

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Updates **August 2, 2019**

Here are updates from the MSU Extension Field Crops team in Southwest Michigan. If you have any items you would like me to include in future email updates—whether events you want others to know about or topics you would like to have addressed—please send me an email or call the office.

USDA Opens Sign-up for Market Facilitation Program

Sign-up is now open for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program to assist farmers who continue to suffer from damages because of unjustified trade retaliation from foreign nations. Through MFP, USDA will provide up to \$14.5 billion in direct payments to impacted producers, part of a broader trade relief package announced in late July. The sign-up period runs through Dec. 6. MFP payments will be made to producers of certain non-specialty and specialty crops as well as dairy and hog producers.

Payments will be made in up to three tranches, with the second and third tranches evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. If conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January.

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$250,000 for non-specialty crops per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$250,000 for dairy and hog producers and a combined \$250,000 for specialty crop producers. However, no applicant can receive more than \$500,000. Eligible applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017 of less than \$900,000, or 75 percent of the person's or legal entity's average AGI for those tax years must have been derived from farming and ranching. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

More information can be found on the [Market Facilitation Program website](#), including payment information and a program application.

Local Meetings Update

We unfortunately had to cancel the meeting “Tools for Navigating a Challenging Farm Economy” due to low registration enrollment. The good news is that the MSU Extension farm management team is in the initial stages of planning a meeting for this fall/winter on important changes in the 2018 Farm Bill, and they intend to incorporate some of the content from the cancelled meeting. I’ll keep you posted when those meetings are set.

The field day on Friday, Aug. 16th, from 8:30am-1pm titled “Southwest Michigan Crop and Irrigation Management Field Day” is still on! The meeting will be held north of Sturgis on N. Centreville Rd. 1/2-mile south of Featherstone Rd. The meeting is sponsored by the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee and includes a free lunch. Topics include: Old and New Tools for Irrigation Scheduling and Soil Moisture Monitoring; Corn Leaf Wetness and Tar Spot in Corn; Irrigation Uniformity Check – Taco Bell or Eye in the Sky?; Soybean Nodulation and Crop Development Research; Soybean Production in a Late-Planted Season; and Deer Management in Field Crops. [Signup online by Aug. 14](#) to reserve your seat.



WBC Trapping Report

Western bean cutworm (WBC) moth flights are on the rise in the region. Purdue numbers from the previous week show some impressive captures. Two traps in western Branch County caught 130 and 240 moths from July 22-29. My trap in southeast Kalamazoo County had 12 moths on July 29 (had 83 moths the previous check, now I’m on the same schedule as everyone else). Reports of high trap counts have come in from mid-Michigan as well. If you have not started scouting corn fields for egg masses and newly-emerged larvae, now is the time.

	6/20/19- 6/26/2019	6/27/19- 7/3/2019	7/4/19- 7/10/2019	7/11/19- 7/17/2019	7/18/19- 7/24/2019
Elkhart	1	2	28	118	184
Jasper	0	1	31	252	1152
Jasper	5	3	7	114	76
Lake	0	1	4	10	32
Lake	0	1	12	16	189
Lake	1	0	0	19	140
LaPorte	4	1	40	45	555
Marshall	1	1	5	16	34
Marshall	0	0	8	105	
Porter	0	0	1	9	24
Pulaski	6	0	0	30	84
Pulaski	2	0	0	1	
St. Joseph	0	0	2	41	9
St. Joseph	0	0	5	10	47
Starke	0	0	1	21	11
Whitley	0	0	1	8	9
Whitley	0	0	2	11	11

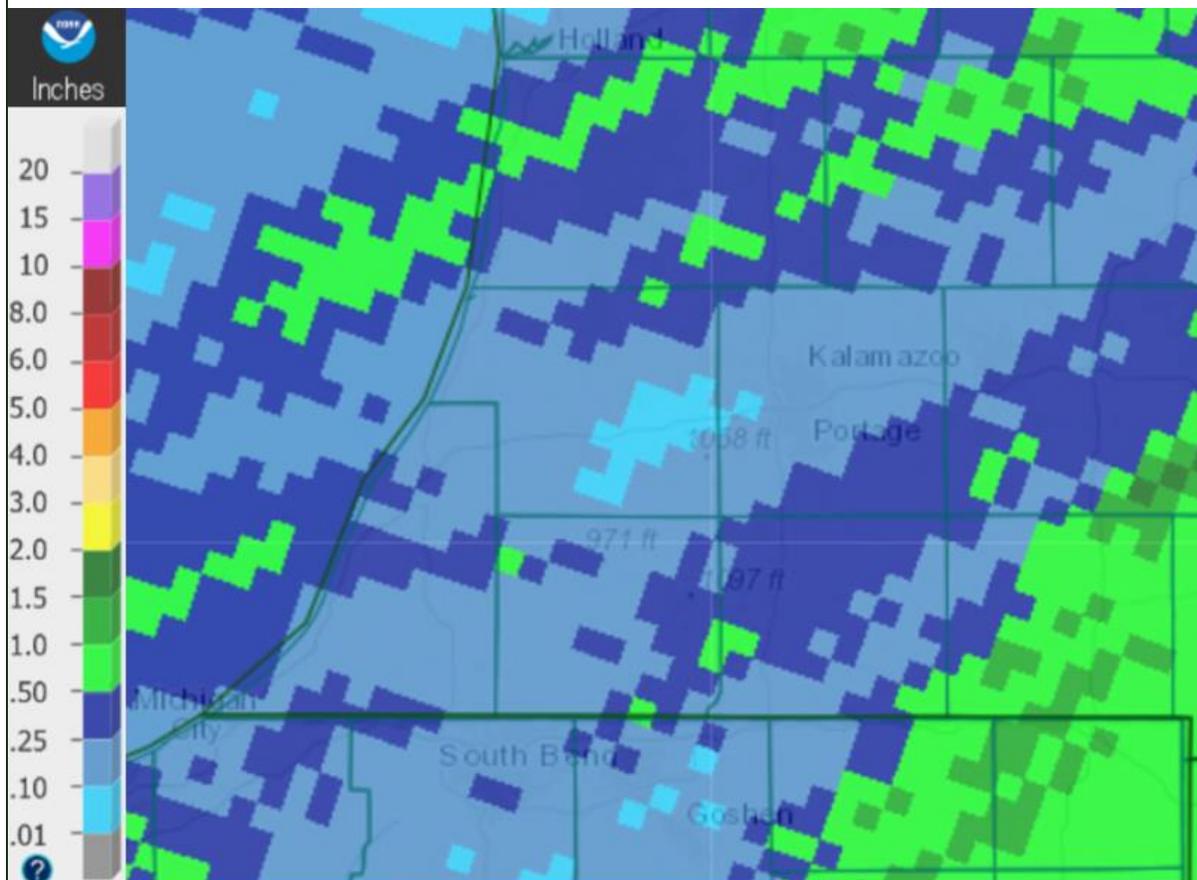
Weather Update

Crops: Corn in earlier-planted fields is on the way to the blister stage (R2) while late-planted fields have not yet tasseled. Field crop pathologist Marty Chilvers said tar spot is now confirmed in 5 counties, although it is still patchy and not severe. Fungicide applications through R3, the milk stage, would still be helpful if you see tar spot lesions at levels sufficient to warrant intervention. You need to check the label to make sure the late application is legal for the product.

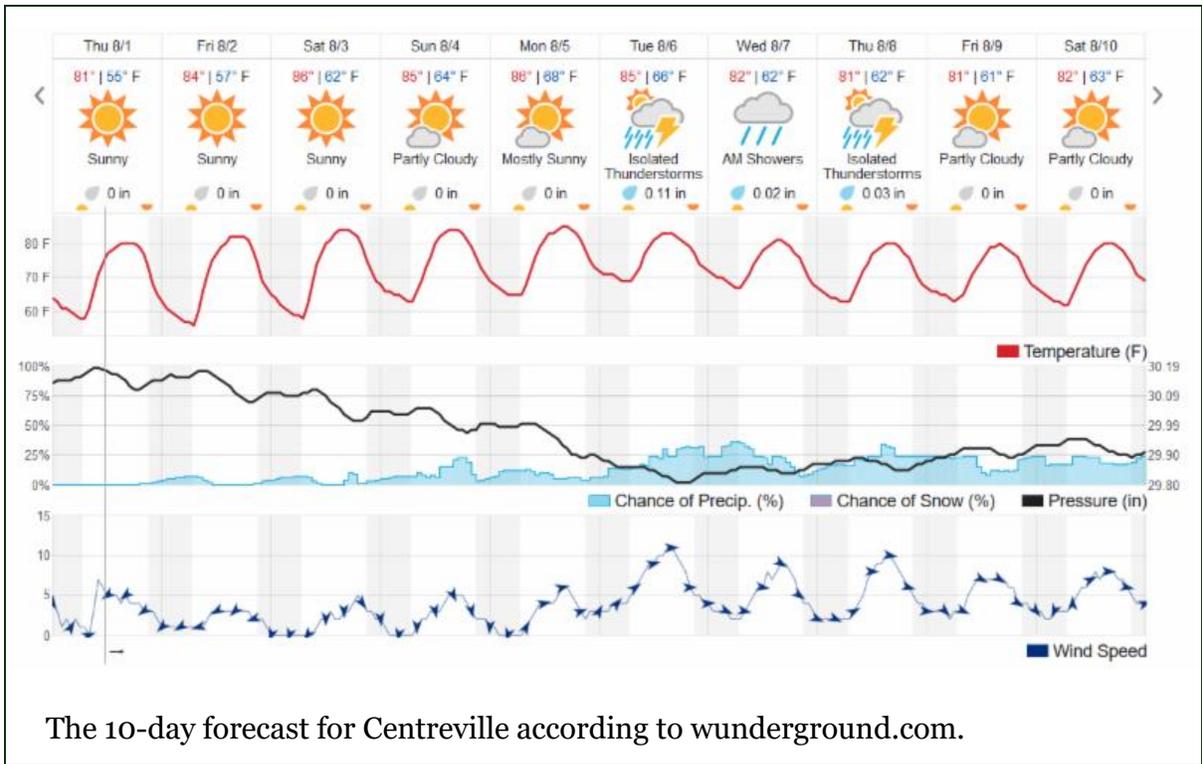
Soybean planted in mid-May is just entering the beginning pod (R3) stage, a critical time for yield determination. Depending on when they got planted, beans are tracking 7-10 days behind typical development. According to Purdue's Shaun Casteel, soybean progresses through early reproductive stages approximately every 10 days, and according to the SoyWater model, a 2.6MG bean planted May 17th won't reach full maturity (R8) until Oct. 10. Will your field make it to harvest this year? Dr. Manni Singh and Mike Staton will address this question and give management suggestions at the upcoming field day on August 16th.

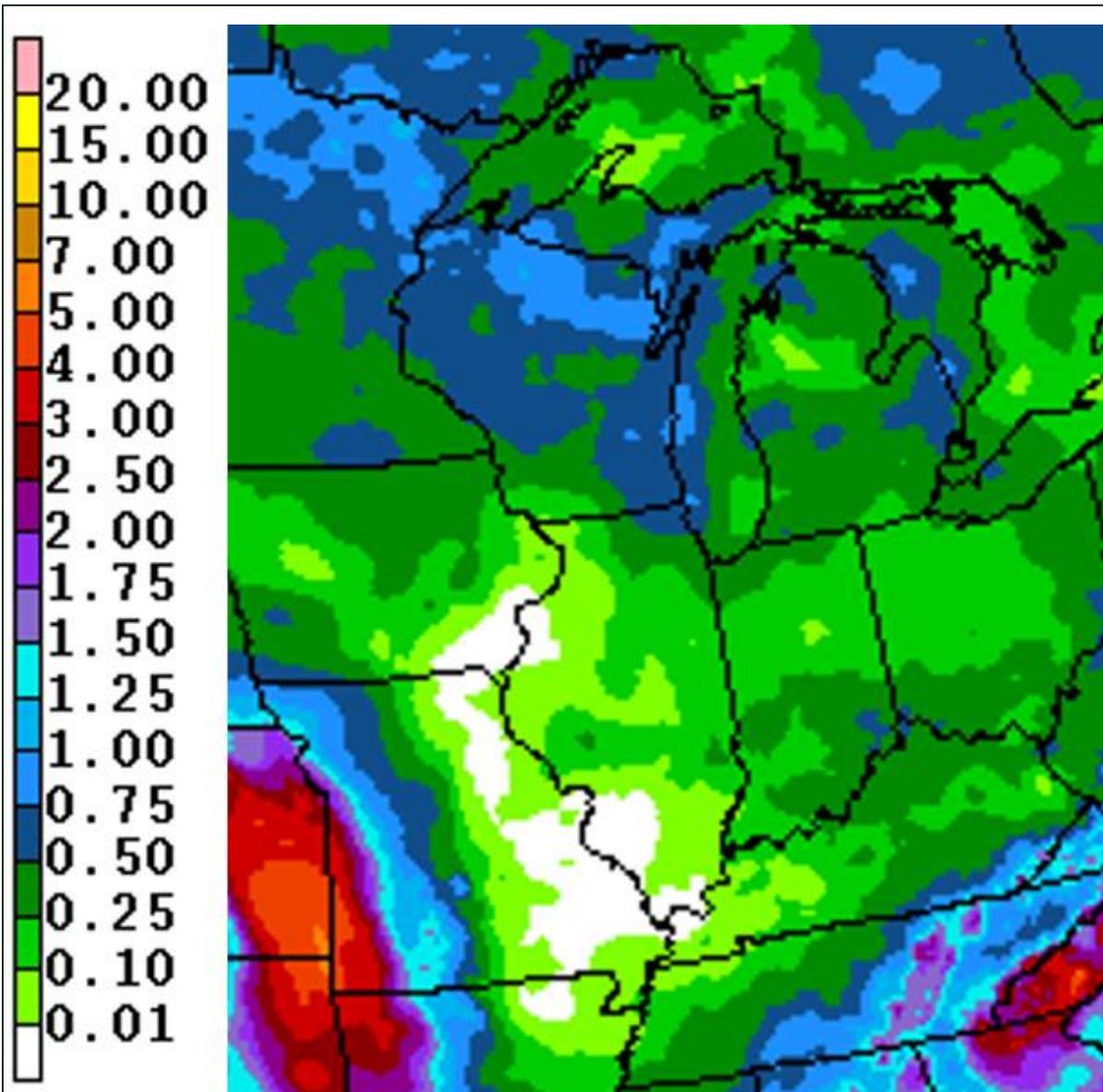
Weather: Temperatures this past week were normal to above-normal and rainfall ranged from 1/10th to 1/2 inch with most of the county receiving between 1/4th and 1/2 inch. Corn at tasseling or silking or soybean at full bloom or beginning pod will use between 0.18 and 0.24 of an inch per day this coming week, so irrigation needs remain high. We were 51% short in topsoil moisture this past week in Michigan which is the highest among Midwest states and a 22% increase over the previous week. The high pressure system sitting over Michigan that has brought warm and dry weather will give way to a frontal system and incoming low pressure system from Canada mid-week next week. Temperatures this next week will remain higher than normal, but cooler-than-normal temps are predicted for the remainder of August.

NOTE: For those who use the Coldwater Enviroweather station for weather data, there was a glitch earlier this week with the tipping bucket. A reading of 2.9" was posted on July 29th—might have been nice to get, but actual measurements were more like 0.3". The Enviroweather team is in the process of replacing the malfunctioning equipment and will clean up the data soon.

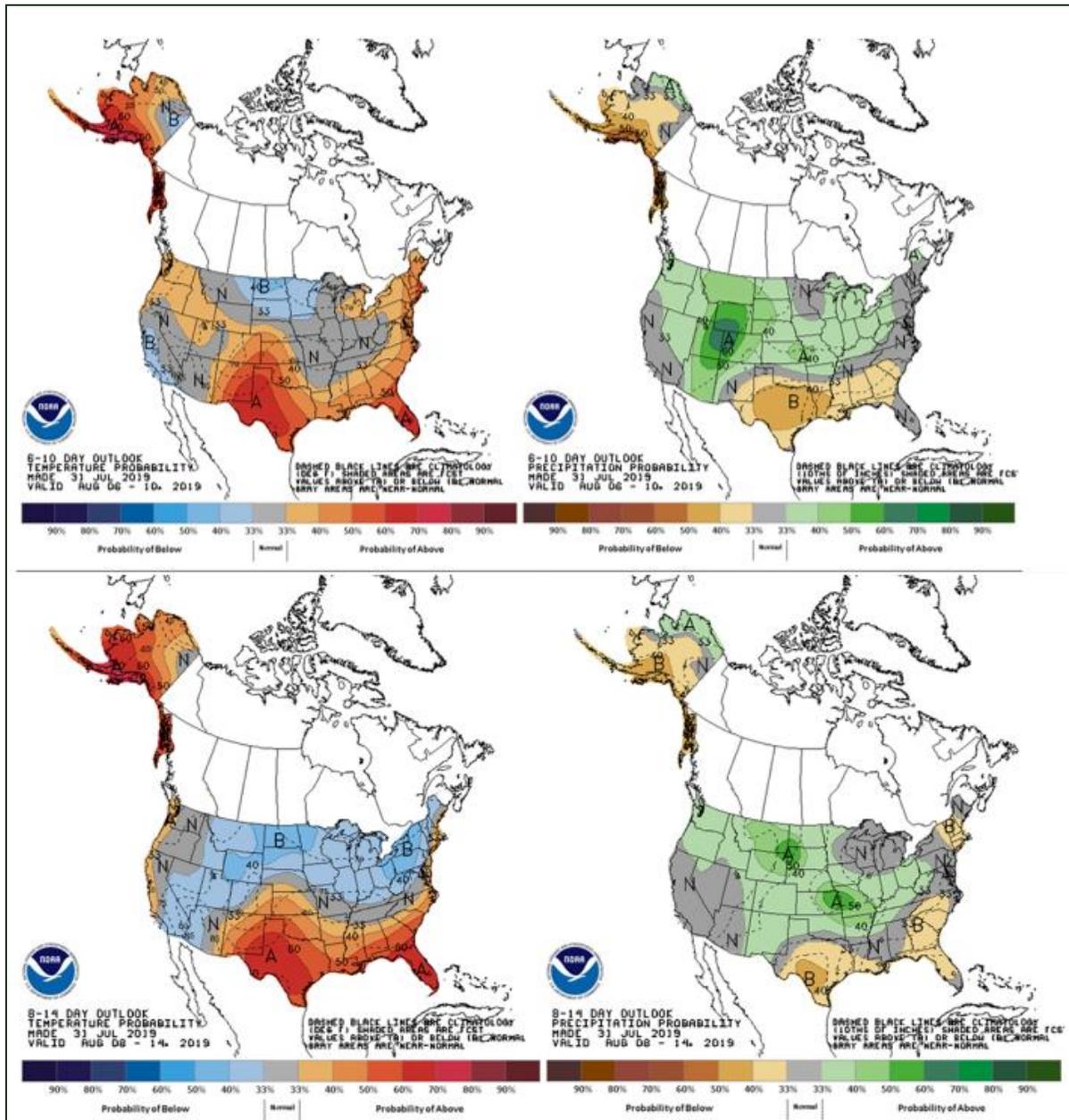


Precipitation totals for week ending August 1, 2019.





Forecast for precipitation totals for the week of Aug 1-8, 2019....half an inch or less, falling Tuesday-Wednesday next week.



National Weather Service 6-10 day outlook (Aug 6-10, top) and the 8-14 day outlook (Aug 8-14, bottom) for temperature (left) and precipitation (right). The precip outlook of wetter than normal is questionable, but cooler-than-normal temps later in August are predicted in several models.

Calendar

Titles are clickable links to online content when highlighted and underlined

Aug 8 **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Free Webinar.** Thursdays 7:00-7:30 AM. This week: “Crop Diseases in 2019” with Martin Chilvers. Join via computer or mobile device (audio and video, <https://msu.zoom.us/j/552324349>) or by phone (audio only, **669-900-6833** and enter meeting ID **552-324-349**). To receive a weekly reminder of the Virtual Breakfast, sign up at <http://eepurl.com/gm-PIv>.

Aug 8 **Industrial Hemp Production 101 Webinar Series.** 12:30-2pm. Join MSU Extension for a webinar series to cover the basics of growing industrial hemp, particularly but not exclusively geared toward greenhouse considerations. Register online, cost is \$20.

Aug 16 **SW MI Crop and Irrigation Research Field Day.** 8:00am-1pm. N. Centreville Rd. 1/2-mile south of Featherstone Rd., Sturgis, MI. Join MSU crop and irrigation educators and specialists for several talks highlighting ongoing research and current recommendations in irrigated corn and soybean. Cost is free, register online by Aug. 14th to reserve space and lunch.

Aug 20-21 **2019 Bridging the Experience Gap.** Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center, 3775 S Reese Rd, Frankenmuth, MI. This program provides a platform for professionals to gain experience, network with their peers and ask questions from knowledgeable instructors without fear of rejection or criticism. Cost is \$350, supplies and lunches included, register online.

Sep 5 **Cass MAEAP Field Day.** 4-7pm. Crane Pond DNR office, 60887 M-40, Jones, MI. Managing for Forestry Health and Profit. Program offers 2 RUP credits. Co-sponsored by SWMLC, DNR, SWxSW CISMA & MAEAP. Dinner provided to registrants. Call 269-445-8641 x 5 to RSVP.

MSU Extension Digest Briefs

How to motivate your lender to say, “Yes”

PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 1, 2019

Understanding the Lending Process

Irrigation uniformity check: Taco Bell or eye in the sky?

PUBLISHED ON JULY 31, 2019

Irrigation uniformity testing methods and other field-based research topics will be explored at Aug. 16, 2019, field day north of Sturgis, Michigan, in St. Joseph County.

Managing corn earworm in an unusual year

PUBLISHED ON JULY 31, 2019

There have been reports of wormy sweet corn, and the causes are tied up in our unusual spring and current weather patterns. Learn about corn earworm and tips for managing it in a difficult year.

How a simple chlorophyll meter can help to reduce your nitrogen application costs

PUBLISHED ON JULY 31, 2019

Because nitrogen is closely related to chlorophyll levels, using a chlorophyll meter can help corn growers finetune their sidedress nitrogen applications.

Kick your soil health up a notch by attending Aug. 26 twilight meeting

PUBLISHED ON JULY 29, 2019

Michigan State University Extension and the MSU cover crops team are offering another great soil health educational event for free to farmers in the Monroe County area.

Corn tar spot outlook for 2019

PUBLISHED ON JULY 26, 2019

Tar spot has been confirmed in Kent and Gratiot counties at low levels. Although tar spot is off to a slow start, continue monitoring for this disease.

Crop Protection Network to offer Certified Crop Advisor continuing education credits

PUBLISHED ON JULY 25, 2019

Certified Crop Advisor credits will be awarded to participants that earn a passing score on quizzes related to Crop Protection Network publications.

FARMDOC RESOURCES (UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS)

PUBLISHED ON JULY 19, 2019

University of Illinois offers the farmdoc website with an extensive array of articles and tools to assist in risk management decisions for farms.

WHOLE FARM REVENUE PROTECTION

PUBLISHED ON JULY 19, 2019

Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) insurance provides a risk management safety net for all commodities on the farm under one policy.

USDA RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY RESOURCES

PUBLISHED ON JULY 19, 2019

USDA's Risk Management Agency administers crop insurance programs, including Whole-Farm Revenue Protection, Margin Protection, and Actual Production History Insurance.

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

PUBLISHED ON JULY 19, 2019

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is offered by USDA's Farm Service Agency for crops that are not insurable under the typical crop insurance programs.

THE TALE OF TWO TRANSITIONS

PUBLISHED ON JULY 8, 2019

Getting farm transition right can make or break a farm's chances of surviving from one generation to another.

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