Projected Prices Set for Corn & Soybeans

Projected prices for crop year 2012 have been set and they are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn, grain</td>
<td>$5.68/bu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn, grain organic</td>
<td>$7.99/bu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn, silage</td>
<td>$50/ton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn, silage organic</td>
<td>$50/ton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>$12.55/bu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans organic</td>
<td>$19.97/bu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For producers who have purchased a 2012 crop insurance policy, the price election is used to determine the value of insurance protection. The price election is multiplied by the coverage level selected by the producer. If you have any crop insurance questions, contact the Garden State Crop Insurance Education Team at 1-800-308-2449.

Deadline for Reporting Protection (Yield) Data

The deadline for Reporting Protection (Yield) Data is April 29, 2012. The foundation for your protection in most crop insurance policies is your actual yield history. It is critical that yields for each insurance unit of most 2011 spring planted crops are reported to your insurance agent before the April 29 deadline. Your required written records that support your reported yields for all years in the database for each farm are subject to review to assure accuracy. Also, notify your agent about any additional farms where you will be growing insured crops and do NOT have a yield history established.

Spring is Here!

A new year is upon us and the Garden State Crop Insurance Education Team would like to wish you and your family a safe and prosperous growing season. If at any time you have any questions, concerns or comments about crop insurance, feel free to contact us at 1-800-308-2449.
If you suffer winterkill damage on insured winter wheat or barley, or need to replant spring crops, be sure to file a report of damage with your insurance agent immediately upon discovery (ask your agent for a copy of the damage report to the insurance company for your records). DO NOT destroy the evidence of damage until authorized to do so in writing by a loss adjuster.

Earliest Planting Dates for 2012 Corn & Soybeans

April 11 is the earliest planting date for corn. April 26 is the earliest planting date for soybeans. Crops must be planted after these dates to retain replanting payment protection. Acreage initially planted prior to this date may still be eligible for the remaining protection provided by the policy.

Crop Insurance Implications of Planting Crops Early

With the continuing record-breaking temperatures and sunshine warming soils this year, some farmers may be thinking of planting their crops earlier than usual. Climatologists and meteorologists, and many other people, will remind us all that we could still get severe frosts. Regardless of these warnings, some farmers have and/or may plant early. If farmers choose to plant early, there are crop insurance implications according to Paul D. Mitchell, University of Wisconsin-Extension agricultural economics specialist. He noted, “Most farmers buy crop insurance for their major crops, such as corn and soybeans, with a sales closing date of March 15. Among its many details, the crop insurance contract specifies an ‘earliest planting date.’” For corn, the official RMA earliest planting date is April 11 and for soybeans, the official RMA earliest planting date is April 26 for all of New Jersey. If soils warm up and this warm weather continues, some farmers may want to plant before them. For spring seeded small grains and forage seeding policies, no earliest planting dates are used.

“If a farmer chooses to plant earlier than the specified earliest planting date for the insured crop in their county, the crop is still insured and losses will be covered, as long as the farmer follows all the remaining contract specifications,” Mitchell said. “However, the farmer gives up eligibility for replant payments that are part of the standard yield protection and revenue protection included in these combo policies.” Specifically, if a crop stand is damaged early in the season so that the projected yield is less than 90 percent of the yield guarantee, a farmer can receive an indemnity for part of the actual cost of replanting. The affected area must exceed 20 acres or 20 percent of the unit’s acreage. The maximum indemnity is the chosen price election multiplied by the 20 percent of the yield guarantee, up to 8 bu for corn, 3 bu for soybeans and 1 ton for corn silage. This year, based on crop insurance prices of $5.68/bu for corn and $12.55/bu for soybeans, these allowances imply a maximum replant payment of $45.44/ac for corn and $37.65/ac for soybeans. Farmers who plant before the earliest planting dates give up their eligibility for these payments if they were hit with a late killing frost or similar problems that would normally trigger replant provisions. Note that the yield guarantee is not reduced for late planting reduction if a farmer replants crops under policy replant provisions, so the crop has the same production guarantee as for the original plant date. Farmers with additional questions should contact their crop insurance agent.

If the warm weather continues, growers will have to weigh the risks and benefits of planting early. For farmers with crop insurance coverage, which is most farmers, one of the risks of planting early to consider is the loss of replant coverage.

Source: Extension News in Agriculture on March 20, 2012
Wildlife Damage Management: Canada Geese

Canada geese, and more specifically, resident Canada geese, have been an increasing concern with New Jersey farmers due to their growing populations and insatiable appetites. These resident geese are classified as a migratory game bird and are protected by federal law. Measures to control the problem Canada geese include federal depredations permits, state depredation permits, an (early) extended hunting season and nest/egg destruction. At this time of year, there are only two acceptable methods of Canada goose control:

Federal Depredation Permits

Farmers experiencing crop damage by geese may apply for a federal depredation permit from the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The application for a federal permit can be downloaded from www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-13.pdf. Federal depredation permits may cost up to $100, but can be used for the control of geese throughout the year. Sub-permitees listed on the federal depredation permit need not have a hunting license or firearm identification card. It may take up to six weeks to receive a federal depredation permit. Be sure to apply early. Federal permits can be renewed annually. The US Fish & Wildlife Service will send permitees a renewal application approximately 45 days before their existing permit expires. Contact US Dept. of Agriculture APHIS Wildlife Services office at 908-735-5654 for more information and guidance on applying for the federal permit.

Egg and Nest Destruction

Landowners may register online to addle or oil Canada goose eggs and destroy nests. Simply register online with the US Fish & Wildlife Service at https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR. There is no fee and applicants can register anytime after January 1, 2012 of the upcoming nest and egg season. After registering, landowners can print confirmation of their registration and immediately begin nest treatment activities. Nests and eggs may be destroyed between March 1 and June 30. The registration must be renewed annually. Applicants must log back into the registration website and report the number of nests and eggs treated prior to October 31, 2012.

NJDA Laboratories Merge and Move From Trenton

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture Animal Health, Plant Industry, Agricultural Chemistry and Fish laboratories, as well as the Divisions of Animal Health and Plant Industry have become the New Jersey Public Health, Environmental and Agriculture Laboratory (NJPHEAL) and are moving from their current location in Downtown Trenton to a new facility at:

3 Schwarzkopf Drive
Ewing, NJ 08628

This facility is located within the State Police Headquarters Complex.

The Division of Animal Health is expected to move the week of March 26, 2012. Starting that week, contact the Division at its new number, 609-671-6400. The fax number is 609-671-6413.

The Animal Diagnostic Laboratory also is expected to move the week of March 26 and can be contacted at its new number, 609-406-6999. The lab fax number is 609-671-6414.

The Division of Plant Industry has already moved. To contact the Division at the new facility, please call 609-406-6939.
Livestock Gross Margin (LGM) for Dairy

Livestock Gross Margin (LGM) for dairy is an insurance program designed to protect dairymen against unexpected declines in their gross margin. Put simply, gross margin is the market value of milk minus feed costs. The program does not set a support price on milk but rather sets a floor price on milk and a ceiling price on feed. Milk and feed prices are determined by using the futures price of milk (Class III) and feed (corn and soybean mean) on the Chicago Merchantile Exchange. Other causes of revenue loss including production loss, damage of livestock, livestock death, etc. are not covered under LGM for dairy.

Unfortunately, at this time, the LGM for dairy program has been suspended due to insufficient funding for subsidies. It is likely that funding will become available in October of 2012, and due to the popularity of the insurance program, now is the time to evaluate your operation and determine if LGM for dairy is a management tool you would like to incorporate into your business plan.

If you have any questions regarding LGM for dairy, call the Garden State Crop Insurance education hotline at 1-800-308-2449.