

November 9, 2018

SOYBEAN TREATMENT DECISIONS PLUS MFP UPDATE

I received a great question this week concerning booking soybean seed in the fall with or without treatment on the seed. The farmer has always used treated soybean seed but he is contemplating the cost when soybeans are at or below the cost of production. It is a \$20,000 decision on 1,000 acres of soybeans. He is a no-tiller and plants early following UNL recommendations with soybean planting intentions.

Many farmers are looking for ways to trim input costs due to lower commodity prices. Cutting costs is usually not easy and certainly needs to be done without reducing profitability. Fall soybean seed purchases require farmers to decide about seed treatment without knowing what weather risks they'll face next spring. The prime culprit with soybean seedling diseases is saturated soil conditions coupled with cold temperature leading to slow emergence. Reduced seedling populations may be spatially erratic, especially in poorly drained areas, and cause spot-replant in those areas. Before deciding about seed treatments, soybean producers should answer four questions about their soybean fields.

These question topics include: 1) Field history (is there a history of seedling/emergence problems); 2) How early the soybeans are planted; 3) Phytophthora disease history; 4) Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) history. The bottom line is estimate your early soybean plantings (late-April to early-May), and treat this seed with fungicide as insurance against water-saturated, cold soils that may lengthen the in-ground time between germination and soybean emergence. Also, research the four field history questions noted above when deciding whether to use soybean seed treatments. The full article can be found at: cropwatch.unl.edu/tags/seed-treatment The article also discusses insecticide treatments on soybean.

MARKET FACILITATION PROGRAM (MFP) UPDATE

Farmers and ranchers whose commodities have been directly impacted by trade damage from retaliation by foreign nations are getting some assistance from USDA. The Market Facilitation Program administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency will provide direct payments to eligible producers of soybeans, sorghum, corn, wheat, cotton, dairy, hogs, shelled almonds, and fresh sweet cherries.

The initial MFP rates are as follows:

Cotton \$0.06/lb; Corn \$0.01/bu; Dairy \$0.12/cwt; Hogs \$8.00/head; Sorghum \$0.86/bu; Soybeans \$1.65/bu; Wheat \$0.14/bu; Shelled Almonds \$0.03/lb and Fresh Sweet Cherries \$0.16/lb. A payment will be issued on the first 50 percent of the producer's total production of the commodity once the CCC-910 is completed and the producer's entire harvest is certified. On or about December 3, 2018, CCC will announce a second payment rate, if applicable, that will apply to the remaining 50 percent of the producer's production.

Here is an electronic version of the CCC form: <https://go.unl.edu/cc-910>

With the Nebraska soybean crop last year, as an example, soybean producers harvested 54.7 bu/acre on 5.67 million acres. Using last year's data, the MFP in Nebraska would influx approximately \$538 million dollars into our agricultural economy, if the full \$1.65/bu for soybeans is implemented by USDA.



To put the current marketing situation farmers face into perspective, the Nebraska Farm Business Association, in their 2017 report, indicated the total cost of production of their clients with irrigated and dryland soybeans (all tenure types) was \$7.86 for dryland and \$8.57 for irrigated soybeans and that was the most efficient farms. The average of all client farms was \$9.48 for dryland and \$9.33 per bushel raised for irrigated.

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