9680.**

We are still working on plans for training & testing opportunities for the 2021 season. Watch the November/December Ag Reporter for details on Pesticide Applicator Training for 2021. We may be providing some on-line training and then schedule several testing times.



## Fall Cover Crop Notes from Badger Crop Connect

Consider using cover crops following corn silage or following grain crops such as corn and soybeans. It is almost a no brainer to follow winter wheat. There are challenges to this practice, but what part of farming is not challenging.

Seeding choice options for planting fall cover crops after corn silage or corn grain and soybeans are much smaller than when planting cover crops after winter wheat or some other small grain. There are fewer heat units (growing degree days) left in the fall. Most often the best choices are winter rye or triticale. Both of these provide some growth in the fall, but also green up quicker in the spring and provide some soil erosion protection during spring rains. They also produce more root biomass to increase soil organic matter than other choices.

Winter rye and triticale also provide you with the option of terminating the cover crop in spring prior to planting or letting it grow a little longer, harvest the forage, and then plant corn or soybeans. This decision should really be made in the fall prior to planting because the seeding rates will be higher if you intend to harvest a forage crop off in the spring. If you are merely looking for a fall, winter, spring cover crop you can get by with 40-60# of pure live seed per acre drilled. If you are planning to harvest some forage in the spring then you should increase the seeding rate to 90-110# pounds per acre. Seeding with a broadcast spreader or airplane also requires a little higher seeding rate.

Another consideration is if you plan to put manure on the field in the fall, especially after corn silage. The UW recommendation is moving to plant the cover crop first, and then apply the manure, especially if you are doing a surface application or using low disturbance injection.

“Planting Winter Rye after Corn Silage: Managing for Forage” is a nice fact-sheet to help you understand the process and help you achieve better results. It can be found on-line at: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/forage/planting-winter-rye-after-corn-silage-managing-for-forage/> If you do not have computer access, contact George and he will get a copy of the document to you.

If you have never used cover crops, try a few acres this fall, then plan for a few more next year. Just like moving to a no-till system, it take practice. The more you practice, the better you get at it. Cover crops help to hold the soil in place and they keep living roots in the soil for a longer period of the growing season thereby helping to improve the health of your soil. And, what farmer doesn't want that to happen? Give George a call if you have any questions.

## HARVEST SAFETY

As we move into the major portion of our harvest season, we need to keep safety in the forefront of our thinking. This is important for every day, every hour, and every task.

Yes, hay has been harvested, along with oats, wheat and several other crops. Corn silage harvest has begun in earnest and will continue for many farms, which will blend into high moisture shelled corn, soybeans, and finishing up with dry corn. Harvest safety is important to all people, the farmers that are working at this task, family members, other rural dwellers, as well as anyone else driving in the country while harvest is taking place. Visitors to the country don't always recognize the dangers of driving near large farm equipment and are often impatient and in a hurry. Even if you have the right of way, no-one wins in an accident.

Take care of yourself, eat well and rest well to avoid fatigue. Covid-19 is still around us, so don't let your guard down. Maintain social distancing, wash your hands often, use hand sanitizer, and wear a mask when appropriate. Getting sick from Covid-19 will really slow your harvest down.

Be sure all safety lights, equipment markings, running lights, and other safety mechanisms are in working order before the fall rush begins. Then, check these items daily to make sure they are still in working condition. Review all safety recommendations from your equipment's owners manuals as a refresher each year. We want everyone to have a safe harvest season as we move crops from the fields into the storage structures this fall.



## Fall Soil Sampling - The perfect time!

Soil testing is an effective method for reliably predicting fertilizer and lime needs before crops are planted. It is a good business practice, one that can provide a high return for the investment of a few dollars per acre. The UW Soils lab charges \$8 per sample to process samples. UW-Extension recommends sampling at the rate of one sample for every five acres. This works out to eight samples for a 40 acre field and should be completed every four years.

Soil testing can help farmers increase their profitability by indicating fields where fertilizer or lime applications can improve crop yields. It can also identify fields where soil nutrient levels are already high, so that only minimal amounts of fertilizer, if any, should be applied. They can help you determine how to most profitably allocate your fertilizer dollars. They also indicate which fields will respond the best to manure applications.

Routine analysis of soil samples includes plant available phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) levels, organic matter content (%), and soil pH. The best time to take soil samples is in the fall, in order to get results back in time to plan for the next cropping season. In spring, you usually have to wait for the ground to thaw in order to take proper samples, and then wait for your results in order to make proper soil fertility applications.

The Columbia County Extension Office has all you need to collect and mail in your samples to the UW Soils Lab in Marshfield. We have soil sample bags, all the forms you need and will even loan you a soil sampling probe for your use.

Please, just call ahead  
**608-742-9680**, so that we can have everything ready for you when you arrive at our office.



## NEW ONLINE PASTURE MANAGEMENT COURSE

*Based off of 25 years of Pasture Management taught at UW Madison*

The pasture management course is a training program in basic cool-season pasture management and guides the creation of a personalized pasture management plan.

Through eleven video recorded lectures, you'll learn about

- ◆ pasture establishment
- ◆ water systems
- ◆ animal requirements
- ◆ and more!

For more information about the course, contact Nadia Alber at [nalber@wisc.edu](mailto:nalber@wisc.edu) or call at (608)924-1154 or visit [www.wsbdf.wisc.edu/program-offerings/](http://www.wsbdf.wisc.edu/program-offerings/)

## Lake Wisconsin Farmer Led Watershed Council

Several farmers from the Lodi and West Point Townships have been meeting to organize a Lake Wisconsin Farmer Led Watershed Council. A core group of farmers has been meeting, discussing, and working to complete an application for a grant from WI DATCP for 2021 to help them organize effectively and to begin improving on-farm practices that reduce soil erosion, improve nutrient management, and work to improve surface water quality. Two of their early areas of interest include encouraging farmers to use more cover crops and to implement low disturbance manure injection when possible.

Columbia County Extension and Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department are assisting farmers in the townships surrounding Lake Wisconsin in developing a farmer led watershed protection group. This group has chosen to work with farmers in a HUC-10 Watershed area that includes the townships of West Point, Lodi, Dekorra, and part of Caledonia (south side of the Baraboo Bluff). It also includes the villages of Lodi, Poynette, and Merrimac in Sauk County. If you farm in this area and are interested in working with a Farmer Led Watershed Council, please contact Joe Benish, Craig Carncross, Todd Rietmann or George Koepp.



COLUMBIA  
COUNTY

By Kurt Calkins, Director of Columbia County  
Land & Water Conservation

## Land & Water Conservation Department Updates

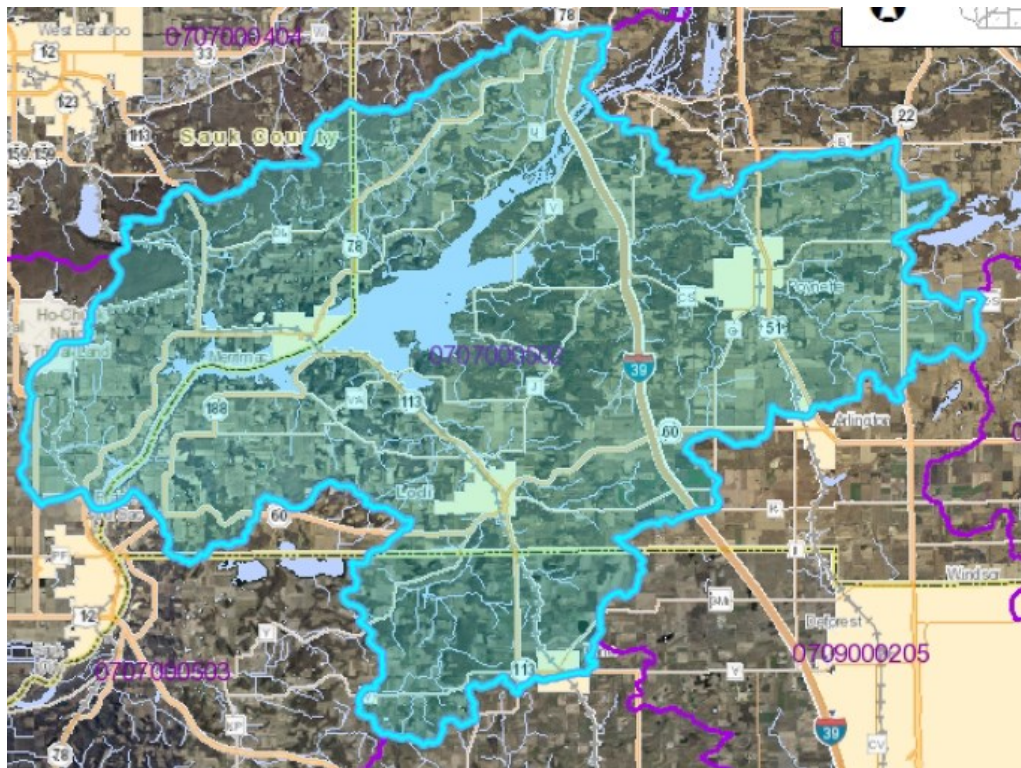
### Fall 2020

**2020-2021 Columbia County LWCD Tree Sales Program:** The Columbia County Tree Sales Program for 2020-2021 will begin in November, the order forms should reach everyone on our mailing list by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November. You will be able to find the order form online, mid-November, at: <http://www.co.columbia.wi.us/columbiacounty/lwcd/TreeProgram> or you can contact our office to receive a tree order. Our 2021 Tree pick-up day is tentatively scheduled for April 22, 2021. If you want to be added onto the mailing list, please contact us at 608-742-9670. Thanks for your continued support.

**LWRM Plan Revision** – On June 1<sup>st</sup>, the State Land & Water Conservation Board approved the 2021-2030 LWRM plan. The final plan is available on our website at this link: <https://www.co.columbia.wi.us/columbiacounty/lwcd/LandWaterHome/Programs/LandWaterResourceManagement/tabid/742/Default.aspx>

**Classroom Instruction So You Can Write and Maintain Your Own Nutrient Management Plan:** We are happy to report that Columbia County Land & Water Conservation Department has been awarded a 2021 Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant from DATCP. This grant allows us to run a series of winter training classes for landowners who want to learn to develop their own 590 Nutrient Management Plan. In addition to providing an opportunity to develop your first plan, we will again be offering a chance to complete a review and update of your existing plan. This cooperative opportunity between UWEX, Columbia County LWCD, NRCS and DATCP will again allow landowner the opportunity to learn to develop their own Nutrient Management Plan that will meet the 590 NMP standard.

This grant for nutrient management farmer education training allows us to provide class attendance incentives along with soil testing stipend. Landowners could be eligible for first time plan developments stipends greater than \$1000. Having current soil tests is an important first step to being prepared to participate in the class. Watch the November/December Ag Reporter for more updated class information. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity and **want to get on the registration list** contact the Land & Water Conservation Department @ (608) 742-9670. If you have any nutrient management plans or checklists you wish to email to our office, please send to [ColumbiaNMP590@co.columbia.wi.us](mailto:ColumbiaNMP590@co.columbia.wi.us). If you wish to reach Sam you can call our general office number or his email is [Samuel.Peterson@co.columbia.wi.us](mailto:Samuel.Peterson@co.columbia.wi.us).



## Land & Water Conservation Department Updates

### LWCD Specialist Replacement

Columbia County Land & Water Conservation Department welcomes a new specialist, Sam Peterson, who replaced Harold McElroy, who recently retired. Sam's main focus will be working with Nutrient Management Plans and allocating cost-share funds to area producers, along with a variety of other programs. He believes nutrient management is important because it can be cost-efficient, improves water quality, and enhances soil health. If you have been working with Harold on any projects, please contact Sam to discuss and continue with your projects.

**Cost-Sharing Available for Nutrient Management Planning:** The Columbia County LWCD has cost-sharing available through DATCP to help landowners develop a 590 Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). If you are a landowner or a producer that does not have a 590 NMP, or currently has a 590 NMP, but you have not received cost sharing from our department in the past, please contact us to help you get a plan and cost-sharing. Our department can offer you up to \$40/acre (\$10/Acre over 4 years), to help cover the costs of soil samples and a certified planner. In the coming weeks, we will be sending out a targeted mailing postcard to landowners in certain townships that we believe can improve nutrient management. However, the cost-sharing is available county-wide. This funding is accessible through the end of the year and it will be on a first come, first served basis. If the funding for 2020 runs out, you will be put on a list to contact for 2021. Cost share funds for 2020, can be contracted this year and carried over via extension till 2021. The cost sharing funds are made available thru DATCP funding to help us work with producers to bring them into compliance with the requirement to develop and maintain a 590 NMP plan on all agricultural lands. We currently have about 57% of our agricultural lands under certified 590 NMP plans. We will continue to be committed to our goal of working with landowners to develop and maintain plans on all ag lands in Columbia County. Please contact Sam Peterson or Todd Rietmann at LWCD to discuss these opportunities further.

### Water Test Kits Available

Columbia County Extension Office is a distributor for water test kits. It is suggested that you have your water tested every 15 months to 3 years.

- Homeowner's Package consists of 8 common household analyses.
- Metal Package is recommended if your water tastes, smells or looks funny or if your home's plumbing was installed prior to 1986.
- Triazine Screen is recommended if there is pesticide application or agricultural land close to your well, it is suggested you do this screening periodically.

Kits for the Homeowner's Package are available free at the Extension office. Kits for Metal or Triazine are available by calling the lab (877) 383-8378. Kits are sent to the lab along with payment.



## Dairy Situation and Outlook, August 19, 2020

Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus  
University of Wisconsin - Madison

In mid-April on the CME 40-pound cheddar blocks were \$1.00 per pound. But prices rallied with blocks setting a new record in June at \$2.81 per pound and continued to increase setting another record at \$3.00 per pound on July 13<sup>th</sup>. But \$3.00 per pound lasted just one day with prices falling ever since. Blocks were \$2.2350 per pound the end of July and averaged \$2.6466 for the month. Cheddar barrels were also a low of \$1.00 per pound in April, reach \$2.425 in June and \$2.465 in July but fell to \$2.235 the end of July averaging \$2.408 for the month. These price changes resulted in the Class III price to increase from \$12.14 in May to \$21.04 in June and \$24.54 in July.

Unfortunately, milk prices are headed lower with the August Class III around \$19.45 and possibly heading to the \$16's for the remainder of the year. Both 40-pound cheddar blocks and cheddar barrels have weakened considerably. The 40-pound cheddar blocks got as low as \$1.58 per pound and are now \$1.71. Cheddar barrels are now \$1.375. Unless prices strengthen some Class III could fall below \$16. Current Class III September futures are \$15.41. What has changed since June and July to result in lower cheese prices? On the supply side milk production declined 0.5% in May and was up just 0.8% in June as dairy cooperatives implemented base excess plans on their producers. But dairy producers have responded to the higher milk prices in May and June. July milk production was 1.5% higher than a year ago. After cow numbers declined for 4 months July cow numbers increased by 2,000 head and were 0.4% higher than a year ago. Milk per cow improved being 1.1% higher than a year ago.

But several things happened on the demand side. The bright spot is home consumption of dairy products has and continues to run well above year ago levels. Restaurants partially reopened and there was a need to buy cheese and replenish their stocks. But in July the surge in the coronavirus resulted in restaurants being instructed to cut back on their openings. It also looks like food service will be negatively impacted as many schools and colleges open this fall with virtual learning, high school and college fall sports being cancelled, professional sports to have no fans in the stands and conferences and other major



## Dairy Situation and Outlook (Con't.)

events being cancelled. These moves hurt beverage milk, cheese and butter sales. Under the Farmers to Families Food Box program that operated from May 15<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> the government purchased a lot of cheese. The second round of Farmers to Families Food Box program is operating from July 1 to August 31<sup>st</sup> but the amount of cheese purchased will be reduced.

Demand was also boosted by higher dairy exports in May and June. With the exception of butter nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder and cheese were below world market prices in May and early June. World customers took advantage of these lower prices and increased purchases. May dairy product exports were the most in two years with record exports of nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder, improved exports of cheese and whey products. June exports were up 28% by volume from a year ago. Cheese exports were a record for any given month, nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder exports were up 77%, butterfat exports 15% higher and total whey products 8% higher with dry whey 41% higher as China purchases more whey products as they restock their swine herd following last year's African Swine Fever outbreak. But July exports may have been lower, particularly for cheese as June and July prices were well above world prices.

There remains a lot of uncertainty as to where milk prices are headed for the remainder of the year and for next year. Until the coronavirus comes much more under control and things return more to normal the demand for dairy products will be depressed. Dairy exports could continue to do fairly well as U.S. prices have now come more competitive with world prices. Also, world milk production in other major exporters continues to increase at a relatively slow rate which could give U.S. opportunities for more exports. But with the worldwide spread of the coronavirus there is a concern worldwide recession could dampen demand. The level of U.S. milk production will be very important. USDA is forecasting 2021 milk production to increase 1.9%, adjusted for leap year in 2020, the result of just 0.1% more milk cows and 1.8% more milk per cow. If this materializes, it will take favorable dairy exports to support higher milk prices.

### 2018 PLATBOOK CLOSEOUT

**WAS \$30 NOW \$25**

**UNTIL SOLD OUT**

**AVAILABLE AT THE COLUMBIA COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE**

**(\$27.50 - EXTENSION WILL SHIP)**

## Learn about Popular Conservation Practices through USDA Video Series

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service unveiled the *Conservation at Work* video series in early 2020. The series consists of short videos that highlight common conservation practices being implemented around the country.

### Conservation — AT WORK — Video Series

REAL STORIES. REAL SUCCESSES. REAL QUICK

The videos shine the spotlight on farmers, ranchers and forestland owners from across the U.S. who tell us their conservation stories, and how practices are helping them protect and improve resources and save time and money.

"By sharing the conservation successes of our customers, we hope the videos will help educate our customers and the general public and motivate more farmers and landowners to consider conservation," said Wisconsin NRCS State Conservationist Angela Biggs.

Some of the videos you might find helpful in Wisconsin involve cover crops, forest stand improvement, brush management, high tunnels, grassed waterways, nutrient management, prescribed grazing, and many more. The *Conservation at Work* video series can be found on [YouTube](#) and [www.farmers.gov/conservation-at-work](http://www.farmers.gov/conservation-at-work)

### New USDA Survey to Measure Areas for Improvement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced a new annual survey of farmers, ranchers and private forestland owners. The survey will help USDA understand what it is doing well and where improvements are needed, specifically at the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

A selection of 28,000 producers will receive the survey over the next few weeks, but all farmers are encouraged to take the survey at [farmers.gov/survey](http://farmers.gov/survey)



"We want to hear from our customers so we can learn what we're doing right and where we're missing the mark," Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Bill Northey said. "Good data is critical to good decision-making. The more responses we receive, the better we can understand what we need to do to improve our services to America's farmers, ranchers and private forestland owners."

This survey is part of the President's Management Agenda. It requires High Impact Service Provider agencies across the federal government, including FSA and NRCS, to conduct annual surveys to measure and respond to areas needing improvement.

"We recognize producers and our staff may be experiencing a lot of change in how they interact with USDA," Farm Service Agency Administrator Richard Fordyce said. "This is a good time to check in with our customers."

"We will use this input to help improve the delivery of our conservation programs as our sister agencies will do for their programs," Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Matthew Lohr said.

"We're about our customers," Risk Management Agency Administrator Martin Barbre said. "RMA works to provide producers with crop insurance policies that meet their needs and we need to know where we can improve."

The survey consists of 20 questions and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Responses are confidential, and individual responses will be aggregated. The survey will be open for at least six weeks and will be closed once USDA receives a 30% response rate.

Learn more and take the survey at [www.farmers.gov/survey](http://www.farmers.gov/survey)



**USDA to Invest up to \$360 Million in Partner-Driven Conservation**  
**Application period has opened for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program**

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) today invited potential conservation partners to submit project applications for federal funding through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). NRCS will award up to \$360 million dollars to locally driven, public-private partnerships that improve the nation's water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat and protect agricultural viability.

"RCPP brings an expanded approach to investing in natural resource conservation that empowers local communities to work with multiple partners and agricultural producers to design solutions that work best for them," said NRCS Chief Matthew Lohr.



Partners may request between \$250,000 and \$10 million in RCPP funding through this funding announcement. Partners are expected to offer value-added contributions to amplify the impact of RCPP funding in an amount equal or greater

to the NRCS investment.

Eligible lead partners are encouraged to apply. Funding is open to private industry, non-government organizations, Indian tribes, state and local governments, water districts and universities, among others. The full list of eligible entities is available in the RCPP funding announcement.

First authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, RCPP has combined nearly \$1 billion in NRCS investments with close to \$2 billion in non-NRCS dollars to implement conservation practices across the nation. There are 336 active RCPP projects that have engaged more than 2,000 partners. Successful RCPP projects provide innovative conservation solutions, leverage partner contributions and offer impactful and measurable outcomes.

NRCS requested public comment on the [RCPP Critical Conservation Areas](#) and their associated priority resource concerns as part of a review allowed by the Farm Bill once every five years. This funding announcement introduces CCA changes that resulted from the review:

- \* The California Bay-Delta and Columbia River Basin CCAs have been combined into the Western Waters CCA, which also encompasses the Klamath River Basin and the Puget Sound Basin.
- \* A new CCA—Northeast Forests and Waters—has been added to the roster. This CCA's priority resource concerns include water quality and wildlife habitat. The boundaries of the CCA encompass Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

USDA is now accepting proposals for RCPP through the [RCPP portal](#) . Proposals are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on November 4, 2020. For more information, view the [Application for Program Funding on grants.gov](#) .

A webinar with general program information for RCPP applicants is scheduled for 3 p.m. Eastern Time on Aug 27, 2020. Visit the [RCPP website](#) for information on how to participate and for more information.

Helping People Help the Land

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**Conservation Stewardship Program**

Natural Resources Conservation Service



**USDA Announces More Eligible Commodities for CFAP**

*Application Deadline Extended to Sept. 11th, and Producers Who Have Approved Applications to Receive Final Payments*

(Washington, D.C., Aug. 11, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced today that additional commodities are covered by the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) in response to public comments and data. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending the deadline to apply for the program to September 11th, and producers with approved applications will receive their final payment. After reviewing over 1,700 responses, even more farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity for assistance to help keep operations afloat during these tough times.

"President Trump is standing with America's farmers and ranchers to ensure they get through this pandemic and continue to produce enough food and fiber to feed America and the world. That is why he authorized this \$16 billion of direct support in the CFAP program and today we are pleased to add additional commodities eligible to receive much needed assistance," said Secretary Perdue. "CFAP is just one of the many ways USDA is helping producers weather the impacts of the pandemic. From deferring payments on loans to adding flexibilities to crop insurance and reporting deadlines, USDA has been leveraging many tools to help producers."

**Background:**

USDA collected comments and supporting data for consideration of additional commodities through June 22, 2020. The following additional commodities are now eligible for CFAP:

**Specialty Crops** - aloe leaves, bananas, batatas, bok choy, carambola (star fruit), cherimoya, chervil (french parsley), citron, curry leaves, daikon, dates, dill, donqua (winter melon), dragon fruit (red pitaya), endive, escarole, filberts, frisee, horseradish, kohlrabi, kumquats, leeks, mamey sapote, maple sap (for maple syrup), mesculin mix, microgreens, nectarines, parsley, persimmons, plantains, pomegranates, pummelos, pumpkins, rutabagas, shallots, tangelos, turnips/celeriac, turmeric, upland/winter cress, water cress, yautia/malanga, and yuca/cassava.

**Non-Specialty Crops and Livestock** - liquid eggs, frozen eggs and all sheep. Only lambs and yearlings (sheep less than two years old) were previously eligible.

**Aquaculture** - catfish, crawfish, largemouth bass and carp sold live as foodfish, hybrid striped bass, red drum, salmon, sturgeon, tilapia, trout, ornamental/tropical fish, and recreational sportfish.

**Nursery Crops and Flowers** - nursery crops and cut flowers.

Other changes to CFAP include:

Seven commodities – onions (green), pistachios, peppermint, spearmint, walnuts and watermelons – are now eligible for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act funding for sales losses. Originally, these commodities were only eligible for payments on marketing adjustments.

Correcting payment rates for onions (green), pistachios, peppermint, spearmint, walnuts, and watermelons.

Additional details can be found in the Federal Register in the [Notice of Funding Availability](#) and [Final Rule Correction](#) and at [www.farmers.gov/cfap](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap).





Lexie Meyer, County Executive Director,  
 USDA - Farm Service Agency,  
 2912 Red Fox Run, Portage, WI 53901  
 608.742.5361 Ext. 7350

**United States Department of Agriculture**

**USDA Announces More Eligible Commodities for CFAP (Con't.)**

**Producers Who Have Applied:**

To ensure availability of funding, producers with approved applications initially received 80 percent of their payments. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will automatically issue the remaining 20 percent of the calculated payment to eligible producers. Going forward, producers who apply for CFAP will receive 100 percent of their total payment, not to exceed the payment limit, when their applications are approved.

**Applying for CFAP:**

Producers, especially those who have not worked with FSA previously, are recommended to call 877-508-8364 to begin the application process. An FSA staff member can help producers start their application during the phone call.

*Application Deadline Extended to Sept. 11th, and Producers Who Have Approved Applications to Receive Final Payments*

On [farmers.gov/cfap](http://farmers.gov/cfap), producers can:

- Download the AD-3114 application form and manually complete the form to submit to their local USDA Service Center by mail, electronically or by hand delivery to their local office or office drop box.
- Complete the application form using the CFAP Application Generator and Payment Calculator. This Excel workbook allows customers to input information specific to their operation to determine estimated payments and populate the application form, which can be printed, then signed and submitted to their local USDA Service Center. If producers have login credentials known as eAuthentication, they can use the online CFAP Application Portal to certify eligible commodities online, digitally sign applications and submit directly to the local USDA Service Center.

All other eligibility forms, such as those related to adjusted gross income and payment information, can be downloaded from [farmers.gov/cfap](http://farmers.gov/cfap). For existing FSA customers, these documents are likely already on file.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including some that are open to visitors to conduct business in person by appointment only. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Our program delivery staff will be in the office, and they will be working with our producers in the office, by phone and using online tools. More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](http://farmers.gov/coronavirus).



Lexie Meyer, County Executive Director,  
 USDA - Farm Service Agency,  
 2912 Red Fox Run, Portage, WI 53901  
 608.742.5361 Ext. 7350

**United States Department of Agriculture**

**One-Time PLC Yield Updates  
 Deadline September 30th**

Farm owners have a one-time opportunity to update PLC yields of covered commodities on the farm, regardless of Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program election. The deadline to request a PLC yield update is September 30, 2020.

The updated yield will be equal to 90 percent of the average yield per planted acre in crop years 2013-2017 (excluding any year where the applicable covered commodity was not planted), subject to the ratio obtained by dividing the 2008-2012 average national yield by the 2013-2017 average national yield for the covered commodity. If the reported yield in any year is less than 75 percent of the 2013-2017 average county yield, then the yield will be substituted with 75 percent of the county average yield.

The chart below provides the ratio obtained by dividing the 2008-2012 average national yield by the

| Covered Commodity | National Yield Factor | Covered Commodity   | National Yield Factor |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Barley            | 0.9437                | Peanuts             | 0.9273                |
| Canola            | 0.9643                | Peas, Dry           | 0.9988                |
| Chickpeas, Large  | 1.0000                | Rapeseed            | 1.0000                |
| Chickpeas, Small  | 0.9760                | Rice, Long          | 0.9330                |
| Corn              | 0.9000                | Rice, Medium        | 0.9887                |
| Crambe            | 1.0000                | Rice, Temp Japonica | 0.9591                |
| Flaxseed          | 1.0000                | Safflower           | 1.0000                |
| Grain Sorghum     | 0.9077                | Seed Cotton         | 0.9000                |
| Lentils           | 1.0000                | Sesame Seed         | 0.9673                |
| Mustard Seed      | 0.9460                | Soybeans            | 0.9000                |
| Oats              | 0.9524                | Sunflower Seed      | 0.9396                |
|                   |                       | Wheat               | 0.9545                |

2013-2017 average national yield for each covered commodity.

It is the owner's choice whether to update or keep existing PLC yields. If a yield update is not made, then no action is required to maintain the existing PLC yield. An existing or updated PLC yield will be maintained and effective for crop years 2020 through 2023 (life of the 2018 Farm Bill).

PLC yields may be updated on a covered commodity-by-covered commodity basis using FSA form [CCC-867](http://www.farmers.gov/ccc-867).

For more information, reference resources and decision tools, visit [farmers.gov/arc-plc](http://farmers.gov/arc-plc). Contact your local Farm Service Agency Office for assistance – [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-center-locator).

## Wisconsin Corn Yield Contest

The Wisconsin Corn Growers Association (WCGA) Corn Yield Contest is organized to encourage the development of new and innovative management practices that highlight the importance of using sound cultural practices in Wisconsin corn production systems.

There is no cost to enter, but the entrant must be a Wisconsin Corn Grower Association member in good standing. Only one entry per membership, but there could be more than one entry per farm if additional memberships are purchased.

Entries must be postmarked, emailed or faxed by **December 18, 2020** to be eligible for this contest. No late entries will be accepted. There is no entry fee for this contest. Completed forms\* may be emailed to [nicole@wicorn.org](mailto:nicole@wicorn.org), faxed to 262-372-3289 or mailed to Wisconsin Corn Growers Association, N77W24707 Century Court, Lisbon, WI 53089.

Complete information and rules can be found at: <https://wicorn.org/growers/corn-yield-contest/>

Contact George if you need a copy of the rules and entry form or need him to supervise the harvest of your entry plot.

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### STAFF DIRECTORY

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**If you have a change of email, address or would like to be removed, please call the Columbia County Extension office at (608) 742-9680 or email your request to: [sarah.millard@wisc.edu](mailto:sarah.millard@wisc.edu)**

UW-Madison Extension Columbia County  
Columbia County Ag Reporter  
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Portage, WI 53901  
608-742-9680

Or Current Resident