

## To All Ag Reporter Email Recipients:

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## Grain Bin Safety Saves Lives

From the National Grain and Feed Association  
NGFA.ORG/SAFETY

It takes only seconds to become engulfed and suffocate in grain – these are tragedies that no family or community should have to endure!

### Stay Out of grain bins if possible

- Properly aerate and keep grain in good condition to minimize clumped or encrusted grain
- Only enter bins when there is no other option to perform the necessary work
- If you must enter, ensure there are no engulfment hazards present

### Never enter alone

- Have a neighbor, friend or family member present as an observer outside the bin when you enter and make sure you maintain direct communication during the entire process
- Instruct them on shut down and safety procedures in case of an incident

### Shut down equipment

- Shut down any equipment that can entangle you, cause you to be pulled into flowing grain (e.g., sweep augers) or engulf you from above

### Wear a body harness

- In case of an engulfment, the harness will aid in recovering you
- Keep a lifeline attached to your harness or immediately outside the entrance of the grain bin

### Prepare for an emergency

- Establish an emergency plan with a neighbor, family member or friend in case of an accident
- Invest in your farm's future by consulting with safety professionals and obtaining necessary safety equipment

## Crop-Based Reduced-Till Production – Making Roller-Crimping Work

Erin Silva, Organic and Sustainable Cropping Systems Specialist

### Eight thoughts to help you achieve success:

1. **Start small.** Roller-crimping can be a significant change in management for many organic farmers and conventional no-tillers alike. Try it out on a small scale to minimize risk.
2. **Choose wisely.** Choose fields where you can get in early to plant a cover crop in the fall and with appropriate weed pressure – this may necessitate implementing more diverse rotations or choosing different hybrids. Avoid fields with perennial weeds.
3. **Don't skimp.** Get cover crops in the ground early (cereal rye: mid-September to early October) and a recommended seeding rates (3 bu/ac for cereal grains). Successful weed suppression requires a dense mat of cover crop residues.
4. **Alter planting strategies** for cash crop. Bump up the seeding rate of soybean. Be sure to spend time setting the depth of the planter appropriately. Add extra weight to equipment if needed.
5. **Stay sharp.** Keep equipment in good shape. To plant through thick residue, planting equipment must be maintained in top condition. Invest the time needed to modify and adjust planting equipment – this may include closing wheels, coulters, and row cleaners.
6. **Plan ahead.** Due to the central role of cover crops in this system, planning must start far in advance of a given main-season crop. Order your seed and strategize how it will fit into your rotation in order to ensure an early planting date.
7. **Be patient.** If you are relying on mechanical termination of the cover crop, be prepared to plant the cash crop later than you typically might. Wait until the cover crop is into the reproductive stage (early pod set or anthesis/early soft dough state) before attempting to mechanically terminate.
8. **Be flexible.** If the cover crop looks less-than-ideal in spring, or adverse weather conditions occur, be ready with a "Plan B". Re-assess the stand in late April/early May if the rye stand looks skimpy in certain areas of the field, plan on using back-up strategies.

## WI Soybean and Corn Disease Update

Damon Smith, Extension Field Crops Pathologist  
Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Reporting on July 7th: If soybeans are flowering and the area between rows is filled in more than 50%, **white mold infection risk is just moderate** in most locations of the state, with the exception of the far northeast portions of the state. This moderate risk indicates that there may not be apothecia present in fields in these locations at this time, however, the situation needs to be monitored closely as we move from R1 to the R2 growth stage. With a cooler, wetter weather pattern over the next 5-7 days, I believe that the risk for white mold will increase. I'm expecting a later onset (closer to the R3 growth stage) of white mold for much of the state in 2021. Warmer weather up to this point has pushed the risk of white mold potentially later in the bloom period.

As for corn, the present **risk of infection for tar spot is high** for much of the state. Cooler, wet conditions over the next week will keep risk moderate to high. We have scouted several locations in Wisconsin and have been unable to find tar spot at this time in the state. Tar spot has been found in some surrounding states, at low levels. For the entire report, follow this link:

<https://badgercropdoc.com/2021/07/07/wisconsin-soybean-and-corn-disease-update-july-7-2021/>

## **USDA Announces Dates for Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands Signup**

Agricultural producers and landowners in Wisconsin can apply for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands signup starting July 12 until August 20. This year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) updated signup options to provide greater incentives for producers and increased the program's conservation and climate benefits, including setting a minimum rental rate and identifying two national priority zones.

The CRP Grassland signup is competitive, and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will provide for annual rental payments for land devoted to conservation purposes.

"USDA is excited to roll out our new and improved CRP Grasslands signup," said Tyler Radke, Acting State Executive Director for FSA in Wisconsin. "USDA is providing a bigger return on investment in terms of protecting natural resource benefits. The Grasslands signup is just one of the many tools available through CRP to help protect our nation's working lands."

### Grasslands Signup

CRP Grasslands helps Wisconsin landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as working grazing lands. Protecting grasslands contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations, and provides important carbon sequestration benefits.

FSA has updated the Grasslands Signup to establish a minimum rental rate of \$15 per acre, which will benefit 1,300 counties. To focus on important wildlife corridors, FSA also identified National Grassland Priority Zones, providing extra incentives to producers for enrolling grasslands in important migratory corridors and environmentally sensitive areas – the Greater Yellowstone Elk Migration Corridor and the Severe Wind Erosion – Dust Bowl Zone. Counties within these two zones get extra ranking points as well as \$5 added to their rental rate. The CRP Grasslands Ranking Factors fact sheet has additional information.

### How to Sign Up

To enroll in the CRP Grasslands signup, producers and landowners should contact USDA by the August 20 deadline. Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Because of the pandemic, some USDA Service Centers are open to limited visitors. Contact your Service Center to set up an in-person or phone appointment. Additionally, more information related to USDA's response and relief for producers can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

### More Information on CRP

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. It was originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits. The program marked its 35-year anniversary this past December.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is engaged in a whole-of-government effort to combat the climate crisis and conserve and protect our nation's lands, biodiversity, and natural resources, including our soil, air and water. Through conservation practices, USDA aims to enhance economic growth and create new streams of income for farmers, ranchers, producers and private foresters. Successfully meeting these challenges will require USDA and our agencies to pursue a coordinated approach alongside USDA stakeholders, including state, local, and tribal governments.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

### **Edible StartUp Summit 2021**

Get your calendars out! It is already time to start thinking about Edible StartUp Summit 2021. This year the summit will span 4 consecutive Wednesdays. It will be a hybrid event with virtual programming and in-person networking opportunities around the state. You can check out programming from last year last year on the [website](#).

### **Weekly Emails Online!**

<https://columbia.extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/newsletter/>

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](mailto:george.koepp@wisc.edu)