

Wisconsin Crop Manager

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Report on 2014 Wisconsin Agricultural Land Prices

A.J. Brannstrom, University of Wisconsin Center for Dairy Profitability

(A link to the full report is at the end of this brief summary.)

Ag land values up 5% in 2014. High milk prices and low interest rates combined to drive Wisconsin agricultural land prices higher again in 2014. While there is great variation in valuation from one sale to another, the WI Department of Revenue transfer return data confirms that agricultural land values have increased in most of the state.

The average price of agricultural land sold in Wisconsin in 2014 reached \$3,935. This was a 5% increase from 2013. The total acres sold declined by 5% and the number of sales were down by 8%. Strong dairy prices and low interest rates helped to create

new record highs. Prospects for 2015 are less clear.

Farmland is the most valuable asset on any farmers' balance sheet. However, estimating land values is always difficult. There is nothing more unique than an individual parcel of land. While many thousand homes are sold each year, only a small fraction of the state's agricultural land changes hands on the open market in any given year.

Surveys of farmers, bankers, realtors and appraisers are sometimes used to estimate changes in land values. While easy to conduct, these opinion surveys can be hard to interpret. News of high priced sales travels quickly – but these sales are often the exceptions and not reflective of the market.

Fortunately, the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) collects an alternative source of agricultural land sales data. A transfer return tax is collected each time a property is sold, and a transfer return form is collected with the tax. Information from these transfer return forms is the source for this paper.

Wisconsin's agricultural land values are low compared to some of our highly productive neighboring states – but a larger portion of our land is not suitable for continuous row crop farming and more of our land is used for forage production, woodlots and pasture. The shorter growing season in northern Wisconsin also limits the potential agricultural value of the land. *Continue to read the full article, click below...*

[Click here to view the full report, *Wisconsin Agricultural Land Prices 2009-2014*](#)

Wisconsin Pest Bulletin 4/23/15

A new issue of the Wisconsin Pest Bulletin from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is now available. The Wisconsin Pest Bulletin provides up-to-date pest population estimates, pest distribution and development data, pest survey and inspection results, alerts to new pest finds in the state, and forecasts for Wisconsin's most damaging plant pests.

Issue No. 1 of the Wisconsin Pest Bulletin is now available at:

<http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/pb/index.jsp>

<https://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/pb/pdf/04-23-15.pdf>

Vegetable Crop Update 4/24/15

The 5th issue of the Vegetable Crop Update is now available. This update contains late blight updates, linuron herbicide updates, a small acreage vegetable sustainability assessment, and hop production updates and resources. Click [here](#) to view this update.

Herbicide Injury Diagnosis for Corn Seedlings at Emergence

Liz Bosak, Outreach Specialist, Department of Agronomy

Depending upon the herbicide, injury can occur after a pre-emergence application when corn is germinating in cool, wet soils. This year, if corn was planted in mid-April then you may observe some injury. However, it is important to remember that other environmental factors can mimic herbicide injury symptoms such as corn emerging in crusted or compacted soil. For this spring, WCWS has a re-designed online diagnostic tool, available at <http://wcws.cals.wisc.edu/herbicide-injury-diagnostic-tool> or from the main page <http://wcws.cals.wisc.edu> go to 'Resources' and then to 'Tools'. The diagnostic tool asks three basic questions: 1) When do injury symptoms appear? 2) Are both broadleaves and grasses affected or just one group? and 3) What are the symptoms and where do they occur? The original web-based tool was developed by Tim Trower and Chris Boerboom to accompany a handy two-page guide available at http://ipcm.wisc.edu/download/pubsPM/herbicideinjury_new.pdf. The following changes were made to the new version:

1. Each page shows your previous answers.
2. A 'Start over' button is located at the bottom of each page.
3. For each herbicide mode-of-action, an herbicide chart from the TakeAction poster available at <http://takeactiononweeds.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/herbicide-classification-chart.pdf> or on the WCWS website under 'Resources', 'Documents' (Fig. 1).
4. Simplified guides to symptoms that mimic herbicide injury during and after emergence are included on each mode-of-action page (Fig. 2).
5. Photo galleries for both corn and soybean injury symptoms are located on the same page (Fig. 3).

SEEDLING SHOOT GROWTH INHIBITORS					
8	LIPID SYNTHESIS INHIBITOR (not ACCase)	5	Thiocarbamate	butylate	<i>Sutan +</i>
				cycloate	<i>Ro-Neet</i>
				EPIC	<i>Eradicane, Eptam</i>
				thiobencarb	<i>Bolero</i>
				triallate	<i>Far-Go</i>
15	LONG-CHAIN FATTY ACID INHIBITORS	1	Chloroacetamide	acetochlor	<i>Degree, Harness, Surpass, Topnotch, Warrant, others</i>
				alachlor	<i>Intro, Micro-Tech</i>
				s-metolachlor	<i>Dual Magnum, others</i>
				dimethenamid-P	<i>Outlook</i>
				Oxyacetamide	flufenacet
16	SPECIFIC SITE UNKNOWN	0	Pyrazole	pyroxasulfone	<i>Zidua</i>
			Benzofurane	ethofumesate	<i>Nortron</i>

Figure 1. Herbicide site-of-action groups, chemical families, active ingredients, and product examples for the seedling shoot growth inhibitor mode-of-action. Specific sections of the larger TakeAction chart are on each mode-of-action page.

During or at Emergence		
Mimics of Herbicide Injury to Corn		
GROUP #	HERBICIDE SITE OF ACTION	SYMPTOM
2	ALS INHIBITORS	Improper starter fertilizer placement
4 19	GROWTH REGULATORS	Crusted soil
5 6 7	PHOTOSYNTHESIS INHIBITORS	Frost Sandblasting Sun scald
13 27	PIGMENT INHIBITORS	Nitrogen deficiency Genetic mutations
14	PPO INHIBITORS	Urea application into corn whorl Varietal differences
8 15 16	SEEDLING SHOOT GROWTH INHIBITORS	Crusted soil Compacted soil Shallow planting Damage- Nematode

Figure 2. Mimics of herbicide injury to corn during or at emergence.



Figure 3. Example of a photo gallery for corn and soybean herbicide injury symptoms.

For pre-emergence applications in corn, the seedling shoot growth inhibitors, particularly the chloroacetamides, may injure seedlings when soils are cool and wet. Injury will not always be apparent aboveground. For example, corn plants with seedling root growth inhibitor damage will display clubbed root tips and grasses will be more affected than broadleaves. To get an idea of injury risk, check out the herbicide tables in “Pest Management in Wisconsin Field Crops” available in pdf and print formats at Cooperative Extension’s Learning Store, <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Pest-Management-in-Wisconsin-Field-Crops2015-P155.aspx>.

Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic (PDDC) Update

The PDDC receives samples of many plant and soil samples from around the state. The following diseases/disorders have been identified at the PDDC from April 18, 2015 through April 24, 2015.

PLANT/SAMPLE TYPE	DISEASE/DISORDER	PATHOGEN	COUNTY
FORAGE CROPS			
<i>Alfalfa</i>	<i>Fusarium Root/Crown Rot</i>	<i>Fusarium sp.</i>	<i>Ogle (IL)</i>
	<i>Phytophthora Root Rot</i>	<i>Phytophthora sp.</i>	<i>Ogle (IL)</i>
	<i>Pythium Root Rot</i>	<i>Pythium sp.</i>	<i>Ogle (IL)</i>
FRUIT CROPS			
<i>Apple</i>	<i>Sapwood Rot</i>	<i>Schizophyllum commune</i>	<i>Jefferson</i>
<i>Blueberry</i>	<i>Gloeosporium Canker</i>	<i>Gloeosporium sp.</i>	<i>Pierce</i>
	<i>Phomopsis Canker</i>	<i>Phomopsis sp.</i>	<i>Pierce</i>
SOIL			
<i>Soybean Soil</i>	<i>Soybean Cyst Nematode</i>	<i>Heterodera glycines</i>	<i>Dane</i>

For additional information on plant diseases and their control, visit the PDDC website at pddc.wisc.edu.

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