

January 8, 2016

EXTENSION MEETING UPDATES AND PLC MILO

Wilber Crop Clinic – Save the date, we have an excellent lineup of speakers once again for Friday, February 12, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Sokol Hall, Wilber. Doors open earlier for kolaches and sticky rolls. Your speaker lineup will be Al Dutcher, Climate Outlook; Gary Lesoing, our Homestead singer and cover crop on-farm research guru; Richard Ferguson, UNL soil fertility and research update with nitrogen; John Wilson, extension educator Burt County with field expertise with soybean cyst nematodes; Brad Lubben, Farm Policy; Lowell Sandell, former UNL Extension Weed Science now with Valent and keynote presentation after lunch will be Larry Kopsa from York, Nebraska, a CPA with a lot of recommendations and humor. Sponsor letters were sent out this week, if your agribusiness would like to sponsor, please let me know. We pool the sponsorship for the noon meal and door prizes.

SE Nebraska Soil Health and No-Till Conference – Save the date, we have an excellent lineup of speakers for Monday, February 22 at the Hallam Auditorium with doors opening at 8:00 a.m. You guessed it, kolaches, coffee and sticky rolls. It is my turn to host this year. The only time one of our keynote speakers, Jerry Hatfield, soils scientist from USDA-ARS in Des Moines, IA could attend in February, Sokol Hall and Saline Center were busy.

Another keynote presentation will be Josh Lloyd, a farmer from Kansas with an integrated livestock and crop farm. Lloyd was the ASA's 2010 National Conservation Legacy Award winner, uses yield mapping, cover crops and more to make no-till work. There are 2,900 acres that Lloyd operates in north central Kansas. Returning to the farm in 1998, after earning a business degree from Kansas State University, Lloyd joined a family farming operation that was leaning toward no-till farming at that time.

Complimenting these two regional speakers are Paul Jasa from UNL; Dan Gillespie from NRCS; Tyler Williams, Extension Educator; and Paul Hay, Extension Educator. Keith Burns is also committed to the program talking about cover crops in no-till. Farmers Cooperative is on-board with this program and will take care of the noon meal arrangements. More information will follow. Pre-registration is suggested for this program to help with meal count at our office. More information to come.

PLC Milo

For the dryland farmers in Saline County that kept their old history of milo base payment acres with USDA, quite a few signed up for the PLC milo program based on the Texas A&M statistical computer mode. PLC program payments are issued when the effective price of a covered commodity is less than the respective reference price for that commodity. The effective price equals the higher of the market year average price (MYA) or the national average loan rate for the covered commodity.

A very good place to track national marketing price is Art Barnaby's website, our neighbor to the south. The KSU website is http://www.agmanager.info/crops/insurance/risk_mgt/ I don't like to look at the low prices currently being projected, but that's the reality we are in.



The PLC reference price for sorghum is \$3.95, wheat is \$5.50, corn is \$3.70, and soybeans is \$8.40. Based on the price estimates for the 15/16 marketing year, only soybeans would not have a PLC payment and the ARC-CO payments will depend on our county yields reported in February. Except for wheat, these price estimates still have a very large error, so it's a big guess so to speak.

My interest was on Art Barnaby's predicted ending sorghum national marketing price of \$3.39 per bushel or 56 cents a bushel below the reference price. If this prediction comes close by August 31, there would be a large sorghum PLC payment on 85% of the sorghum base acres this fall, regardless of what crop is planted. It is very hard for a lender to pencil any expected USDA payments with this program, it always leaves lots of questions on a cash flow estimate.

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