

## To All Ag Reporter Email Recipients:

Here is your weekly update for ag information. Click on the topic and it will take you directly to that article. In order of appearance:

[Report your Flood Damage in Columbia County](#)

[Handling Flooded and Down Corn at Silage and Grain Harvest](#)

[Tar Spot](#)

[North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education \(NCR-SARE\)](#)

[will host a Farmer Rancher Grant Program grant webinar on Monday, September](#)

[17<sup>th</sup>, 4-5:30pm CDT](#)

[WI Crop Manager](#)

## [Report your Flood Damage in Columbia County](#)

If you have had any flood damage to buildings, equipment, homes, crops, or livestock, please report it to Columbia County Emergency Management by [calling 608-742-4166 ext 1309](tel:608-742-4166).

They are compiling a list of damage in the county, which will then be used to obtain funding to help with repair, reconstruction, and finally 10% of what we can obtain can be used to plan and prepare for another flooding event to mitigate future damage.

Please call in with your estimates as soon as possible. They are trying to gather this information for a state and federal report.

## [Handling Flooded and Down Corn at Silage and Grain Harvest](#)



Rain events during August produced localized flooding affecting numerous corn fields. Recent high winds combined with saturated soils have resulted in lodged corn. All this is occurring at the dent growth stage (R5) as we head into corn silage harvest season. Heavy silage harvest equipment can further damage soils by causing compaction which could influence next year's crop.

### **Flooded corn**

Flood water from streams and silt can be a source of pathogens. Flooded corn grain is "adulterated" grain. Farmers are strongly encouraged to work closely with their veterinarian and animal nutritionist when determining which vaccination and feeding protocol to use to further protect the herd from possible health issues associated with feeding flooded crop material. Flooded crops should be stored separately from the rest of your feed. In cases of production

problems, this allows for feeding or disposal options without affecting your good feed.

## Lodged corn

Fields that have lodged at denting (R5) might "goose-neck" back upright if they are still green. However, high yielding heavy ears may prevent the stalks from straightening at all. Fields should respond to any straightening within 7-10 days

## Silage harvest

Some things to consider as we head into corn silage harvest season:

1. Safety first.
2. Water saturated soils will slow down plant dry-down rate, especially with cooler temperatures. Allowing a little more time for the field to dry out will help alleviate potential soil compaction.
3. Regardless of lodging, **the key management driver is plant moisture**. Yield is no longer a concern. Target fields at the ideal moisture content of the storage structure. Bag silos have the greatest moisture range (60 to 70%) and may be best option when the field is variable.
4. Good fermentation will help with preservation. Consider a silage inoculant, however, balance the cost of the product with the loss expected in the field. Don't throw good money after bad.
5. Use a Kemper head and go against the direction in which it leans.
6. Reach down low. Run the head as close to the ground as possible. Be wary of rocks and uneven terrain.
7. Make sure the kernel processor is adjusted correctly. Kernel processing allows for grain that might be more mature extending the harvest window and allowing the soil to dry more avoiding compaction.

## Grain harvest

Identify fields that are at greatest risk and harvest these fields first. Fields which experienced late season stress or disease would be prime candidates for early harvest.

1. Safety first
2. Reduce ground speed. Slow down and adjust gathering chain and snapping roll speed to match combine speed
3. Go against the grain. Combine corn the opposite direction from which it leans.
4. Catch the corn. Adjust gathering chains and snapping plate as close as possible to the stalks.
5. Reach down low. Run the head as close to the ground as possible. Be wary of rocks and uneven terrain.
6. Be ready. Scout fields to anticipate harvest problems.

## Tar Spot

Here is a link to information on Tar Spot in Corn by Damon Smith, UW-Madison Extension Field Crops Pathologist. <https://badgercropdoc.com/2018/08/29/holy-tar-spot-batman/>

Many fields in Columbia County have been affected by this disease this year. We are working hard to learn and provide information to farmers about recommended use of the grain, stover, and crop management for 2019. This is very new to us and fields are changing quickly. We are working to provide you with the most up-to-date

information available so that you can make informed harvest and crop residue management decisions. A major concern is standability for fields that have been severely hit by this disease. The plant leaves died prematurely, so the ears scavenged nutrients from the stalk to plump out the kernels, leaving the stalks weak and brittle. Be ready to harvest, watch grain moisture percentages, and be aware that test weights will probably be lower for affected fields. In some cases the plant died early, prior to full maturity (black layer formation).

## **North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE) will host a Farmer Rancher Grant Program grant webinar on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 4-5:30pm CDT**

This webinar will help guide participants through the process of submitting a grant proposal to NCR-SARE's Farmer Rancher grant program. Join Joan Benjamin, NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Grant Program Coordinator, to learn how to write a strong proposal and project budget and where to get help. NCR-SARE will record the webinar and make it available online.

### **To Join the Webinar**

Join the NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Grant Program WebEx webinar online (registration is not required) by 4pm on Monday, September 17th at:

<https://tinyurl.com/ybspvj48>

We will be using a telephone-based conference phone line for this meeting.

Please use this toll-free dial-in number: **1-866-865-2157**

Conference phone line code: **7581918946**

Once you've connected to the conference line, please mute your phone.

### **Test Your System Before the Webinar**

We strongly recommend that you install the WebEx software and test your computer and browser prior to attending the webinar because there are plugins that may need to be installed on your computer. Do that here: <https://www.webex.com/test-meeting.html>

### **Technical Problems?**

Contact Marie Flanagan at [mart1817@umn.edu](mailto:mart1817@umn.edu) or 612-625-7027 prior to the meeting. Alternately, WebEx technical support is available 24 hours a day to assist with setup or connection issues at 1-866-229-3239 (U.S. and Canada, toll-free).

### **About the NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Grant Program**

NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Grant Program proposals are due on December 6, 2018 at 4pm CST.

NCR-SARE's Farmer Rancher Grant Program is a competitive grants program for farmers and ranchers who want to explore sustainable solutions to problems through on-farm research, demonstration, and education projects. Proposals should show how farmers and ranchers plan to use their own innovative ideas to explore sustainable agriculture options and how they will share project results. Sustainable agriculture is good for the environment, profitable, and socially responsible.

There are three types of competitive grants: individual grants (\$9,000 maximum), team of two grants for two farmers/ranchers from separate operations who are working together (\$18,000 maximum), and group grants for three or more farmers/ranchers from separate operations who are working together (\$27,000 maximum). NCR-SARE expects to fund about 40 projects in the twelve-state North Central region with this call. A total of approximately \$600,000 is available for this program for 2019.

NCR-SARE will be accepting online submissions for the Farmer Rancher Grant Program. Note that we are using an new online system this year. More information about the online submission system can be found in the call for proposals. Interested applicants can find the call for proposals [online](#) as well as useful information for completing a proposal.

[Tutorials](#) for using the online application system are available for Farmer Rancher and Youth Ed (and our other open grant programs). There are PowerPoint with text versions as well as narrated versions.

You can find more information about [sustainable agriculture](#) online as well.

Each state in SARE's North Central Region has one or more State Sustainable Agriculture Coordinators who can provide information and assistance to potential grant applicants. Interested applicants can find their State Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator [online](#).

## **WI Crop Manager**

Below are some direct links to the current articles on our blog at <http://ipcm.wisc.edu/wcm>.

Bacterial Leaf Streak of Corn Confirmed for the First Time in Wisconsin

<http://bit.ly/2NGN1nK>

What to Expect from Stalk Rot and Mycotoxins in Severely Diseased and Damaged Corn

<http://bit.ly/2x8H6yg>

Handling Flooded and Down Corn at Silage and Grain Harvest

<http://bit.ly/2QjPgfk>

2018 Wisconsin Soybean Yield Contest Contest Rules and Entry/Harvest Form

<http://bit.ly/2xgDwCz>

## **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-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@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:george.koepp@ces.uwex.edu).