

Navigating Flood Waters

Nick Blevins, Agronomist

Water is finally starting to recede following the recent flooding events, which will allow us to see what the path of the Missouri River is leaving behind. In recent surveying of affected areas, erosion is evident where the currents started moving the soil, trees and limbs, trash, and lots of sand too. Loss in residue along with crop nutrients are one major aspect we need to focus on the most.

Since the residue is gone, we need to start thinking about how to get microbe activity back in the soil sooner rather than later. When water sits on the ground for more than a week, microbes begin to change the way they have to live. Microbic activity goes from aerobic activity to anaerobic activity subsequently. Instead of the soil microbes using oxygen to function, they look at other electron receptors – in this case, nitrate nitrogen. In a prolonged flood, you will usually get into iron reduction issues as well. If a spring crop isn't possible to get into the ground this season, we can look at putting a cover crop in this summer to start getting our soil built back up. A cover crop will help eliminate any further erosion issues that could arise from wind and rain throughout the coming season. Lastly, cover crops will add organic matter to soil while stimulating microbial and fungal activity. If you are interested in further information pertaining to soil health, feel free to contact your local Ag Partners agronomist. Pertaining to flood relief, please visit <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/how-to-help-those-affected-by-the-midwest-flooding> or the Nebraska Farm Bureau Disaster Relief link (<https://www.nefbfoundation.org/ways-to-give/disaster-relief-fund>) for further resources.



A few local views of the rising waters before the river peaked earlier last week near our White Cloud location. The Missouri River levels measured within range of the previous record from the flood of 1993 which then crested at 32.07 feet.



BELOW: Viewing the river as it approached the White Cloud grain elevators and covered Highway 7.



Crop Insurance Minute

Jim Ward, Risk Management Director

"Is it ever going to dry out enough to plant?" has been a hot topic these last couple of weeks.

The long winter, very wet spring, and, if you're near a large creek or river, flooding are what we've had to look at lately. For those of you who may be starting to think about **Prevent Plant** or PP, this is an option that many of the existing crop insurance policies such as Revenue/Yield Protection offer.

To qualify, you must have been prevented from planting the crop through the entire period between the **'Initial Planting Date'** and the **'Final Planting Date'**. These dates are only available in map form are from 2018 but are still applicable. Even then, you can still choose to plant the crop up to 25 days after the final plant date but at a 1% per day indemnity reduction. You may choose a PP on the first crop (corn) and still plant a second crop (soybeans, grain sorghum) with the following provisions. First, your crop must be planted after the late planting period, which would be 25 days after the **'Final Planting Date'**. If you weren't able to plant the first crop, there will be a 65% reduction in PP payment, you will get a yield of 60% of APH for that years PP corn, and the second crop will use its own actual production. Cover crops only affect a PP claim if harvested before November 1st of the crop year.

Prevent Plant payments are calculated as 55% of the total coverage guarantee/acre for corn and 60% for soybeans and grain sorghum. A 5% buy-up option is available and needs to be elected **by March 15th** on the MPCl application. To qualify for PP, you must meet one of the following: 20 acres or 20% of the unit size, if using enterprise election then 20% of total potential acres of the crop. A PP claim must be submitted to the insurance provider at any time after the 'Final Planting Date', or up to 72 hours following the end of the **'Late Planting Period'**. If you have any questions regarding this or other policies, please give me a call at **(785) 741-1652** or contact your crop insurance agent.


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