

WEEKLY CROP UPDATE



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION

Volume 33, Issue 1

January 24, 2025

Notes

Monthly Grain Market Outlook

Nate Bruce, Farm Business Management Specialist, nsbruce@udel.edu

January saw significant rallies in corn and soybean prices spurred on by revisions in the monthly USDA (World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimates) WASDE report. More on this in the next paragraph. In addition, South American production has seen weather challenges thus far in 2025, helping markets. Corn prices have seen an uptrend across futures since 2025 kicked off. The rally has been so significant, that March 2025 corn has seen almost a full \$1.00 rally. Corn futures have traded upward in a respectable \$0.05 - \$0.15 range. Local new corn prices have potential for marketing opportunities above breakeven for dryland acreage, depending on own expenses. With the current USDA revisions, there is certainly upside in the corn market. Make sure to find breakeven in crop budgets to determine profitable sales points in the months ahead before planting. Soybean prices have been a wild but fun ride thus far in January. Soybean prices across futures held in the mid to low \$9.00 range prior to January 1st. They have trended upward since 2025 has kicked off, spurred on bullish news such as South American weather woes, friendly USDA reports, and speculation of reduced trade tariffs by the new administration. Soybean futures have traded in \$0.10 - \$0.25 range throughout the month. Be mindful of price ranges when setting price targets on soybean

contracts. Although the rally has been significant, there is still potential in the market for a downturn. Don't miss out on excellent pricing opportunities by having too great a price range between sales contracts. Wheat prices have experienced significant price volatility throughout the month but have maintained and upward trend. The market bottom wheat was looking for seems to have been found, the question is how long this uptrend will continue. Wheat price traded in a \$0.05 - \$0.15 across futures.

The January USDA WASDE report was published on January 10th, 2025. Estimated planted corn acres dropped from the December estimate from 90.7 million acres to 90.6 million acres. Estimated corn acres harvested increased from 82.7 million acres to 82.9 million acres. The estimated harvested yield per acre fell from 183.1 bushels per acre to 179.3 bushels per acre. Production, feed and residual demand, exports, and ending stocks were all lower than the December estimate. Imports, ethanol demand, and food and seed demand all remained the same. Ending stocks fell from 1,738 million bushels to 1,540 million bushels. The estimated farm season price increased from \$4.10 per bushel to \$4.25 per bushel on supplies falling below use. The January WASDE left estimated planted soybean acres the same as the December estimate at 87.1 million acres. Estimated soybean acres harvested also fell, from 86.3 million acres to 86.1 million acres. Estimated harvested yield per acre fell from the December report from 51.7 bushels per acre to

50.7 bushels per acre. Beginning stocks, crushings, and export demand all remained unchanged from the December estimate. Estimated production fell from 4,461 million bushels to 4,366 million bushels. Imports and residual demand increased from the December estimate. Ending stocks fell sharply from 470 million bushels to 380 million bushels. The farm season average price remained the same at \$10.20 per bushel. The January WASDE did not make any revisions to estimated wheat acres at 46.1 million. Estimated wheat acres harvested also remained the same at 38.5 million acres. The estimated harvested yield per acre remained at 51.2 bushels per acre. Beginning stocks, production, food demand, feed and residual demand, and exports all remained the same as the December estimate. Imports and seed demand all increased. Wheat ending stocks rose from 795 million bushels to 798 million bushels. The farm season average price fell from \$5.60 per bushel to \$5.55 per bushel. The next USDA WASDE report is scheduled to be released on February 11th.

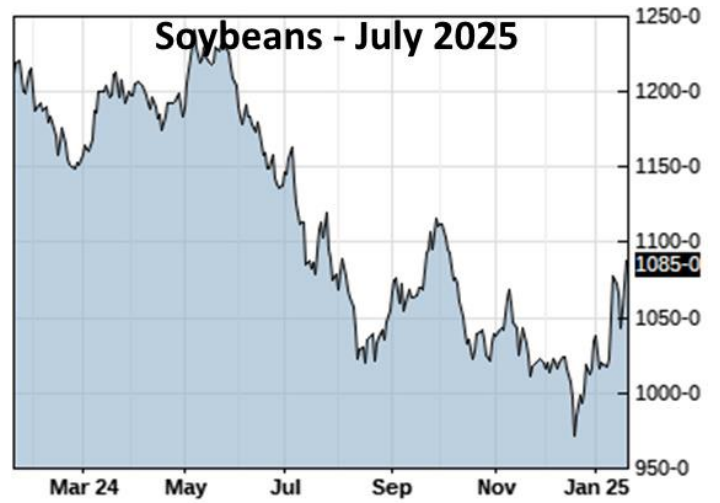
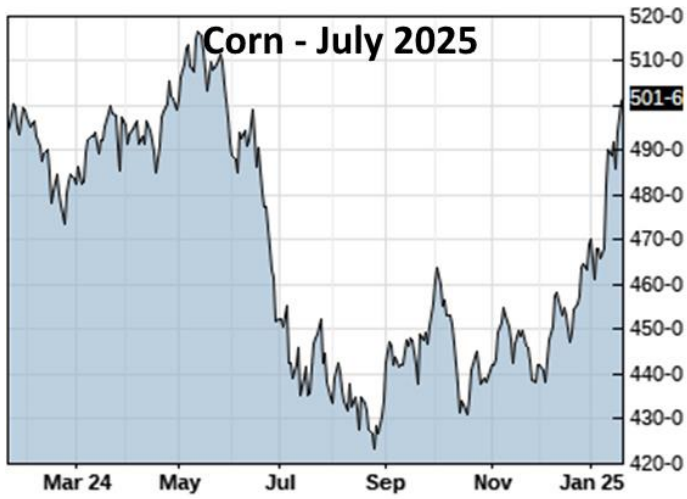
The December WASDE did not make any revisions to estimated planted wheat acres at 46.1 million acres. Estimated harvested wheat acres also remained unchanged at 38.5 million acres. Estimated wheat yield per acre remained the same as the November estimate at 51.2 bushels per acre. Beginning stocks, production, and domestic demand all remained unchanged from the November report. Wheat imports and exports both increased from the November estimate. Wheat ending stocks fell from 815 million bushels to 795 million bushels. The average farm season price remained the same at \$5.60 per bushel. The next WASDE report will be released on January 10th.

Chinese soybean processors had prepared to increase purchases of Brazilian soybeans prior to the new administration taking office due to discussions on implementing trade tariffs. The announcement of no immediate trade tariffs in China has been bullish news on soybean prices. Tariffs on Mexico and Canada have been discussed as well and can have an impact on commodity prices. There has been reports of

lack of rainfall in significant soybean producing regions of Brazil such as Rio Grande do Sul, Parana, and Mato Grosso do Sul. Overall, though, the countries soybean crop is in decent condition. Argentina is experiencing drought issues as the countries grain exchange has cut its estimates for corn and soybean production for the 2024/2025 marketing year. Rain is in the future forecast, but the grain exchange has already ruled out the possibility of high productivity scenarios.

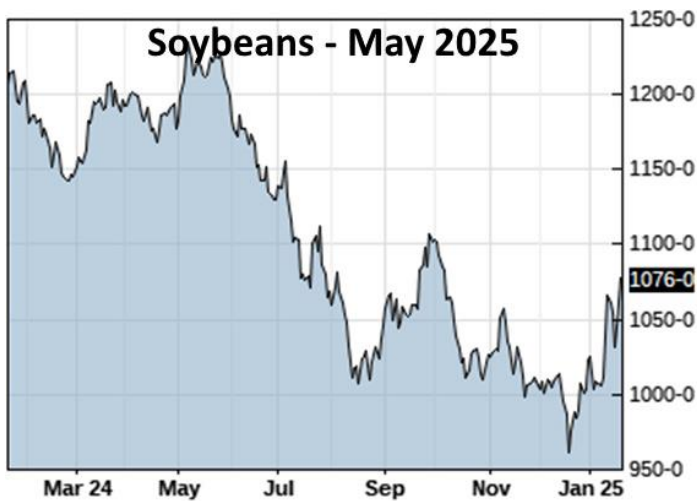
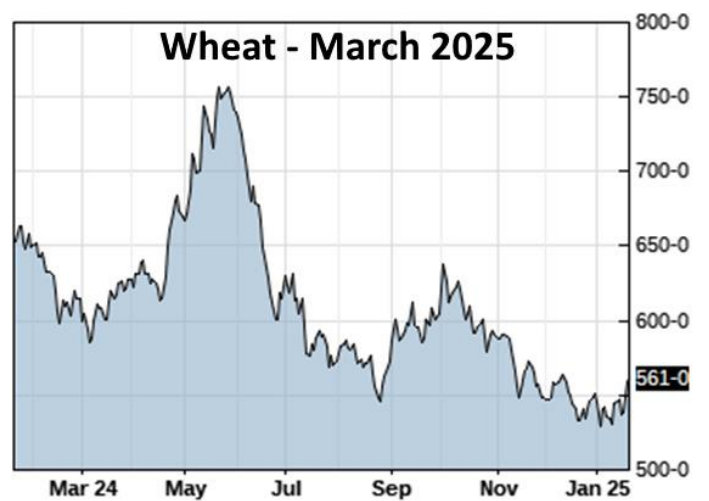
Corn Futures

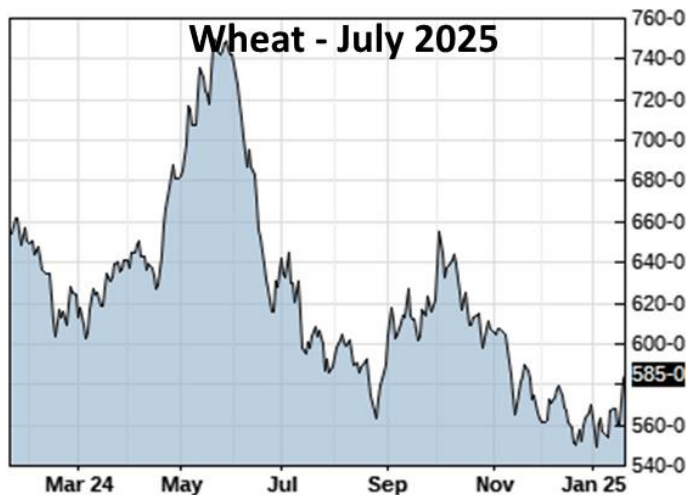




Soybean Futures

Wheat Futures





Spot the Rot: Understanding Strawberry Neopestalotiopsis Disease

Jill Pollok, Plant Diagnostician, University of Delaware

[SLIDE SET](#)

FVGAD General Vegetable Session

Update on Produce Food Safety Regulations

Justin Grimminger, Produce Safety Program, Delaware Department of Agriculture

[SLIDE SET](#)

Produce Safety Update

Dr. Kali Kniel, Professor of Microbial Food Safety, University of Delaware

[SLIDE SET](#)

Considerations for Mitigating Toxic Metal Contamination in Vegetable Crops

Dr. Angelia Seyfferth, Professor of Biogeochemistry and Plant-Soil Interactions, University of Delaware

[SLIDE SET](#)

Using Laser and Electric Weeders in Vegetable Crops

Dr. Thierry Besancon, Associate Extension Specialist in Weed Science, Rutgers University
Slides Currently Unavailable

Adapting our Ag Practices to Climate Risks - A.I. Climate Smart Solutions

Dr. Gulnihal Ozbay, Professor and Extension Specialist in Natural Resources and Dr. Rose Ogutu, Horticulture Specialist, Delaware State University

Slides Currently Unavailable

One Straw Farm a Certified Organic Vegetable Farm in Maryland

Joan Norman, owner of One Straw Farm
Slides Unavailable

FVGAD Fresh Market Vegetable Session

Management Update for Fresh Market Vegetable Pests

Dr. David Owens, Extension Entomologist, University of Delaware

[SLIDE SET](#)

Slides from 2025 Ag Week Fruit and Vegetable Sessions

Emmalea Ernest, Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist; emmalea@udel.edu

Slides and handouts from the fruit and vegetable sessions at Ag Week are shared at the links below with the permission of the presenters.

FVGAD Fruit Session

Key Arthropod Pests of Small Fruit

Dr. Kelly Hamby, Associate Professor, Entomology, University of Maryland

[SLIDE SET](#)

Strawberry Varieties from the USDA, 2024

Dr. Kim Lewers, Research Geneticist, USDA-ARS Beltsville, MD

[SLIDE SET](#)

Pollinators for Berry Crops

Dr. Natalie Boyle, Assistant Research Professor, Department of Entomology, Penn State University

[SLIDE SET](#)

Weed Management Strategies for Berry Crops

Carrie Mansue, Sr. Program Coordinator, Rutgers University

[SLIDE SET](#)

Physiological Disorders of Tree Fruit

Dr. Macarena Faruch, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist of Horticulture, University of Maryland

[SLIDE SET](#) | [FACTSHEET](#)

Sweet Corn Enterprise Budgets Across the Growing Season

Nate Bruce, Farm Business Management Specialist, University of Delaware

[SLIDE SET](#) | [EXCEL TOOL](#)

What Might Be Lurking in Your Soil?

Dr. Alyssa Betts, Extension Plant Pathologist, University of Delaware

[SLIDE SET](#)

Optimizing Drone Spraying in Watermelons

Dr. Haley Sater, Agriculture Agent, University of Maryland

[SLIDE SET](#)

Cover Crops for Plasticulture Row Middle Management

Dr. Kurt Vollmer, Extension Weed Management Specialist, University of Maryland

[SLIDE SET](#)

Bird Deterrence in Sweet Corn with Laser Scarecrows

Dr. Rebecca Brown, Professor of Plant Sciences, University of Rhode Island

[SLIDE SET](#) | [WEBSITE](#)

Sweet Corn, Snap Bean and Lettuce Varieties with Stress Tolerance

Dr. Emmalea Ernest, Extension Fruit and Vegetable Specialist, University of Delaware

[SLIDE SET](#)

FVGAD Processing Vegetable Session

White Mold in Processing Vegetables

Dr. Alyssa Betts, Extension Plant Pathologist, University of Delaware

[SLIDE SET](#)

Management Update for Processing Vegetable Pests

Dr. David Owens, Extension Entomologist, University of Delaware

[SLIDE SET](#)

Soil Amendments for Processing Vegetables

Lyndsie Mikkelsen, Extension Vegetable and Fruit Agent

[SLIDE SET](#)

Effective Weed Control: The Focus is On the Weeds

Dr. Mark VanGessel, Extension Weed Science Specialist, University of Delaware

[SLIDE SET](#)

Pea, Snap Bean and Lima Bean Variety Updates

Dr. Emmalea Ernest, Extension Fruit and Vegetable Specialist, University of Delaware

[SLIDE SET](#)

New Castle and Sussex Property Reassessment

Property assessments are almost fully completed in New Castle and Sussex Counties. Farmers and especially poultry producers who want to learn more about the process or appeal their assessment because of a potential error are encouraged to do so. This can be done by contacting your county's Office of Assessment or accessed through their website for more information. In 2023, Kent County property assessments were completed, and the appeals process has since passed. The links to each county website are provided below, information on this website can also provide you with details related to school taxes which also impact total property taxes.

New Castle County

<https://www.newcastlede.gov/181/Assessment>

Kent County

<https://www.kentcountyde.gov/Residents/Tax-Credits-Exemptions-Assessment>

Sussex County

<https://sussexcountyde.gov/reassessment>

Announcements

Nutrient Management and Pesticide Program: A Program Offering a Little Bit of Everything

Wednesday, February 5, 2025
University of Delaware Paradee Center
69 Transportation Circle Dover, DE 19901

Nutrient Management Block: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Pesticide Block: 10:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.

AGENDA: This program will feature presentations on “Small Grain Fertility”, “Pasture Renovation”, and “Personal Protective Equipment and Safety with Pesticides”. With “Soil Escape Box” and “Insects, Weeds, and Management Trivia” activities.

Registration is Required before February 3, 2025:

Contact Gioiella Del Vecchio at 302-735-8137 or gdelv@udel.edu to register or if you have questions.

2025 Delaware Risk Management Conference

Monday, March 3rd, 2024, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
University of Delaware and Delaware Farm Bureau
Harrington Fire Hall
20 Clark Street, Harrington, DE 19952

University of Delaware Cooperative Extension and Delaware Farm Bureau’s 2025 Risk Management Conference will held be on March 3rd from 8:00 am to 3:00 PM at the Harrington Fire Hall. Lunch will be provided. Credits provided:

2.0 DE Nutrient Management Credits
2.0 MD Nutrient Management Credits

Topics will include:

- 2025 Commodity Crop Enterprise Budgets
- Fertilizer Market Trends

- Nitrogen Modeling Tool
- Grain Market Update
- International Trade and Events Impacting Agriculture Today
- Grain Producers and Risk Management
- Weathering Burnout

To register, please use online weblink below:

<https://defb.org/risk-management-conference/>

If you have any additional questions about registration, please contact Mikayla Paul.

E: mikayla.paul@defb.org

P: 302-697-3183

Please contact Nate Bruce nsbruce@udel.edu with any questions about the conference.

Soybean Inoculant Survey

Please take this short 3 question survey on inoculants you have used when planting soybean seed.

https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4IM9Fbtg3BymC1g

Leveraging PowerPay: An Extension Tool for Debt Management

It’s the new year and we may have goals to manage our finances better. This upcoming webinar [Leveraging PowerPay: An Extension Tool for Debt Management](#) will introduce you to how to create a personalized debt elimination plan. This interactive webinar will be held virtually on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 11:00 am EST - 12:30 pm EST.

Don’t miss the opportunity to learn how to use this free, innovative tool. RSVP today: <https://oneop.org/learn/160065/> (Note: the recording will be available on the event page within 48 hours).

Entomology Surveys

David Owens, Extension Entomologist,
owensd@udel.edu

Tis the season for insect pest surveys! This year, we have three active survey efforts, please take a look and a few minutes to fill out these surveys. They help us justify our insect monitoring efforts, secure funding for those efforts, and guide research and extension activities. Please help me help you! A couple of survey respondents will also be sent a thank you gift.

1. Soybean pest loss annual survey - now with corn questions too!

https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8GnhiHa4rn9ToPP



2. University of Delaware Insect Trapping Economic and Pest Impact survey

https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9mNMsYAzR2Rhb8i



3. University of Maryland Sweet Corn Economics

https://ume.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0wk9kR XyebrKakm



Annie's Project 2025



Annie's Project empowers women in agriculture to be successful through education, networks, and resources.

- ✓ Learn from experts in the agriculture industry
- ✓ Develop lifelong partnerships
- ✓ Gain knowledge & confidence in farm management

This six week course will primarily focus on five areas of risk management: production, financial, legal, personal, and market. You will learn from experts in the Ag industry, gain knowledge and confidence in farm management and develop friendships with other women in agriculture.

6-week course | In-person or Virtual
Tuesdays | 6:30pm-8:30pm | Jan. 21-Feb. 25, 2025
University of Delaware Carvel Research & Education Center
Georgetown, DE

Contact Lisa Collins with questions:
lcollins@udel.edu | 302-831-3402

\$100 registration fee to cover meals and materials.



This program is brought to you by the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, a service of the UD College of Agriculture and Natural Resources – a land-grant institution. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. If you have special needs that need to be accommodated, please contact the office two weeks prior to the event.

2024-2025 University of Delaware Traveling Winter Turfgrass Seminar

All 3 sessions will cover the same material. Please attend the session that is most convenient for you.

Locations, Dates, and Times:

Wednesday January 29, 2025 - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sussex County Extension Office (Carvel Research Station)

16684 County Seat Hwy
Georgetown, DE 19947

Friday January 31, 2025 - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Kent County Extension Office

69 Transportation Circle
Dover, DE 19901

Friday February 7, 2025 - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

New Castle County Extension Office

461 Wyoming Rd
Newark, DE 19716

Seminar Agenda (Same for all counties)

8:00 - 8:50 - Registration and Breakfast

8:50 - 9:00 - Opening remarks

9:00 - 9:50 - John Emerson, University of Delaware

10:00 - 10:50 - Matt Elmore, Rutgers University

11:00 - 11:50 - Lunch

12:00 - 12:50 - Carl Schimenti, Cornell University

1:00 - 1:50 - Jill Pollock, University of Delaware

1:50 - 2:00 - Closing remarks

Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. Please arrive early to ensure a prompt check-in!

Breakfast and lunch will be provided. If you have any dietary restrictions, please be sure to answer the last question on the registration form.

[Register Here](https://forms.gle/kaYuc5JE9hGhb37j9) (https://forms.gle/kaYuc5JE9hGhb37j9)

If you have any questions, please call or text John Emerson at 859-621-0500 or email him at jremer@udel.edu

Breakfast: Coffee and Donuts

Lunch: Capriottis

Cost: \$60.00/person

*******Payment will be taken the day of the event you attend. Please, bring your form of payment with you. We will accept cash, check, or card. Make checks payable to 'University of Delaware'*******

Speakers, Titles, and Abstracts:

Best Management Practices for Lawn Care - the Good, Better, Best Approach

Implementing best management practices (BMPs) for lawn and landscape care is often perceived as a

daunting task, with lengthy checklists that leave managers unsure of where to begin. This presentation will introduce a practical approach to adopting BMPs, structured around a "good, better, best" framework. Starting with simple, low-effort BMPs that yield immediate benefits, we will discuss how to progressively incorporate more advanced practices that, while requiring greater effort, can significantly enhance the value of turfgrass. Attendees will learn to prioritize and scale their BMP adoption, make the process more approachable, manageable, and impactful.

Mr. Carl Schimenti - Carl is an Urban Environmental Scientist at Cornell University who studies the value of turfgrass in urban areas, and how management practices affect that value. His extension work focuses on promoting best management practices, and his research aims to provide tools to turfgrass managers to help optimize their resource use.

Integrated Management of False-Green Kyllinga and Yellow Nutsedge

This presentation will discuss the power of combining herbicide programs and turfgrass management to provide long-term control of various weeds, particularly sedges and false-green kyllinga. Identification, life cycle, and susceptibility to herbicides will be discussed. Research-based results showing the power of combining optimized herbicide programs synced with turf management practices such as seeding, fertilization, and mowing will be discussed. For example, false-green kyllinga research has been conducted by the presenter to evaluate various herbicide products; when kyllinga is most susceptible to these herbicides, how the herbicide efficacy can be improved with practices such as fertilization and turfgrass seeding, and the ability of kyllinga to establish from seed. This evidence-based approach will be discussed so attendees can augment existing sedge management programs with strategies for kyllinga and nutsedge control.

Dr. Matt Elmore - Matt Elmore is a faculty member and Associate Extension Specialist in Weed Science at Rutgers University. His research program at Rutgers focuses on weed control in turfgrass with a focus on integrated strategies for weed control in cool-season turf. Matt earned his B.S. in Turfgrass Science from Penn State University before moving south and earning an M.S. and Ph.D from the University of Tennessee in 2014 with an emphasis on turfgrass weed control.

UD Plant Diagnostic Lab Yearly Update and Pest Management Trivia

In the first part of this presentation, we will briefly cover the distribution of samples submitted to the diagnostic lab as well talk about pest trends seen throughout the year. In the second part, Jill and John will host a game show style event where attendees will answer trivia questions pertaining to pesticide label comprehension, basic math calculations, pest identification as well as biotic and abiotic stresses found in turfgrass and ornamental systems.

Ms. Jill Pollok – Jill Pollok has been the Plant Diagnostician at the University of Delaware since 2020, diagnosing problems of around 800 plant samples annually. Prior to UD, she was a plant pathology research specialist at a Virginia Tech research station. She received her master’s degree from Virginia Tech in Plant Pathology, and she received her bachelor’s degrees in Agroecology and Biology from Penn State.

Indexing the Soil Nutrient Status of Turfgrass Systems in Delaware: What Does the Data Tell Us?

Historic methodologies for how nutrient recommendations are derived is seen as flawed and often lead to unnecessary fertilizer applications that result in no improvement to turfgrass quality. The Minimal Levels of Sustainable Nutrition (MLSN) guidelines were an answer to this problem, but critics suggested that the soil test data set used in the development of MLSN was either not robust enough or too general to determine regionally accurate guidelines. Over the last 1.5 years I traveled the length of the state and collected 435 soil samples from good performing turf to build a data set that is specific to Delaware. In my talk we will cover flaws in traditional soil testing and fertilizer recommendations and highlight what the preliminary data from my research is suggesting.

Mr. John Emerson - John has been the Turfgrass Extension Agent at the University of Delaware since 2020. His time is split between the Nutrient Management Program and Pesticide Safety and Education Program. He earned a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science (Turfgrass Management) from the University of Kentucky and will complete his M.S. in Plant & Soil Science from the University of Delaware in 2025. His research is focused on the relationships between soil testing and nutrient recommendations for turfgrass systems. Prior to his time at UD, John was a golf course superintendent, turfgrass consultant, and a LCO business owner.

Continuing Education Credits:

Nutrient Management and Pesticide credits will be requested from DE, MD, NJ, and PA. Credits will be attributed as they are approved.

Fresh Market Vegetable Grower Survey Online University of Delaware

Fresh market fruit and vegetable growers are invited to take a survey about their operations to help Extension make research and education plans for the next few years based on results. The survey should take 10-15minutes to complete and allows growers the opportunity for suggestions.

Paper copies of the survey are available, email Lyndsie Mikkelsen lyndsie@udel.edu or call 302-650-3162 if interested!

Survey URL:

https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ezFc4kRfm1C8kOa

QR Code:



Please contact Lyndsie Mikkelsen lyndsie@udel.edu with any questions.

Watermelon and Pumpkin Grower Biofumigation Study Survey Online Activity

Watermelon and pumpkin growers, we are seeking survey responses to evaluate your familiarity with using biofumigation to reduce phytophthora and root-knot nematodes in these crops. We would like to hear about your experiences with this topic. The survey should take no more than five minutes to complete.

Here is the link to the survey:
https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_02i7KXdpzDhbgsS

Contact Nate Bruce at nsbruce@udel.edu or 302-362-7616 if you have any questions.

Grain Marketing Producer Survey

Online Activity

Grain marketers, the University of Delaware, in collaboration with the Universities of Kentucky and Nebraska Lincoln, seeks your input on how you make grain marketing decisions on your own operation. The survey will help inform us to understand the risks and factors involved in making these decisions. In addition, data will be used to help us refine outreach education on grain marketing. Your individual survey responses will remain confidential as data will be aggregated. The survey will take 10 minutes or less to complete. Below is both a link to the survey and a QR code.

Link to Qualtrics survey:
https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0JpiRk4gHsN2yHQ

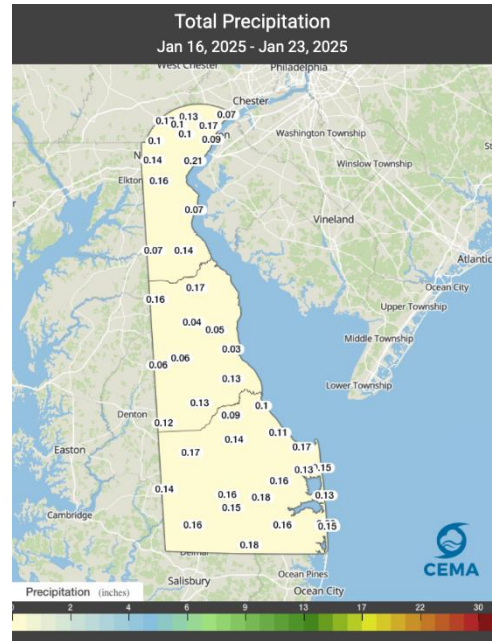
QR Code:



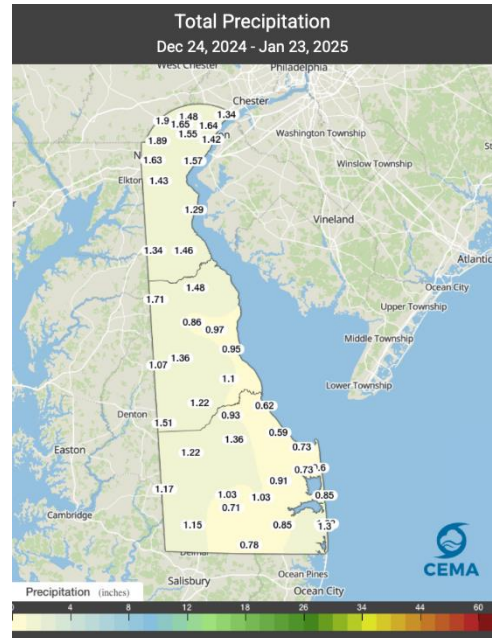
Contact Nate Bruce at nsbruce@udel.edu or 302-362-7616 if you have any questions.

Weather Summary

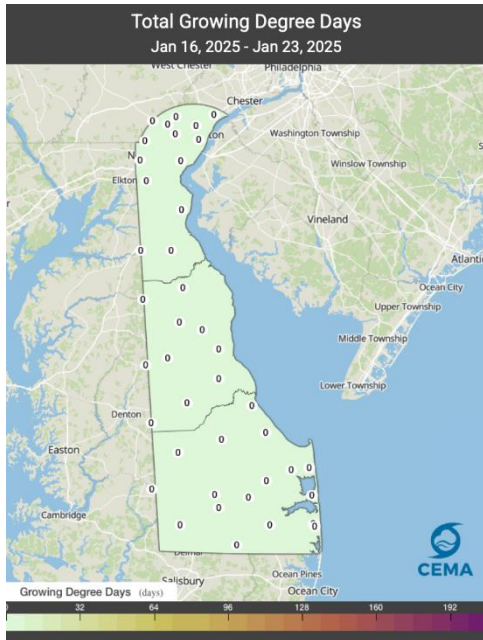
1 Week Accumulated Precipitation



1 Month Accumulated Precipitation



1 Week Accumulated Growing Degree Days



Weekly Crop Update is compiled and edited by Emmalea Ernest - Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist, Drew Harris - Kent Co. Ag Agent and Lyndsie Mikkelsen - Fruit and Vegetable Agent

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1 Month Accumulated Growing Degree Days

