

AGRICULTURE RESOURCE NEWSLETTER

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Net cash farm income could hit \$110 billion in 2014...\$8 billion or so more than USDA estimated in February according the Kiplinger’s Ag Newsletter, but below record high income levels nationwide for all producers the past three years. They also point out that income will vary greatly by enterprise, with some producers blessed and others in pain. Corn Belt grain operations, especially, may be squeezed. Land prices, rent and other inputs which rose steadily in past years, won’t drop as quickly as the grain markets have.

Nationwide, livestock sales could top crop sales this year, which hasn’t happened since ’04 and ’05, when fat cattle surged to a range of \$90-\$94/cwt. and milk to \$15-\$16/cwt., while corn fell below \$2/bu. For cattle, swine, poultry and dairy farms, 2014 sales could approach \$190 billion, 4% more than last year’s record high.

Milk and fat cattle prices will set records in 2014. Cattle, now \$150/cwt., will average over \$140 this year and milk will stay well over last years average of \$20/cwt., as both sectors are spurred by strong exports.

Hog prices have skyrocketed to the mid-\$90s/cwt., mostly because of a virus that kills baby pigs, plus sizzling demand for pork. The market will average about \$80/cwt.

Lower feed costs will help lift profits of all types of dairy and livestock farms. Field crop prices will lag last year’s levels and production will be mixed...a response to ample global stocks of grain and oilseeds, including corn and wheat.

Corn: A cutback of 4% or so in acreage, along with lower prices (\$4.50 - \$5.00/bu?) will slash receipts by 15% or more, even with normal growing conditions.

Soybeans and other oilseeds: 5%-10% less in sales, despite higher acreage, because bean prices, though spiking this winter, will fall below \$13/bu.

Wheat: Receipts probably down 20% or so because acreage may slip a little, and the average price may be down by \$1.50/bu., to \$5.30-\$5.50 on average.

Hay: WI hay price are down from the previous two years following a nationwide drought in 2012 and a wet spring with wide spread winter-kill last year. Prime alfalfa hay (>150 RFQ) is running \$180 - \$220/ton this spring.



Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity.

Henry Van Dyke



Timing First Crop Alfalfa Harvest



2014 UWEX Crop Budgets

By Ken Barnett, UW-Extension Farm Management Specialist

The Waupaca County Forage Council is again sponsoring the annual PEAQ (Predictive Equations for Alfalfa Quality) first crop alfalfa monitoring program in 2014. Field data from cooperating farms/consultants will be available during the month of May to help improve timing of first crop alfalfa this year. Measurements will be taken on Mondays and Thursdays and posted online at:

www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/scissorsclip/

How to take PEAQ measurements?

Step 1: Choose a representative area in the field.

Step 2: Identify the most mature stem in a 2 sq. ft. sampling area using the criteria in the table below.

Step 3: Measure the length of the tallest stem in that area from the soil surface (next to plant crown) to the tip of the stem just below the top leaves (NOT to the leaf tip). Straighten the stem for an accurate measure of its length. (note, the tallest stem may not be the most mature stem.)

Step 4: Based on the most mature stem and length of the tallest stem, use the chart below to estimated the relative forage quality (RFQ) of your standing alfalfa forage.

Step 5: Repeat in several areas across the field. Start harvesting 10-15 points above desired relative feed value level to offset quality declines during harvest.

Height of Tallest Stem (from soil surface to stem tip)	Stage of Most Mature Stem		
	LATE VEGETATIVE Vegetative (>12") No buds visible	BUD STAGE 1 or more nodes with visible buds. No flowers visible	FLOWER STAGE 1 or more nodes with open flower(s)
-inches-	-----Relative Feed Value-----		
16	237	225	210
17	230	218	204
18	224	212	198
19	217	207	193
20	211	201	188
21	205	196	183
22	200	190	178
23	195	185	174
24	190	181	170
25	185	176	166
26	180	172	162
27	175	168	158
28	171	164	154
29	167	160	151
30	163	156	147
31	159	152	144
32	155	149	140
33	152	145	137
34	148	142	134
35	145	139	131
36	142	136	128
37	138	133	126
38	135	130	123
39	132	127	121
40	129	124	118
41	127	122	115
42	124	119	113

Wisconsin farmers can find information to help in making their cropping decisions for the upcoming year by using the 2014 updated field crop, vegetable and pasture budgets prepared by the University of Wisconsin-Extension Farm Team and available online at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/farmteam/>; look in the Enterprise Budgets heading.

These budgets calculate the costs associated with using tractors, implements, and durables, including energy use, labor, repairs, ownership interest cost, and depreciation charge. With the increasing prices for fertilizer, fuel, seed, and pesticides, these budgets are best used as a “side-by-side” comparison tool to analyze financial costs and benefits for producing different crops.

The field crop budgets include barley, corn after corn, corn after soybeans, corn silage after alfalfa, corn silage after corn, oats, rye, soybeans, spring and winter wheat, seeding alfalfa and established alfalfa for hay and haylage. There are two established pasture and two pasture establishment budgets.

The 15 commercial vegetable budgets include: cabbage (non-irrigated), carrot (non-irrigated), pickling cucumber (irrigated), slicing cucumber (irrigated), peas (irrigated and non-irrigated), potato (non-irrigated and irrigated), snapbean (non-irrigated and irrigated), and sweetcorn (non-irrigated and irrigated).

The 23 fresh market vegetable budgets are: asparagus, beet, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, honeydew melon, leek, muskmelon, onion, peas, Bell pepper, pumpkin, salad greens, snapbean, summer squash, sweet corn, tomato, watermelon and winter squash.



Wheat Stand Assessment

By Shawn Conley, Extension Soybean & Small Grain Specialist UW-Madison

When evaluating winter wheat stands this spring, remember brown, dried leaves do not necessarily indicate winter injury, and green leaves are not a sure sign that the crop has survived either. The only way to properly assess the condition of individual plants is to examine the crown for the development of new white roots. If the crown appears white and healthy, and new roots are developing, the plant is probably in good condition.

Also, keep in mind that in wheat fields, nitrogen serves two important functions. Nitrogen fertilizer may be used to manipulate the population (increase tiller number) as well as supply the nutritional needs of the crop to produce protein. Therefore, wheat tiller number is an important indicator of nitrogen application timing.

Research indicates that if tiller (stem) number is greater than 70 per square foot, it may be beneficial to delay nitrogen application until just prior to jointing. The advantage of a delayed nitrogen application is an increase in nitrogen use efficiency and a potential yield increase, however if tiller number is less than 70 per square foot, it is recommended to apply nitrogen at green-up in order to increase the effective plant population. Nitrogen is a key component to producing good wheat yields; however, applying too much N fertilizer can have detrimental effects on yield. If PPNT soil samples were not collected last year, then up to 70 lb N/a on wheat fields with 2.0-9.9% would be appropriate. Also remember to take any N credits for manure applications or forage legumes if appropriate.

Nitrogen applications to wheat should be made in early spring at Feekes GS3 to GS5 (green-up to prejoint). Spring N management decisions are often difficult for growers when winter wheat stands are thin at green-up. The common questions are: What will this stand yield? How much N should I invest into this poor looking wheat stand? And finally, should I even keep this crop? A good assessment of live plants is an essential first step. We recommend a minimum of 12-15 live plants per sq ft as a cutoff. It will usually not be economical to keep a wheat crop with less plant density than this (use Table 1 as a stand assessment guide for number of wheat plants by row width). When counting, be sure to distinguish between whole plants and tillers. These recommendations are for plants per square foot. Whole fields do not have to be abandoned if one area is low. Before tearing up a poor stand of wheat, be sure to consider input costs you already have in the field, the costs of establishing another crop in relation to the expected yields of either crop, and lastly, current crop prices. Net return per acre from wheat may be competitive with soybeans or corn in certain fields, especially when you add in the return from straw and the rotation benefits.

Table 1. Wisconsin Winter Wheat - Spring Plant Stand Recommendations

Plants/acre		Row Width (inches)		
		6	7	7.5
million	plants/sq ft	Plants per foot of row		
0.3	7	3	4	4
0.4	9	5	5	6
0.5	11	6	7	7
0.6	14	7	8	9
0.7	16	8	9	10
0.8	18	9	11	11
0.9	21	10	12	13
1.0	23	11	13	14
1.1	25	13	15	16
1.2	28	14	16	17
1.3	30	15	17	19
1.4	32	16	19	20
1.5	34	17	20	22
1.6	37	18	21	23
1.7	39	20	23	24
1.8	41	21	24	26
1.9	44	22	25	27
2.0	46	23	27	29
2.1	48	24	28	30
2.2	51	25	29	32
2.3	53	26	31	33

Farm Management Update for Ag Professionals
Friday, May 2, 2014

Farm Management Update for Ag Professionals
 Registration Form

- 9:15 am Registration, milk, coffee, juice, and rolls
- 9:45 am **“Milk and Grain Market Updates”**
 What are the market forces and the impact on farmers?
 - Robin Schmahl, Ag Dairy LLC
- 10:30am **“Farm Tax and Law Update ”**
 Estate, Long Term Care and Depreciation
 - Professor Phil Harris, Farm and Tax Law Specialist, UW Extension
- 11:15 am **“Impacts of Dairy and Livestock Facility Improvements”**
 How do they affect production, comfort, and efficiency?
 - Professor David Kammel, Biological Systems Engineering, UW Extension
- 12:00 Noon **Lunch**
- 1:00 pm **“They Passed a Farm Bill”**
 Highlights of the bill and how it will affect farmers
 - Assoc. Professor Paul Mitchell, Ag and Applied Economics, UW Extension
- 1:45 pm **“Cattle Handling Protocols “**
 Update on appropriate livestock stewardship and handling procedures
 - Asst. Professor Amy Stanton, Dairy Science, UW Extension
- 2:30 pm Adjourn

Name(s): _____

 Business _____
 Address: _____

 City: _____
 Zip Code: _____
 Phone Number: _____

Registration Fee: \$35 per person
 Make check payable to: **UW-Extension**
 Mail this registration form and check to:
 UW-Extension Farm Business
 P.O. Box 2003
 West Bend, WI 53095-2003

Registration Deadline: April 25, 2014



UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX requirements. UW-Extension programs are open to all persons without regard to race, color, ethnic background, or economic circumstances. Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure access to educational programs as early as possible preceding the event. Requests will be kept confidential.



Note:

Registration for this farm business management conference is open to both Ag industry professionals, as well as dairy, livestock and grain producers. If you would like to attend, return your registration (above) and fee (\$35) by April 25.

Milk Price Outlook

By Bob Cropp, retired Extension Dairy Marketing Specialist

Strong dairy product prices resulting in record milk prices continue into 2014. The February Class III price was a record \$23.35 and \$23.33 for March. The February average U.S. All Milk Price was a record \$24.70 and will average near \$25 for March. Compared to March a year ago the Class III price will be about \$6.40 higher.

Good domestic demand for cheese and strong exports of cheese, butter and nonfat dry milk is a major factor for these record prices. Exports of dairy products set a record last year totaling 15.5% of U.S. milk production. Exports above a year ago continued into January.

Month	Class III	Class IV	Mailbox
Jan 2014	21.15	22.29	23.13
Feb 2014	23.35	23.46	25.15
Mar 2014	23.33	23.66	25.17
Apr 2014	24.03	23.37	25.18
May 2014	22.36	22.07	23.57
Jun 2014	20.73	21.12	22.06
Jul 2014	20.36	20.70	21.55
Aug 2014	20.09	20.40	21.28
Sep 2014	19.77	20.20	20.98
Oct 2014	19.33	19.90	21.43
Nov 2014	18.84	19.70	20.99
Dec 2014	18.49	19.40	20.65

Milk production is also a key factor for record prices. With corn prices around \$4.50/bu compared to near \$7 a year ago, and alfalfa hay averaging lower for most parts of the country, except for some states like California and Texas, return over feed cost is very favorable for milk production. But, milk production was flat the last two month of 2013 with milk production for the year up just 0.7% (adjusted for leap year). January's milk production for the U.S. was up just 1.0% and February's milk production was up 1.1%. Milk cow numbers which had small increases last December and January did not increase in February resulting in February cow numbers slightly lower than a year ago at a -0.1%. Milk per cow was 1.2% higher than a year ago.

California's milk production continues to improve after production declining 1.3% last year. Compared to a year earlier California's milk production was up 4.4% in January and 5.3% in February. California has added milk cows and improved milk per cow. The severe drought is not impacting milk production at this time. With much stronger milk prices and feed cost lower than a year ago except for alfalfa hay California dairy farmers are producing all the milk they can to pay down accumulated debt from the crash in milk prices back in 2009 and high feed prices the fall-winter of 2012/13 from the drought of 2012..

Normally with current milk prices and favorable margins we would expect to see milk production increase as producers add milk cow numbers and feed for higher milk per cow. But, many producers are still recovering financially from the very depressed milk prices experienced in 2009 followed by the widespread drought the summer of 2012 pushing up feed prices from the fall of 2012 through the first half of 2013. So rather than expansions of dairy operations some producers are paying off accumulated debt. Also dairy producers may be more cautious on expansions recognizing the milk prices will not stay at record levels for ever and feed costs can increase again. Also last year a wet spring followed later by drought conditions in much of the Midwest reduced the quantity and quality of forages which appear to now be impacting milk per cow. The extreme cold this winter may also have added to some herd health issues.

But, as we move through the year we can expect milk production to pick up as milk cow numbers increase and milk per cow improves. Despite rather high slaughter cow prices dairy cow slaughter thus far this year has been 9% below a year ago. With favorable margins lower producing cows that normally would be culled are still profitable to milk. Milk production is also improving in the major exporting countries. But, with current world stocks of dairy products rather tight and world demand remains strong led by China it will take some time to rebuild stocks. U.S. exports may slow the last half of the year but yet total 13% to 14% of U.S. milk production. So we can expect milk prices to average lower for the second half of the year, but no sharp decline in milk prices is anticipated. The Class III price which now is over \$23 is likely to be in the \$20 to \$19 range by early summer and end the year near \$18. If this holds the Class III price for the year will average well over \$19 compared the average of \$17.99 last year. The U.S. All Milk Price will average over \$21 compared to \$20.01 last year.



Upper Midwest Region
 Wisconsin Field Office
 P.O. Box 8934 · Madison, WI 53708
 nass-wi@nass.usda.gov
 www.nass.usda.gov
 1-800-789-9277

United States Department of Agriculture - National Agricultural Statistics Service
 Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

WISCONSIN CUSTOM RATE GUIDE 2013

MARCH 2014

GENERAL:

As part of an on-going cooperative arrangement with the agriculture industry, NASS-Wisconsin Field Office (WI FO) conducts a Custom Rates Survey every three years. This 2013 summary is a result of a mail survey which collected rates paid by farmers for custom work performed in 2013. The figures are based on reports by farmers who hired custom work, custom operators and farmers who performed custom work, and machinery dealers who rented out equipment. There were 889 reports compiled.

Most of the rates in this release include the cost of hiring a machine with fuel and operator, but exclude the cost of any materials. No attempt was made to distinguish between rates charged by custom operators who perform these operations as their main source of income and those who do custom work as a secondary source of income. In general, rates charged by custom operators and implement dealers were more likely to be higher than average. This summary makes no effort to evaluate fairness of rates being charged.

DATA:

Included in this release are statewide average rates and typical ranges for those averages. The rates and ranges in this release are based on actual reported data and should not be viewed as official estimates. The ranges provided for each custom operation encompass at least 90 percent of the reported values. Rates are typically influenced by fuel costs, soil conditions, topography, field size and shape, traditional practices in an area, and type, age, and availability of equipment. Reports were edited to remove items for which the respondent's figures were widely outside the range of other respondents' replies. Certain items may have appeared on the questionnaire, but were not summarized due to an insufficient number of responses.

Price changes for machinery, fuel, and labor should be taken into account when using this 2013 data for subsequent years.

DISTRICT AND REGIONAL DATA:

Beyond statewide figures, averages at the regional or district level are included in this release where sufficient data was available. District breakdowns follow the nine Agricultural Statistics districts used routinely by NASS-WI FO (see figure 1). For regional breakdowns, the Agricultural Statistics districts were grouped together based on similar geography and farming practices to form three regions (see figure 2). Please refer to these figures to determine which District or Region your operation falls in.

Figure 1:
 AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS

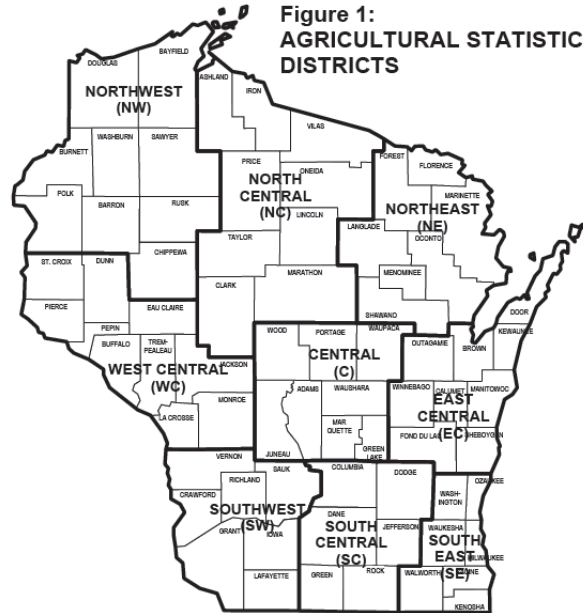
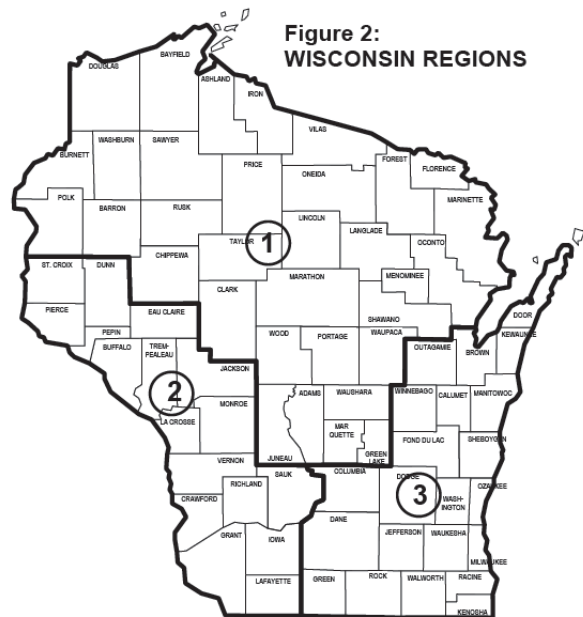


Figure 2:
 WISCONSIN REGIONS



LAND TILLAGE OPERATIONS, WISCONSIN, 2013

Operation	Range in Rates	Statewide Average	Regional Averages			District Averages								
			1	2	3	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE
	Dollars per acre		Dollars per acre			Dollars per acre								
Chisel plowing	6.00-30.00	17.20	16.30	15.90	18.30	16.50	14.60	19.30	15.90	15.90	19.80	15.70	16.80	18.10
Disk/ripper/harrow combination	10.00-28.00	17.70	17.90	17.20	17.90	16.60	17.50	18.20	17.30	19.80	18.70	17.00	17.00	18.30
Field Cultivator	5.00-25.00	13.30	14.20	13.00	13.10	14.90	13.40	14.30	12.90	14.20	12.70	13.30	13.00	15.10
Moldboard plowing	10.00-32.00	19.90	19.30	17.90	21.20	18.20	18.70	23.40	19.30	18.90	24.20	15.60	18.10	18.40
Rotary hoe	5.00-15.00	9.20	9.20	9.80	9.00	11.70	-	-	10.20	7.30	8.85	9.25	8.50	10.40
Soil finisher	8.00-25.00	14.50	14.90	13.60	14.90	14.10	14.80	16.70	13.40	14.90	13.00	13.90	15.00	16.80
Strip tillage	10.00-25.00	18.20	19.20	17.30	18.00	21.00	-	-	17.70	16.60	15.30	17.00	17.30	21.70
Subsoiling	10.00-30.00	20.00	20.00	20.10	19.90	17.50	19.80	-	21.90	20.80	22.10	17.90	18.60	20.60
Vertical tillage	9.00-24.00	15.20	14.50	15.10	15.50	11.60	14.50	-	15.30	16.50	15.40	14.40	15.40	15.80
Finishing disk	7.00-24.00	14.50	14.50	15.00	14.40	13.50	16.40	17.30	17.40	-	14.40	-	14.30	15.00
Offset disk	10.00-22.00	15.80	14.80	15.00	16.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disk w/ digger & drag	8.00-23.00	15.30	12.00	15.10	16.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Row cultivator:														
with fertilizer	8.00-22.00	14.00	12.20	15.00	14.20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
without fertilizer	7.00-18.00	12.00	10.90	-	12.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

FERTILIZER AND CHEMICAL APPLICATIONS, WISCONSIN, 2013 1/

Operation	Range in Rates	Statewide Average	Regional Averages			District Averages								
			1	2	3	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE
	Dollars per acre		Dollars per acre			Dollars per acre								
Liquid Fertilizer														
Pull-type	5.00-15.00	9.25	8.40	9.95	9.55	7.60	9.60	8.65	9.85	8.15	9.25	10.10	9.10	11.50
Self propelled	5.00-14.00	8.25	8.60	8.45	8.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dry Fertilizer														
Pull-Type	2.00-13.00	6.25	5.95	6.05	6.65	5.90	7.35	-	6.20	5.45	5.10	5.80	7.15	9.65
Self propelled	2.50-10.00	6.00	5.55	5.95	6.20	5.85	5.20	-	6.85	5.65	6.00	4.35	6.20	6.95
Anhydrous Ammonia														
Pull-type	6.00-18.00	11.40	9.20	13.70	11.30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Self propelled	6.50-21.00	12.30	-	12.60	12.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spreading lime														
Pull-type	3.00-17.00	8.60	9.50	7.75	8.35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Self propelled	4.00-17.00	7.95	8.50	6.75	7.70	9.30	5.15	-	6.75	9.65	-	6.75	8.05	7.20

PLANTING OPERATIONS, WISCONSIN, 2013

Operation	Range in Rates	Statewide Average	Regional Averages			District Averages								
			1	2	3	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE
	Dollars per acre		Dollars per acre			Dollars per acre								
Corn														
Conventional Till														
Less than 30" Rows	10.00-28.00	19.40	19.00	20.60	18.90	21.00	18.00	18.00	20.00	-	19.90	24.00	17.40	20.30
30" rows and greater	10.00-25.00	17.20	16.70	18.30	16.90	17.30	16.20	16.30	19.80	16.60	17.10	16.70	16.30	19.10
Mulch Till														
Less than 30" Rows	12.00-25.00	20.30	20.60	20.90	19.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30" rows and greater	13.00-28.00	19.70	20.60	20.60	18.50	20.50	20.30	-	21.80	22.00	18.10	18.90	18.10	22.00
No-Till														
Less than 30" Rows	12.00-27.00	20.00	20.20	20.70	19.20	23.00	-	-	21.40	17.50	20.40	19.10	17.10	21.80
30" rows and greater	12.00-28.00	19.20	19.20	19.50	18.90	19.40	19.60	18.80	20.10	18.50	19.00	18.70	18.20	21.80
Strip Tillage														
Less than 30" Rows	12.00-25.00	20.60	20.30	22.70	18.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30" rows and greater	11.00-25.00	19.90	20.10	19.40	20.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans														
Conventional Till														
Row	10.00-26.00	18.30	17.90	19.60	17.80	18.90	17.10	17.70	21.00	16.70	18.50	16.90	16.60	20.30
Drill	9.00-25.00	16.60	15.50	16.70	17.00	16.90	15.50	15.80	17.70	14.60	17.00	15.60	16.90	17.30
Mulch Till														
Row	12.00-26.00	19.90	21.10	20.50	18.40	21.10	18.00	-	21.80	-	17.40	17.80	17.70	23.30
Drill	10.00-26.00	18.40	19.20	19.00	17.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No-Till														
Row	12.00-26.00	19.20	19.70	19.60	18.80	19.80	21.00	20.00	20.50	18.00	19.50	18.40	18.10	20.60
Drill	9.00-26.00	18.40	19.70	18.70	18.20	19.20	17.80	-	21.10	23.30	18.70	17.10	17.50	18.80
Strip Tillage														
Row	10.00-26.00	20.40	20.20	22.30	18.80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Small Grains														
Conventional Till	8.00-26.00	15.90	15.40	16.30	16.10	15.30	15.30	17.10	16.80	13.80	16.40	15.60	15.70	16.50
Mulch Till	10.00-26.00	17.50	21.80	19.10	16.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No-Till	10.00-30.00	17.90	19.80	18.30	17.40	19.80	18.10	-	19.80	20.10	17.90	17.00	16.70	18.00
Alfalfa, Clover, etc.														
Conventional Till	8.00-25.00	16.10	15.60	15.00	16.90	15.80	17.30	16.40	15.70	13.00	17.00	14.10	16.60	18.20
Mulch Till	10.00-26.00	18.30	19.20	19.40	17.20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No-Till	10.00-30.00	18.90	18.50	19.40	18.80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- Insufficient data.

Waupaca County UW-Extension
Courthouse
811 Harding Street
Waupaca, WI 54981

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postal Paid
Waupaca, WI 54981
Permit No. 3



Upcoming Events:

April 25

Rural Health Initiative Fund Raiser
7 pm Crystal Falls, New London

May 2

Ag Lender/Farm Managers Conf
9:30 am Liberty Hall Kimberly

June 1

Waupaca Co. UW-Extension
Master Gardener Plant Sale
Fairgrounds, Weyauvega

June 19

Waupaca Co Forage Council
Summer Twilight Mtg

August 12-14

WI Farm Technology Days
Portage County, WI

August 20-25

Waupaca County Fair
Fairgrounds, Weyauvega

Wildlife Damage Claims for Sandhill Cranes?



The Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) handles “Wildlife Damage and Claims” requests from Waupaca County landowners on behalf of the WI Department of Ag, Trade & Consumer Protection (WDATCP). When cranes and geese (or other Federally regulated migratory birds) are involved, local LWCD staff (located in the Waupaca County Courthouse) must do damage assessment before the US Fish & Wildlife Service will issue a control permit. And while damage permits to shoot Sandhill Cranes are possible, the crop producer must first *document* having previously used a non-lethal alternative control method. This usually means documenting prior use of a repellent (Avipel) on previous planted seed corn or soybeans prior to the claim. For more information about wildlife damage control, visit the WI DNR website at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/damage.html>, or contact the Waupaca County Land & Water Conservation Office at 715-258-6245.