

Wet Spring Weather Can Severely Impact Forage Quality for Entire Year

Fay Benson, South Central New York Dairy & Field Crops Team

This year a farmer's decision on whether to use Prevented Planting payments is complicated by the potential for further "Market Facilitation Program" payments being made by the

Once again we find ourselves watching the calendar days flipping by and continued wet weather keeping farmers from working in the field. If the wet weather continues to keep farmers from planting their corn and soybeans, it prevents a timely harvest of first cutting hay crops. This not only reduces the quality, but sets the stage for the rest of the hay harvest throughout the summer. However, those farmers who purchased crop insurance on their corn or soybeans can sleep a little easier at night. This is because they can receive payment for those fields that are too wet to plant or are drowned after they are planted by using the "Prevented Planting" or "Replant" options of their crop insurance policy.

A number of farmers I have interviewed claim their sole reason for buying crop insurance is for the prevented planting option, which is available on any of the "buy up" policies. Prevented planting decisions should be made as you approach the final planting date for the crop. In New York, June 10th is the Final Planting Date for soybeans, and for silage and grain corn. If you choose to plant after this date, you will receive a 1% guarantee reduction for each consecutive day after June 10th.

Replant payments

To qualify for Replant payments, you must have a loss of the lesser of 20 acres or 20% of the insured planted acres. Be sure to contact your crop insurance agent once you decide replant is needed. Do not destroy any evidence of the initial planting before reporting the loss to your sales agent.

Prevented Planting

A grower can make a prevented planting claim on any insurable cause of loss that keeps them out of the fields prior to 6/10/2019, provided the cause is general in the area and other requirements are met. If a farmer applies for prevented planting, they will receive 55% of the crops guarantee for corn and 60% of the crop's guarantee for soybeans. When signing up for crop insurance farmers have the

option to increase their prevented planting coverage by 5% of their guarantee by paying an additional premium.

One added decision farmers will need to make this year is the possibility of payments similar to last year's "Market Facilitation Program" (MFP). Under the MFP rules for last year, if a Prevented Planting payment was made, those acres receiving payments would have had no bushels to apply towards the MFP. The USDA has not yet released information on a program for this year. For more information about MFP, please visit: <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/mfp>

If your planting is delayed or prevented due to an insurable cause of loss, be sure to notify your crop insurance agent in writing within 72 hours of the final planting date for the affected crop.

Additionally, if you participate in Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs, it is important to report your prevented planting acreage within 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the crop in order to receive prevented planting acreage credit.

For agricultural risk management and crop insurance resources please visit:

<https://agriskmanagement.cornell.edu>

Cornell University delivers crop insurance education in New York State in partnership with the USDA, Risk Management Agency. This material is funded in partnership by USDA, Risk Management Agency, under award number RM18RMETS524C018