

# SHELBY COUNTY CROP TALK

May 22, 2020

**Crop Scout:** The past weekend brought rain and heat. Earlier planted corn seemed to take notice of the little heat we have had and has finally been moving from yellow to more of a green color. Corn planted last weekend should emerge this weekend, assuming 110 GDUs and using Accuweather data for Shelbyville. Wheat around the county is pollinating or getting very close. We have noted slug damage in soybean fields on plants struggling to break through the soil surface. Planting operations and most field activity was halted with wet weather this week.

**Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) Non-Specialty Crops:** This Tuesday it was announced that there would be a farm relief program for the pandemic. For corn and soybeans in our area, the program payment will be determined based on the smaller of two numbers: 50% of the total 2019 production of the commodity, or bushels of the 2019 crop held unsold as of January 15, 2020.

The USDA will pay 80% of the CFAP payment, if you are eligible, upon application approval. If a grower has not exceeded the payment cap for all commodities as funds remain available, the remaining amounts will be paid. The payment cap is limited to 250,000 across all eligible commodities. The pay cap will increase with farms that are set up as corporations, LLC's, and limited partnerships. The pay cap will increase with up to three shareholders that contribute at least 400 hours of active labor or active person management. This payment will add \$250,000 per active shareholder up to \$750,000.

Area crops that are eligible for CFAP payments include primarily just corn and soybeans. Soft red winter wheat is not eligible for a payment. Crops intended for grazing are also not eligible for a payment. For a producer to be eligible, their adjusted gross income must be less than \$900,000 for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017. If 75% of your gross income is from farming,

ranching, or forestry, the \$900,000 rule does not apply.

You must also be following the provisions of the "Highly Erodible land and Wetland Conservation". Payment rates for non-specialty crops grown in our area is on the last page. The FSA will begin taking applications on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May. Once the application the period has opened the FSA will allow scheduling of phone appointments.

While fields are too wet for field work, it would be a good time to get a jumpstart on the applications. Chances are, much of the information you need would be on file with the FSA already. Compiling the information now will speed up the process and help the sure-to-be-swamped FSA office.



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1

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## CFAP Resources:

- General Resources
  - <https://files.constantcontact.com/407bd6ff301/a9beac18-e52e-456f-a5bf-f7b4bc38e6c7.pdf>
- Non-Specialty Crops
  - <https://files.constantcontact.com/407bd6ff301/b8ff0266-2c2e-4185-807b-c909d6b9bf04.pdf>

Commodity	Unit of Measure	CARES Payment Rate	CCC Payment Rate
Corn	bushel	\$0.32	\$0.35
Soybeans	bushel	\$0.45	\$0.50



**PSNT:** As we approach corn side dressing, what is your strategy for making sure you supply the right amount of nitrogen to your corn? Pre-Sidedress Nitrogen Tests (PSNT) are soil tests that determine the amount of nitrogen (N) available for your plants in the field. The available nitrogen in the field includes ammonia and nitrate forms which can come from both organic and inorganic sources. The test utilizes 12” cores to get a good snapshot of the N in the root zone. An example of a PSNT core can be seen on the left. PSNTs can help ensure that we are utilizing nitrogen as efficiently as possible. If you are interested in learning more about this test contact me.