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Beans and Bull – Feb 18, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Get Your Planting Right! Planter Technology for Optimizing Seeding & Keeping Synthetic Auxin Herbicides On-Target.

Get Your Planting Right! Planter Technology for Optimizing Seeding

Brian Luck: Planter technology is evolving and control of the machine has changed from a “Set and Go” mindset to an active control system that adjusts to changing field conditions and soil types. This session will cover how down-force, active depth control, and aftermarket closing wheels influence planter performance and crop emergence in no-till systems.

Keeping Synthetic Auxin Herbicides On-Target

Rodrigo Werle: With the advent of novel soybean herbicide tolerance traits, the synthetic auxin herbicides dicamba and 2,4-D now represent important POST-emergence weed control options in soybeans. During this presentation we will discuss our latest research regarding off-target movement of synthetic auxin herbicides which is a concern pertaining to adoption of these novel technologies.

Follow this link to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beans-bull-on-farm-technologies-tickets-128282990879?aff=erelpanelorg>

Soybean Planting Considerations Webinar

Friday, February 19, 2021, 11:45 am to 12:45 pm

Please join us for a national webinar focused on planting considerations and resources to help farmers in this decision making process.

Please click here to register: [Planting Considerations Resources and Webinar Registration Page](#)

Resources:

- [The Best Soybean Planting Date](#)
- [Soybean Plant Population Density](#)
- [How to Pick the Right Soybean Row Spacing](#)

Coolbeans!

Shawn

Shawn P. Conley
Soybean and Wheat Extension Specialist
Department of Agronomy, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Farmer to Farmer

Are you a farmer in Columbia County who grows Corn and Soybeans and has been practicing using cover crops in your system? I have a farmer in the Rio area that would like to chat with you about your system and begin to adopt some cover crops as well as include some winter wheat or other crops into the rotation. If you would be interested in chatting with this farmer, let me know and I can facilitate a conversation about some successes and challenges you have encountered and how you built upon the successes and how you overcame the challenges. He is also interested in reduced tillage techniques, increasing organic matter content in his soil, and reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides.

Please just give me a call or send an email, and I can introduce the two of you. Thanks, George

Would some of you be interested in a Columbia County Cover Crops Chat Session? I would be happy to set up an on-line opportunity for several farmers to meet on-line and discuss their experiences and challenges. If this is of interest to you, please respond in an email to me at george.koepp@wisc.edu. Let me know what day of the week works best for you and what time of the day you prefer. We could make this happen yet this winter before you get busy in the fields. We could meet once, twice, or more depending on YOUR interest level.

USDA Extends General Signup for Conservation Reserve Program

Biden Administration Considers Changes to Bolster Effectiveness of Program and Recommits to Making CRP a Cornerstone of Conservation Programming

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Signup period, which had previously been announced as ending on Feb. 12, 2021. USDA will continue to accept offers as it takes this opportunity for the incoming Administration to evaluate ways to increase enrollment. Under the previous Administration, incentives and rental payment rates were reduced resulting in an enrollment shortfall of over 4 million acres. The program, administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides annual rental payments for 10 to 15 years for land devoted to conservation purposes, as well as other types of payments.

Before the General CRP signup period ends, producers will have the opportunity to adjust or resubmit their offers to take advantage of planned improvements to the program.

"The Conservation Reserve Program provides a tremendous opportunity to address climate change both by retiring marginal cropland and by restoring grasslands, wetlands, and forests," said Robert Bonnie, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary. "CRP has a 35-year track record of success beyond just climate benefits, by providing income to producers, improving water quality, reducing erosion, and supporting wildlife habitat and the hunting and fishing opportunities that go along with it. By extending this signup period, we'll have time to evaluate and implement changes to get this neglected program back on track."

As one of the largest private-lands conservation programs in the United States, CRP provides both economic and conservation benefits by taking land out of agricultural production. Program successes include:

- Sequestering in soils and plants over 12 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), or about the same amount that the entire state of Delaware emits annually.
- Preventing more than 2 billion tons of soil from being blown away by wind erosion over the life of currently enrolled acres.
- Reducing phosphorous reaching streams by almost 85 million pounds, nitrogen by nearly 450 million pounds, and sediment by over 160 million tons in 2020 alone.
- Creating more than 2.3 million acres of restored wetlands while protecting more than 177,000 stream miles with riparian forest and grass buffers, enough to go around the world seven times.
- Establishing over a half million acres of dedicated pollinator habitat and nearly 15 million more acres of diverse plantings that provide forage for pollinators.
- Increasing populations of ducks and other game birds, prairie chickens, and such grassland songbirds as Baird's Sparrow. CRP in the Northern Great Plains supports an estimated 8.6% of the grassland bird population.
- Increasing habitat that supports economic opportunities, such as job creation, related to hunting and fishing activities.

This signup for CRP gives producers an opportunity to enroll land for the first time or re-enroll land under existing contracts that will be expiring Sept. 30, 2021. All interested producers, including those on Indian reservations and with trust lands, are encouraged to contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments. 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 continue to work with our producers by phone, email, and using online tools. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

Tile Drainage School set for March 8, 9, 11 and 16

Wetter weather patterns and fieldwork challenges have led many producers to consider purchasing their own tile plow or adding to their existing drainage system. Knowing how to properly design, lay out and install a system prevents costly mistakes. Extension in Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa are partnering to host a 4-day virtual Tile Drainage School, 8 am-noon on March 8, 9, 11 and 16 for producers and tile contractors

In this introductory-level course, drainage experts from all three Universities will walk participants through assessing the field prior to installation, choosing the best lateral spacing, slope and outfall considerations, finding old tile systems and outlets/lift stations. Agency experts will discuss the steps to avoid regulatory pitfalls, and participants will be able to lay out a system and receive feedback on their approach.

The cost is \$50 for the first person from a farm/tile installation business, and \$25 for each additional person. To register, visit <http://go.wisc.edu/39v013>. For more information, contact Kevin Erb, UW Extension Conservation Professional Training Program at Kevin.Erb@wisc.edu or 920.391.4652

Wisconsin Manure Applicator dates for 2021

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension, is hosting four virtual Manure Applicator Training sessions (Level 1 / Manure 101). Designed for employees of both for-hire manure applicators and farmers applying their own manure, this 3-hour training covers the basics of manure spill response, setbacks and regulations, neighbor relations and equipment/manure gas safety.

Participants can register for any one of the sessions online at <http://go.wisc.edu/4lm34e>. An internet-capable device and internet connection is required, and the cost is \$10/person. Dates/times of the training are:

- March 4th, 9 am - Noon
- March 11th, 6 pm - 9 pm
- March 23rd, 9 am - Noon
- March 29th, 12:30 - 3:30 pm

For more information, contact any of these Extension staff: Kevin.Erb@wisc.edu, jerome.clark@wisc.edu, richard.halopka@wisc.edu, amber.obrien@wisc.edu or george.koepp@wisc.edu

Farm Ready Research Webinars



Farm Ready Research

Farm Ready Research is Extension's agriculture winter webinar meeting series for farmers and ag professionals. Join the webinars to learn the most up-to-date information on topics from dairy and livestock production to farm management resources. Sessions begin December 2020 and run through April 2021. See a full list of topics and register at go.wisc.edu/FarmReadyResearch

Date	Time	Event	Location
Feb 16	1pm	Badger Dairy Insight: Getting the Most Out of Your Farm's Data Victor Cabrera, Professor and Extension Specialist, will discuss the Dairy Brain: making financial "Cents" of your farm's data. Liliana Fadul, UW research associate will share a Data Money case study and potential usage of the new Data Money program on farms.	Zoom meeting
Feb 17	7:30pm	Small Ruminants: Ethnic Marketing Consumer demand for lamb and goat meat from ethnic markets is a growing segment of the lamb and goat industry. Logan Edenfield with Equity Livestock Markets and Agricultural educators will be discussing what type of lamb or goat different markets want to help producers understand how they can improve their bottom line.	Zoom meeting
Feb 19	11am	Farm Management Fridays: Is Fair Equal? Should inheritance be equal, or fair? The idea that in order to be fair, owners need to transfer everything equally among all the children challenges the ability to continue the farm business. In this webinar, Extension educators Kaitlyn Davis, La Cross County, Heather Schlessler, Marathon County, Steph Plaster, Ozaukee and Washington Counties, and Joy Kirkpatrick UW Center for Dairy Profitability will discuss the considerations based on goals you may have for the future of the business and strategies for success.	YouTube livestream

ARC/PLC Deadline is Fast Approaching

March 15 Last Day to Complete Enrollment for 2021 Agriculture Risk Coverage or Price Loss Coverage Programs

Call FSA Today About 2021 Crop Year Eligibility

Agricultural producers who have not yet enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for 2021 must do so by March 15. Producers who have not yet signed a 2021 enrollment contract or who want to make an election change should contact their local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to make an appointment. Program enrollment for 2021 is required in order to participate in the programs, but elections for the 2021 crop year are optional and otherwise remain the same as elections made for 2020.

"FSA offices have multiple programs competing for the time and attention of our staff. Because of the importance and complexities of the ARC and PLC programs, and to ensure we meet your program delivery expectations, please do not wait to start the enrollment process," said FSA Acting Administrator Steve Peterson. "I cannot emphasize enough the need to begin the program election and enrollment process now. This process can be completed when applying for other FSA programs as well."

ARC and PLC provide income support to farmers from substantial drops in crop prices or revenues and are vital economic safety nets for most American farms.

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.