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INTRODUCTION

Planting season is in full swing and thankfully, many producers were able to take advantage of dry windows in March and the first week of April. Most of the corn has already been planted and some producers have started planting rice as well. With the next dry window, I expect many will begin planting soybeans as well.

The 2021 USDA planting intentions were released and with corn and soybean prices remaining strong, Mississippi row crop producers are planning to increase their corn and soybean acreage with a slight reduction in cotton, rice, and hay acreage.

Every growing season presents its own challenges to be overcome, and I'm sure this one will be no different. Here at the MSU Extension Service it is our job to provide support and resources as they are needed. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to pick up the phone or stop by the office.

MSU ROW CROP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The MSU Row Crops Team are releasing virtual educational programs to provide producers with information as they prepare for the upcoming growing season.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be available for Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs) who participate. There will be a CCA sign-in

sheet containing a QR code which you can scan at the end of the program to receive credit.

Presentations will be posted to the Mississippi Crop Situation website at:

<https://www.mississippi-crops.com/>

A current list of presentations that have been released can be found at:

www.deltaagexpo.com

Please check periodically for the release of new programs.

MSU Row Crop Educational Programs

[Corn episodes](#) – Dr. Erick Larson

[Cotton Production](#) – Dr. Brian Pieralisi

[Soybean Planting Considerations](#) – Dr. Trent Irby

[Peanut Production Update](#) – Dr. Brendan Zurweller

[Soil Fertility & Management](#) – Dr. Larry Oldham

[Irrigation Update](#) – Dr. Drew Gholson & Dr. Chris Henry

CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

USDA is implementing updates to the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) for producers of agricultural commodities marketed in 2020 who faced market disruptions due to COVID-19. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) reopened sign-up for CFAP 2 for at least **60 days** beginning on **April 5, 2021**. CFAP updates also include:

- **An increase in CFAP 1 payment rates for cattle**

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- **Additional CFAP 2 assistance of \$20 per acre for producers of eligible flat-rate or price-trigger crops**
- **Processing of eligible payments for CFAP Additional Assistance**

Visit farmers.gov/cfap for more information on the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, including eligible commodities, producer eligibility, payment limitations and structure, and options to apply.

SOIL MOISTURE MONITORING SHOWCASE



If you are interested in utilizing soil moisture sensors on your farm and want to find out more about the different products and services available, the 2020 soil moisture monitoring showcase conducted by the National Center for Alluvial Aquifer Research (NCAAR), MSU Extension Service, and the Row-Crop Irrigation Science Extension and Research (RISER) initiative is a great place to start.

This soil moisture monitoring showcase provides an opportunity for the Mississippi agricultural community to learn more about soil moisture sensors and accompanying telemetry services currently on the market.

The showcase can be found at:

<https://www.ncaar.msstate.edu/outreach/index.php#showcase>

ONLINE PRIVATE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION

As a reminder to those who were unable to attend the in-person PAT classes earlier this year, online private applicator certification is still available at:

<http://msuext.ms/agmes>

MISSISSIPPI CROPS WEBSITE

For frequent updates and articles on the state crop situation check out:

<https://www.mississippi-crops.com/>

This is a great tool put together by Mississippi State University Extension Specialists to provide timely, relevant information on the current situation of Mississippi agriculture.

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