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Document any flood losses that you might have incurred

Take Pictures, keep receipts.....

Call Columbia County Emergency Management and report your losses. 608-742-4166 ext 1309

FSA has several programs that could potential offer assistance for losses or damage as a result of the floods. NRCS and the County Land and Water Conservation Department also have programs that can assist with the repairs or installation of conservation structures as well. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO DO IS DOCUMENT YOUR LOSSES/DAMAGE. TAKE PICTURES AND KEEP RECEIPTS for expenses you incurred for the repairs, additional feed costs, or anything else that resulted from the flood.

Producers who suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to recent floods may be eligible for disaster assistance programs through the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs.

[NRCS Announces Special EQIP Signup for 2018 Storm Relief](#)

Apply by November 16, 2018

Providing Conservation Practices to Protect Natural Resources

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced September 19, 2018, that funding is available to producers in select Wisconsin counties who experienced forest and agricultural land damage due to recent severe weather within the last two months. Angela Biggs, NRCS State Conservationist, announced farmers and forest landowners interested in the special [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) signup need to apply by November 16, 2018, for funding consideration. Applications are being taken at select USDA Service Centers in the storm-affected counties below.

Storm Relief funds will help producers repair damage to existing EQIP practices and allow producers to apply for new EQIP practices to address damage as a result of extreme rain, floods, and wind in select counties including Adams, Brown, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, La Crosse, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Marquette, Monroe, Oconto, Ozaukee, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Vernon, Washington, Waushara, and Winnebago Counties.

“NRCS can help farmers and woodland owners recover from these storms,” said Biggs. “We have EQIP practices to address storm damage, for example, soil erosion caused by flooded crop fields and wind damaged forests caused by recent tornados.”

All applications received by November 16, 2018, will be evaluated, prioritized and ranked for funding. Applicants may contact their local USDA Service Center to get started on producer eligibility and planning. Biggs reminds farmers who are interested in practices that may require permits to begin planning and seeking permits as soon as possible.

Landowners interested in applying for EQIP funding should contact their local NRCS office at the [USDA Service Center](#) in their county. For more information, visit www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov.

September Milk Production Report from Professor Cropp

With favorable domestic sales, slower growth in milk production and higher dairy exports September milk prices will be higher than August. Higher cheese and dry whey prices will push the September Class III price to around \$16.00 compared to \$14.95 in August and a low of \$13.40 back in February. While the price of butter will average lower this will be more than offset by high nonfat dry milk prices pushing the September Class IV price to around \$14.70 compared to \$14.63 in August and a low of 12.87 back in February...Milk cow numbers fell by 9,000 head June to July but regained 5,000 head in August. August Cow numbers were down slightly from a year ago but an improvement in milk per cow of 1.4% higher than a year ago resulted in the 1.4% increase in total milk production. This higher than expected increase in August milk production could dampen milk prices some.

[Dairy Farm Stress Webinar Series: Where is the Dairy Industry Headed?](#)

As we take a look at dairy producers who lose hope in their future, they often make decisions that are to their demise. To succeed, producers cannot just hope and believe. They must seek and understand the changes on

the horizon and plan for their success even during stressful times. Producers have wondered where the last couple of years of changes, expansions, and difficulties with marketing and processing have taken us. In Webinar II of the [Dairy Farm Stress Webinar Series](#), Iowa State Extension Dairy Team NW Field Specialist [Fred Hall](#) discusses the basics of the dairy market, demand, production, consumption, and exports in [Where is The Dairy Industry Headed](#) (Part 1 of Knowing Your Cost of Production and Dairy Outlooks).

Apps for pricing Standing hay and corn silage

The mobile app for pricing standing corn silage with iPhones and iPads is now available from the Apple Store at:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/corn-silage-pricing/id1408421857?ls=1&mt=8>

Android users can still find it on Google Play store at:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.smartmapsconsulting.cornsilagepricing&hl=en>

The pricing standing hay mobile app is also available in both Android and IOS version. Just search the App Store or Google Play Store for Hay Pricing.

Putting Farm Safety into Practice – Grain and Forage Harvest



A modern farm can be a dangerous and unforgiving place. Late summer and fall are high-risk times as harvest operations ramp up quickly. In Wisconsin, we always have tight time windows to get forages, corn, soybeans and other crops harvested and put into storage to make it through the year. It's that urgency and time pressure that can contribute to mistakes that often leads to injuries or even death. Machinery plays a major factor in serious farm injuries. Here are some ways to put safety into practice!

[Think Like a Pilot – Or, a NASCAR Driver](#)

The best way to prevent harvest season injuries is to invest prep time to get your equipment and storage structures ready for the busy season. Adjustments and maintenance that improve safety also can help maximize the quality and value of your crop. Many terrible farming injuries happen when a breakdown occurs. People get super-stressed or frustrated and then do something that they know might be dangerous.

As a farm owner, manager, or operator, think of your role the same way an airplane pilot or race car driver would. That means you need to establish something like a pre-flight or pre-race [checklist](#) — a run-through and shakedown to make sure all systems are “go.”

Consult your operator’s manuals. Are shields or guards in place – on tractors, choppers, blowers, wagons, combines, and augers? Replace any questionable hydraulic hoses and know the status of any bearings and belts that you know might need to be repaired during the season.

Preventive maintenance on storage structures and their associated machinery or equipment is important. It’s easier to do repair on a silo unloader at ground level than on top of a filled silo. Check fixed ladders that may have rusted or loosened over the year on grain bins or upright silos. Walk around horizontal silo walls checking for cracks and repair as needed.

Make sure to carry a fully-charged, 10-pound ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher on all machines including trucks. Train people on how to properly use the fire extinguisher and when to call the fire department. Keep first aid kit or safety supplies in field vehicles and farm buildings. Post a list of addresses as directions to various field locations.

Gear Up for Highway Travel

Minimizing the time you spend on the highway is always the best way to reduce hazard levels. However, that’s often not practical. Plan highway travel whenever possible to avoid busy or high traffic times including the early morning commute and the rush to school. Evening times are high risk as people are in a hurry to get home from work or school and the sun gets low in the sky.

With fewer daylight hours upon us, make sure SMV emblems and other extremity markings are bright and clean. Replace any markings that are faded or missing. Daily check that warning lights, including flashers and beacon lamps as well as head lights are fully operational. Remember, field lights or any white light to the rear are not for highway use. Make sure you fully understand and comply with all other state and local [lighting, marking, width, and weight limit laws](#). Follow rule of the road laws and remember to warn motorists of your intent to turn by using signal lights or hand signals.

Train, Coach, & Create Expectations with Your Employees

Many farms have additional hired workers to assist with harvest – As an employer, spend time with them. Talk about your safety expectations. If your farm publishes a newsletter or posts safety notices, these are a good way to communicate special harvest safety practices. The same is true if you’re hiring custom harvest work. Discuss your operations safety practices with the custom harvest operators. Small things like discussing travel routes and speed for custom equipment as well as your daily operation equipment reduces stress for every operator.

As a farm owner and operator, you must create and expect a culture of safety. With everybody involved in the operation, demonstrate and walk through safe procedures. Operator’s manuals and safety decals are a great source of information. Show people what to do if something unexpected happens. Make sure everyone

involved in the operation has a reliable way to communicate. But realize that if it's a smartphone, steps need to be taken to make sure people are not distracted by phone use.

A safe harvest requires a little extra effort on a daily basis. In the end the payoff can be significant when there are no injuries or down time during the harvest season.

WiscWeeds Waterhemp Project

Do you have soybean or corn fields with a waterhemp infestation that appear to be herbicide resistant? Would you like to have them tested for free? Here is a link to more details on the project and a copy of the seed collection form: <http://www.wiscweeds.info/post/wisconsin-waterhemp-herbicide-resistance-project/>

Seed Collection Protocol:

- Collect seed heads from 20 mature waterhemp female plants. Collect plants as far apart as possible within the field to represent the population.
- Place all seed heads from the same field in the same paper bag (leave paper bags open until samples are dry).
- Properly ID the sample bag and fill out the "Field History Form". Crop management and herbicide information are crucial for our research. Weed distribution and density within a field will be a "polite guess". For sample ID, use county and farmer's name.
- Store the samples in a dry environment. Please mail samples to Rodrigo Werle, 1575 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706.
- For questions, contact Dr. Werle: rwerle@wisc.edu or 608-262-7130 (www.wiscweeds.info).

If you farm in Columbia County, are interested in participating and would like help in collecting the sample and completing the information form, contact George at the Columbia County Extension office to make an appointment for a farm visit. George.koepp@ces.uwex.edu or 608-742-9682.

2018 WI and Columbia County Corn Growers Yield Contest

The rules and contest information have just been released from the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association for the 2018 growing season. You may either follow this link: <http://wicorn.org/growers/corn-yield-contest/> or contact George for a copy of the rules and Contest Harvest Report Forms.

You must be a member of the Wisconsin Corn Growers organization and Harvest Report Forms must be postmarked, emailed, or faxed by December 31, 2018.

WI Crop Manager Articles for this week

Corn Disease Update: Ear Rot, Mycotoxin in Silage
<https://youtu.be/uM8m-Fvo4U4>

Tar Spot Disease on Corn in Wisconsin, ID and recommendations
<https://youtu.be/uLygYjMkXQE>

2018 Wisconsin Soybean Yield Contest

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

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>

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.