



North Country Ag Advisor

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Photo Credit: Jake Ledoux

Cornell Cooperative Extension
North Country Regional Ag Team

North Country Regional Ag Team

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North Country Ag Advisor

Cornell Cooperative Extension of
Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin,
Clinton, and Essex Counties

"The North Country Regional Ag Team is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex counties."

Ag Advisor is published by the North Country Regional Ag Team collaborating with Harvest NY

Layout/Design: Tatum Langworthy

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Our Mission

"The North Country Regional Ag Team aims to improve the productivity and viability of agricultural industries, people and communities in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex Counties by promoting productive, safe, economically and environmentally sustainable management practices, and by providing assistance to industry, government, and other agencies in evaluating the impact of public policies affecting the industry."

Field Crops and Soils

Considering Hemp? A Few Resources to Get Started

By the Cornell Hemp Team

Rules and Regulations:

- To learn about the industrial hemp program and permitting in New York State, go to: <https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/PI/PIHome.html>
- For processing regulations (FDA 21CFR 101,111,201), go to: <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfcr/cfrsearch.cfm>
- Q&A on Cannabis products from FDA: <https://www.fda.gov/newsevents/publichealthfocus/ucm421168.htm>

General Beginning Farmer Resources:

- Cornell Small Farms Program: <https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/>
- Cornell Beginning Farmers: <https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/resources/beginning-farmer/>

Excellent Production Resources:

- Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance Hemp Production eGuide: <http://www.hemptrade.ca/eguide>
- Purdue Hemp Project: <https://purduehemp.org/>
- Ontario Min of Ag, Food and Rural Affairs: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/00-067.htm>



Cornell and NYS Variety Trial and Research Updates:

- Cornell Hemp Research Program: <http://hemp.cals.cornell.edu/>

Grain and Fiber Seed Sources:

- Fiacre Enterprises, Inc in Charlottesville, VA - contact Mike Timko - michael.timko@fiarceenterprises.com
- New West Genetics in Fort Collins, CO: <http://www.newwestgenetics.com/>
- Valley Bio in Cobden, Ontario: <http://valleybio.com/>
- Parkland Seeds in Dauphin, MB: <http://www.pihg.net/>
- Hemp Genetics Intl in Saskatoon, SK: <http://www.hempgenetics.com/>
- Schiavi Seed in Lexington, KY: <http://www.schiaviseeds.com/>
- International Hemp Solutions/Bija Seeds in Denver, CO: <https://internationalhempolutions.com/>
- Terramax in Qu'Appelle, SK: <https://terramaxcorp.com/x-59-hemp-nut/>; distributed through Legacy Hemp: <https://legacyhemp.com/>

CBD Genetics Sources:

Locating seed, transplants, or cuttings of CBD varieties is more complicated than seed for grain/fiber varieties. It is recommended that you research variety preference from your customer - likely this is the processor who you will contract with for production. Typically, the processor will have a relationship with a breeder. Note that CBD production is most efficient/profitable if all of the plants are female and that to purchase seed, even feminized, seed runs the risk of male plants being present. Fully research the source of your CBD genetics to ensure quality such as $\leq 0.3\%$ THC reliability.



Cannabis Testing Labs:

Different labs provide different services. It is recommended that you test your crop prior to NYS Ag & Markets testing. Research how results are reported/interpreted by each lab so as to be compliant with the law. To sample efficiently, research what other tests a processor may request prior to purchase.

- East Coast Labs, 172 Taunton Avenue, East Providence, Rhode Island 02914: <https://www.ecltesting.com/>, Contact: matthew@ecltesting.com, (401) 400-2709
- CDX Analytics - 39 Norman St., Salem, MA 01907: <https://cdxanalytics.com/> Contact: Brian Strasnick, (978) 619-2244

Continued on page 4...

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- ProVerde – 420 Fortune Blvd, Milford, MA 01757: <http://www.proverdelabs.com/> Contact: Chris Hudalla, (617) 221-3356
 - MCR Labs, LLC - 85 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701: <https://mclrlabs.com/> Contact: Michael Kahn, (508) 872-6666

Business and Marketing:

Cost of grain/fiber production information:

- <https://hemp.cals.cornell.edu/2019/01/25/new-report-economics-of-producing-industrial-hemp-in-new-york-state/>
- NYS Hemp Exchange for buying/selling: https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.cce.cornell.edu/attachments/36095/2-19_hempads.pdf?1550584502
- Post your buy/sell ads at: https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e35Eb3pNfpWkqhV

Programming Near You:

To find your local Cornell Cooperative Extension Specialist working on hemp and regional programs, go to:

<http://hemp.cals.cornell.edu/extension/>

Your CCE North Country Regional Field Crop Specialists Mike Hunter (315-788-8450) or Kitty O’Neil (315-854-1218) are part of the Cornell Hemp Team and can help with hemp-related questions.

Be on the Lookout for “Different” Weeds

By Michael Hunter

Everyone needs to be on the lookout for “different” weeds that you may not be used to seeing in the field. We also need to keep a close eye on weeds that may not have been controlled with an herbicide. These different weeds or those that did not die as a result of an herbicide application might be one of New York’s newer herbicide-resistant weeds. While not officially confirmed, there is extremely strong evidence that indicates we now have populations of glyphosate (a.k.a Roundup)-resistant marestail (horseweed), tall waterhemp, and palmer amaranth in the state. Some of these weed populations may even be resistant to our Group 2 (ALS) herbicides.

Marestail as a weed is not a newcomer to NYS. It is commonly found in fallow fields, ditch banks, and roadsides. We can find it in corn and soybean fields across the state, including NNY (see Photo 1). It is more likely to be found in no-till or zone-till fields, but it does not mean it won’t be found in tilled fields as well. There are many known populations of glyphosate-resistant marestail along the thruway corridor stretching from Western NY to Central NY. We have yet to identify any glyphosate-resistant marestail populations in any areas of NNY.

Marestail is a winter or summer annual which reproduces by seed. A mature marestail plant is capable of producing as many as 200,000 seeds. It will germinate in the spring or late



Marestail in no-till soybean field in Lewis Co., NY
Photo credit: M. Hunter, CCE-NCRAT

summer and reaches heights of six feet tall. Most notable about marestail is the seeds can easily be dispersed by wind. The seeds are attached to a featherlike structure or pappus,

similar to a dandelion. Research studies in the mid-Atlantic Region of the U.S., suggests that once the seeds get into the sky they can easily disperse more than 100 miles.

Pigweeds are not new weeds in New York; we commonly find both redroot and smooth pigweed in both corn and soybean fields. Smooth pigweed is one of the triazine-resistant weeds in NYS. We occasionally will find Powell amaranth (a.k.a. green pigweed) as well. The newest pigweeds to add to the list are tall waterhemp and palmer amaranth. There are several locations of suspected resistant tall waterhemp all the way from Orleans County to Oneida County. In October of 2018, palmer amaranth was confirmed in Seneca County which is the first known finding of this weed in New York.



Photo 2. Photo credit: OMAFRA

Proper identification of these newer pigweeds is going to be our first line of defense for controlling these weeds before they can become a major problem. Palmer amaranth and tall waterhemp look similar to the other pigweeds, especially in the seedling stage (see Photo 2). In the seedling stage, *all* pigweeds will have a small notched leaf tip that distinguishes them from all other weeds. Tall waterhemp and palmer amaranth will not have any hairs on the leaves or stems. Our other pigweeds will have very small fine hairs throughout the plant. Even smooth pigweed will have hairs; the name “smooth” refers to the inflorescence (flower clusters).

I would encourage everyone to be on the lookout for marestalk, tall waterhemp, and palmer amaranth. Unfortunately, I believe it will only be a matter of time and we, too, will be dealing with resistant marestalk, tall waterhemp, and even possibly palmer amaranth in NNY. If you suspect that you have one of these “different” weeds on your farm or have a weed that may be surviving applications of glyphosate please contact one of the CCE North Country Regional Field Crop Specialists Mike Hunter (315-788-8450) or Kitty O’Neil (315-854-1218).



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Stockmanship Training with Curt Pate: It's All About Pressure

By Lindsay Ferlito and Betsy Hicks, South Central NY Dairy & Field Crops Team

You've been handling cattle for years, and you do it every day, so what's there to think about? At the recent Dairy Managers Training Program, Curt Pate, a rancher and stockmanship expert from Montana, demonstrated that there actually is a lot to think about. Dairy cattle have been domesticated for a long time, and they are handled daily, so it's easy to forget how big of an impact our presence can have on them.

How we handle cattle can significantly affect both their mental state and their productivity. Curt explained that animals can't be in "survival" mode and "growth" mode at the same time, so if we are mishandling them, and creating a stressful environment, their health and production will be negatively impacted. We need to therefore design barns and handle cows effectively to minimize stress and keep the animal in "growth" mode.

Barn and facility design plays a critical role in minimizing stress and making it easier to move cattle, but ultimately it is up to the handler to use the right technique and apply the right pressure to move the cows successfully. As Curt says, moving cattle does not take physical strength, it takes your mind. You need to be smart, aware, and present to effectively move cattle. While cattle handling should be low stress, it also requires you to know how to apply effective pressure at the right time.

There are three types of pressure that a person can use on cattle – driving, drawing, and maintaining. Driving pressure is just what it implies – it is pressure used to move or "drive" cattle away from us to a specific location. Drawing pressure is the opposite of that, and can be slightly harder to achieve. Drawing pressure involves getting the attention of the animal and having the animal walk towards that pressure. The third type of pressure, maintaining pressure, involves being able to maintain the animal's attention, without having them move towards or away from that pressure. Driving pressure can be a person, a crowd gate, or a dog. Drawing pressure can be the sound of pen gates opening or the sound of the vacuum pump, or movements by a person to draw animals closer to them. Maintaining pressure can be the hardest to achieve, as it is asking the cow to wait to make a decision on which way it will go.

When working cattle, they have two options: they can react to a situation, or they can think about the situation before

they respond. Rather than having cows that use only their instinct and react to every situation, we can work with our cows to have them think about a situation. Over time, this tendency to have cows think first before reacting can be trained. Depending on how they are handled, however, cows can switch back and forth between thinking and reacting. This makes every moment working with animals a learning experience, as the handler can recognize movements that either engage the cow's brain or switch it off.

Different situations call for different kinds of pressure. Driving pressure is effective for moving cows to the parlor. When moving animals quickly, a handler can use their movement behind the cow to allow the cow to watch them move from the left side of the cow to the right side of the cow. Because a cow's eyes are located on the side of their head, a handler can utilize this when handling by "switching eyes" on the cow. A cow would prefer to stop and turn to look at the handler, but by moving from one side to the other and switching eyes, the cow is continually propelled forward. If the handler just worked from one side of the cow, the cow would eventually stop and turn at least her head, if not her whole body, to fully see the handler. The handler can maintain this forward movement by constantly applying pressure from eye to eye behind the cow.

When getting cows up off their beds, often handlers will stand next to the cow and tap the stall divider or speak to the cow to encourage her to get up. A different strategy explained by Curt involves the handler rocking back and forth from left leg to right leg to encourage the cow to stand up and back out of her stall. This constant movement applies different pressure to the cow that will drive her up and back out of the stall, rather than allowing her to stand and wait for further pressure from the handler. The constant movement keeps the cow just a little bit out of her comfort zone, and she will back out of her stall with little encouragement other than the rocking.

Sorting cows utilizes drawing pressure to be most effective. Many handlers will work cattle in close proximity, with that area getting smaller and smaller as more animals are sorted out of the group. Using drawing pressure allows a greater area around the group of cows. The cow's attention is drawn to the handler as he or she backs up and away from the group. Cattle will spread out and even move towards the handler. Driving pressure can then be used to make a certain

cow go the desired direction.

The amount of pressure used in any given situation is more about the balance of the cow in that particular moment. If the handler is between a cow and the herd, her balance point is actually behind the handler with the rest of the herd. Using the point of the shoulder of the cow is too close of a balance point, and will likely be ineffective on this cow. She will probably try to move past the handler because the shoulder is too close to the handler to make her move any other way other than to move to the herd. Distance should be factored in when trying to effectively move this cow, and pressure used earlier on to allow for this point of balance being so far behind the handler. The handler should always try to maintain the cow in the “thinking” part of her brain.

The handler wants her to use her mind first, then her feet. The handler should work with her and her balance points in that moment to turn her when sorting and get her to stop with both front feet and ears forward when approaching the handler. This movement shows she is “thinking” rather than reacting. The handler’s movements and pressure will allow her to walk past if she’s thinking, rather than running past if she’s reacting. Working with heifers to train them on this can be helpful in avoiding injuries from cattle. Allowing cattle to run past a handler only teaches them to disregard space; maintaining that thinking action in the cow allows the cow to grow and respond more calmly the next time she’s in that situation.

As a handler, there are other situations that might be useful to consider. When loading cows on to a trailer, the loading height should be as level as possible. Also, the surface appearance should be as consistent as possible from the barn to the trailer. For example, putting shavings on the floor of the barn and shavings on the trailer eases the transition from one to the other. In addition, many handlers have found that having the engine of the truck that is attached to the trailer being shut off is helpful.

Additional time and patience should be used to move cows when they are overstocked, in the sick or lame pen, or under heat stress. In any of these situations, the movement of the cow is compromised, whether by her health or physical constraints within the pen. Allowing for ample time to move these cows will benefit all parties, as it will be less stressful and movement more intentional. Young heifers should also be allowed more time and patience when handled. Time spent with these groups of animals will help in the long run, especially if we take the time to train them to “think” rather than react. Many handlers have been knocked over by heifers losing their footing as they run by and slip on manure. Keeping these heifers thinking will minimize their reactions

and make movement more deliberate and less chaotic.

Some dairy farms also utilize bulls. While this is not recommended from a safety standpoint, a farm that runs bulls in their pens should properly train their employees to handle them appropriately. When working with bulls, handlers should be able to turn the bull with minimal driving pressure. Bulls should be worked with to maintain that relationship and space requirement of the human, but above all else, handlers need to be vigilant and pay attention to any changes in attitude or demeanor of the bull. Once a bull fails to respect the driving pressure and space requirement of the handler, that bull should be out the door.

Cows should know the difference between when they’re being worked and when they’re not being worked. For instance, we don’t want cows to get up every time we enter the pen, but we do want to effectively get them up to move them to the parlor when it’s their time to be milked. Adopting a mannerism when you’re moving cows is helpful to let them know what to expect. This can be in the way the handler carries him or herself, eye contact with the animal, utilizing that rocking movement to back cows out of a stall, and making a certain quiet noise when driving pressure is being used.

A good stockman doesn’t do the same thing every day no matter the situation; they adapt to the cow and the situation and utilize different amounts and forms of pressure to achieve movement. Keep this in mind as you are moving cows next time and be aware of the type of pressure you are applying and how the cows are reacting. Remember, “mind first, then feet”.



Salmonella Dublin: What is it and do You Have it on Your Herd?

By Lindsay Ferlito



Salmonella Dublin is a bacterial disease that can cause serious illness (and death) to dairy cattle, contaminate raw milk, and even make humans sick. It is a scary and sometimes overwhelming disease as it can be hard to diagnose, it is resistant to multiple antibiotics, animals can become silent carriers, and it has a huge economic cost to farmers. Historically, *Salmonella* Dublin has been more prevalent in the Western United States, with fewer cases in the Midwest, and rarely cases in the Northeast. However, more recent surveys have indicated the prevalence in the Northeast is growing quickly. Since 2006, a handful of herds have tested positive in Northern NY, but many dairy farmers are still unaware of the disease and the actual prevalence on farm is unknown.

NCRAT Dairy Specialist Lindsay Ferlito received funding this year from NNYADP to conduct a research project in conjunction with Cornell Quality Milk Production Services titled "Determining the prevalence of *Salmonella* Dublin and its potential economic impact on Northern New York Dairy Farms."

Participating farms will have 4 herd bulk tank samples taken over the next 9 months and samples will be analyzed for the presence of *Salmonella* Dublin at the Cornell Animal Health and Diagnostic Center in Ithaca, NY. To participate in the project, dairies need to be located in the 6-county Northern NY region (Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex), consent to having bulk tank samples taken and picked up, and have the herd veterinarian receive a copy of the results. Dairies are actively being enrolled in the project at this time. To participate, please contact Lindsay Ferlito at Lc636@cornell.edu or 607-592-0290.



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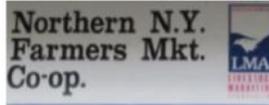


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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lewis County



Cornell University
Department of Animal Science

Beef Quality Assurance Transportation Training



Where: Lewis County Education Center
7395 East Road, Lowville, NY 13367

When: Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Time: 5:30PM-9:00PM

No cost and free meal

RSVP: May 1st, Mellissa Spence-315-376-5270
or mms427@cornell.edu

The Right Way is the Only Way

Transportation Quality Assurance plays a critical role in the health and welfare of cattle. By using best practices, transporters can save the beef industry millions of dollars each year. When a transporter participates in the program they are showing consumers they are ready to take every step possible to keep cattle as healthy and safe as possible.

The program covers many topics including:

- Cattle handling guidelines & diagrams
- Checklists for loading/unloading
- Checklists for hot/cold weather factors
- Checklists for fit/injured/weak cattle
- Checklist for traveling
- Loading suggestions and worksheets
- Bio-security & Emergency Action Plans

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Farm Business Management

Farm Finance 101

By Kelsey O'Shea

Ever wish you paid more attention in that accounting class? Maybe you're a bit rusty on financial ratios, or looking to learn something new. Each month I will go over an accounting or finance topic as it relates to your farm business, so stay tuned. This month is on profitability measures.

Return on Assets (ROA): $\frac{(\text{Net farm income} + \text{farm interest expense} - \text{value of operator's labor and management})}{\text{Average total farm assets}} \times 100$

This ratio indicates what the assets invested in your business have earned. The higher the value of this measure, the more profitable the operation. This measure is also a good way to evaluate the opportunity cost of investing money in your dairy business. It allows you to compare other opportunities or diversification ventures by comparing them "apples to apples" in terms of profitability. ROA will depend on the structure and type of business, but the ROA should be higher than your interest rate on business debt.

Return on Equity (ROE): $\frac{(\text{Net farm income} - \text{value of operator's labor and management})}{\text{Net worth or equity}} \times 100$

This indicates how well your equity is performing or how fast farm net worth is growing. The higher the value of this measure, the more profitable the operation. There is no hard and fast rule for what is an adequate value of this ratio. If your ROA continues to be higher than your interest rate, then your ROE could increase quite rapidly.

Net Farm Income (NFI):
 $\frac{(\text{Cash receipts} \pm \text{inventory change} - \text{expenses} - \text{depreciation})}{\text{number of owner/operator families}}$

This measure is probably the most widely used to evaluate the financial health of a farm business. From NFI, debt service must be paid and owners must be paid, so the ideal NFI number depends on each farm's debt load and desired owner draws. It is also important to consider if it is the farm's goal to reinvest in their business with cash from earnings for the purchase of assets, or expansion etc. It is also important to pay attention to inventory change which is affected by feed, livestock, prepaids, and accounts payable as this can change NFI significantly.



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- Post Lambsquarter control.
- Controls: Sedges and annual broadleaf weeds.
 - Delivers residual control for germinating annual broadleaf weeds.

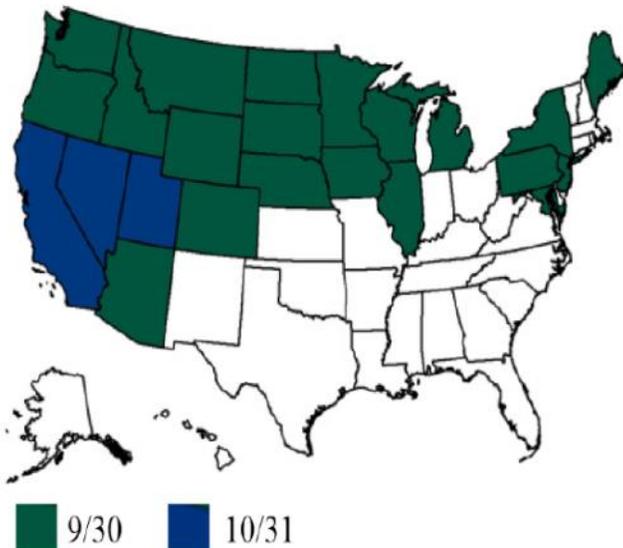
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Washington National Office — Washington, DC

November 2018

Forage Production

Sales Closing Dates*



*Program may not be available in all counties.

- The date grazing starts on the forage crop;
- Abandonment of the crop;
- October 15 in Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Shasta and Siskiyou Counties, California and all other states, except Arizona; or
- November 30 all Arizona and California counties, except those listed above.

See crop provisions for additional information.

Acreage Reporting Requirements

You must file a report of all insured forage production acreage with your crop insurance agent by the acreage reporting date. Acreage reporting dates vary by crop and county, consult your crop insurance agent for more information and specific reporting requirements.

Acreage reporting dates:

- Arizona, Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.....11/15
- Alaska, California, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.....12/15

Crop Insured

Forage is insurable if:

- You have a share in the crop; and
- It is grown during one or more years after the year of establishment.

Forage is not insurable if it:

- Does not have an adequate stand at the beginning of the insurance period;
- Is grown with a non-forage crop; or
- Exceeds the age limitations for forage stands contained in the Special Provisions.

For crops, types or practices not insurable in a county, consult a crop insurance agent about the availability of coverage through a written agreement.

Insurance Period

Coverage begins when the forage reaches an adequate stand and the date listed in the crop policy, and ends with the earliest occurrence of one of the following:

- Total destruction of the crop;
- Removal from the windrow or the field for each cutting;
- Final adjustment of loss;

Causes of Loss

You are protected against the following:

- Adverse weather conditions, including natural perils such as hail, frost, freeze, wind, drought, and excess precipitation;
- Earthquake;
- Failure of the irrigation water supply, if caused by an insured peril during the insurance period;
- Fire;
- Insects and plant disease, except for insufficient or improper application of pest or disease control measures;
- Wildlife; or
- Volcanic eruption.

Duties in the Event of Damage or Loss

If a loss occurs you must:

- Protect the crop from further damage by providing sufficient care;
- Leave representative samples for each field of the damaged unit;
- Notify your crop insurance agent within:

- 72 hours of your initial discovery of damage, but not later than 15 days after the end of the insurance period;
- 3 days from the date harvest should have started if the insured crop will not be harvested;
- 5 days before grazing of insured forage begins;
- 15 days before any production will be sold by direct marketing;
- 15 days prior to the beginning of harvest, if you previously gave a notice of loss; and
- Not destroy the damaged crop until after you have received written consent to do so.

Coverage Levels and Premium Subsidies

The premium subsidy percentages and available coverage levels, if electing basic units, are shown below. Your share of the premium will be 100 percent minus the subsidy amount.

	Percent							
Coverage Level	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85
Premium Subsidy	67	64	64	59	59	55	48	38
Your Premium Share	33	36	36	41	41	45	52	62

Catastrophic Risk Protection (CAT) coverage is fixed at 50 percent of your average yield and 55 percent of the price election. The cost for CAT coverage is an administrative fee of \$300, per crop per county.

Insurance Units

Basic units and optional units are available for forage production.

This fact sheet gives only a general overview of the crop insurance program and is not a complete policy. For further information and an evaluation of your risk management needs, contact a crop insurance agent.

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Coverage Options

You may buy crop insurance coverage under one of the insurance plans offered: Catastrophic Risk Protection, Actual Production History, or Area Yield Protection, where available.

Additional Options are Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO), where available.

Contact a Crop Insurance Agent for More Information

All multi-peril crop insurance, including CAT policies, are available from private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA service centers and on the RMA website [Agent Locator \(/Information-Tools/Agent-Locator-Page\)](#).

Useful Links

- Actuarial Information Browser (<https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/ActuarialInformationBrowser/>)
- RMA Map Viewer (<https://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/mapviewer/index.html>)
- USDA/Risk Management Agency Homepage (/)
- Regional Office State Directory (/RMA/Local/Field-Offices/Regional-Offices)

Other

Lawn Care

By Jake Ledoux, CCE Jefferson County

Although it may seem like winter had the North Country encased in ice for quite some time, in just a few short weeks, the warm spring weather will have lawns coming to life before the heat of summer. A well-tended lawn is a wonderful addition to any home or business. If your family is anything like mine, getting the lawn mower ready for the season ahead is a time honored process. If not, then I have some great tips and tricks to help get your mowing machine up to snuff.

Safety First: Before you commence any repair work on your machine, remove the spark plug to prevent any accidental starting while you are working. While you are in this area make sure to clean out the air filter or replace with a new one (engines, like us, really appreciate clean air). When you are finished with the whole tuneup, you can put a new sparkplug on as a last step.

An Oil Change: Find the oil plug under the engine and unscrew, allowing the dirty oil to pour into a container. Please don't dump used oil down your drain, everyone likes clean water just as much as they like clean lawns. Consult with your local government on designated waste oil disposal program. Replace the plug and fill with fresh oil (based on owner's manual recommendations) for the 2019 season.

Blade Care: Lawn mower blades, like pencils, are best when sharp. Disconnect the blade from the mower before sharpening. If the blade is jagged or has too many nicks, replace it for better lawn health and your safety.

A Good Cleaning: With all the parts repaired and fluids replaced, you can give the machine a good wash to break off any dried grass or plant material. This is especially important to the underside of the mower deck. Cleaning around the engine and wheels can prevent buildup of material.

Lubricate: Applying oil to moving parts (wheel bearings etc.) is a great way to cover that lawn in a timely manner. Always be sure to clean up the excess fluid to limit grass build up.

Wrapping Up: There are many resources available to help you get your machine in tip top shape. If you aren't comfortable doing the work yourself, many local businesses offer lawnmower repair services. Getting your machine tuned up by local shops helps keep it maintained while supporting your local businesses.



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What's Happening in the Ag Community

Beef Quality Assurance Transportation Training, see page 9 for more information.

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