

Farmers Are Making Good Progress In Their Fields

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at planting pretty much the typical big four for this region. Corn is king followed by soybeans and sugarbeets if you have beet acres. Wheat is in a distant fourth place. Wheat, along with all small grains has fallen out of

favor with many farmers.

Small grains, wheat, barley and oats, were once the primary crops for this region. Corn and soybeans now far surpass the wheat acreage that has been planted for the past few years and will again this year. Barley and oats are now almost non-

existent on local fields unless there is a specialty contract involved.

Farming is a cyclical business and every few years a few more growers get washed out, usually by the prices. Commodity prices have been simply dreadful for the past half dozen years. While there

were highs and lows, in recent years most growers struggled to get \$3 per bushel for their corn. Soybeans kept backpedaling until they eventually got under \$10 per bushel. Wheat has become a real unwanted stepchild as prices dropped under \$5 per bushel and then stayed there for several years.

As farmers head into their fields this spring the prices being offered at local elevators have improved quite a lot since last fall. Corn on the nearby market, if you still have some in the bin, is about \$6.60 per bushel. That's over double what you would have gotten for the light corn grown during a disastrous 2019 crop of corn. December 2021 new crop corn can be contracted for about \$5 per bushel but nobody is snapping up that price very quickly.

Soybeans have been holding their own at right about \$14.85 per bushel on recent market quotations. New crop beans tail off to about \$12.75

per bushel for delivery after this coming fall harvest. There are few contracts being inked at that money. The bean market may still have some subsidy money involved on exports out of the United States.

Wheat, although not nearly as popular as it once was, still has a lot of acres planted to maintain a rotation on some farms. That market took a real beating for several years when you couldn't get \$5 per bushel for the crop. That market firmed up over this past winter and hovered in the \$6 per bushel range for several weeks. Then the wheels fell off and wheat went into a free fall throughout most of March.

But that wheat market has come roaring back. Right now there's only one number on the boards clear out into December. Selling on the spot market now will get you a little less than \$7 per bushel. Right out of the field at harvest will bring just a little less than \$7 per bushel. Holding

new crop wheat out into December of this year will actually get you a few cents per bushel over that same \$7 for hard, red spring wheat.

The prices being offered at elevators fluctuate a few cents every week or even daily. But for the first time in a very long time, they are fairly consistent as they trend higher.

The sugarbeet market has so many varying numbers that it's impossible to put a number on what a ton of beets will be worth this coming fall. In the past 10 years the price has varied wildly on a ton of beets. Sugarbeets saw a high of as much as \$70 per ton in the 2012 to 2014 time frame. Those prices dropped to a low point in 2019 when the farmer owed the factory \$350 per acre for beets that were too wet to harvest.

Whatever the final decision is on what kind of a crop to plant this spring, it's good to see farmers back in their fields again.



Field conditions are just a little dusty this spring. But it's all surface dust. Break that upper crust of the soil and there is adequate moisture to germinate seeds underground. The good news is that you can go just about anywhere this spring. There are no wet spots to farm around.



The tender trucks at the Maple River Grain and Agronomy Fertilizer Plant in Barnesville got a rare morning off on Monday, April 26 due to some scattered rain showers moving through the region. That is about the only time off these trucks and the huge fertilizer plant in Barnesville are likely to see during the next couple of weeks. Cool weather has helped stretch out the spring rush a little bit. Farmers have been in no rush to put seeds into cold ground but fertilizer can be applied and fields worked. Maple River Grain runs a huge fleet of tender trucks and floater/applicators to keep local farmers from Dilworth, Sabin, Barnesville and Rothsay busy during the spring planting season. Seeding is likely to hit high gear during the first week of May.

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ACADEMIC ALL-STARS

Rothsay High School's Top Seniors 6 GPAs For 2021 In No Particular Order

COLBY LARSON

Parents: Chad & Lynn Larson

Special Interests/Hobbies:
Hunting and being with friends.

Career Aspirations:
Attend a trade school and make money.

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GRACE LIDER

Parents: Terry & Jackie Lider

Special Interests/Hobbies:
Working and hanging out with friends.

Career Aspirations:
I am starting at M-State in Fergus Falls in the nursing program. I then will transfer to get my bachelor's degree in nursing.

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JAZMYN PETERSON

Parents: Lindsey Peterson & Nick Sydow

Special Interests/Hobbies:
Hanging out with friends and working.

Career Aspirations:
I am attending MSUM to pursue my goal of becoming an elementary teacher.

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KARSYN ZILMER

Parents: Wes & Tara Zilmer

Special Interests/Hobbies:
Hunting, fishing, derby and ice racing.

Career Aspirations:
Go to college to become a diesel technician.

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LILLY WHEELRIGHT

Parents: Athena Rudh & Nick Wheelright

Special Interests/Hobbies:
Baking, working and hanging with my friends.

Career Aspirations:
I plan to attend a two year college, both college and major undecided.

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www.galaxy-enterprises.com

ETHAN BENNETT

Parents: Bryan Bennett & Jami Krog

Special Interests/Hobbies:
Hunting, video games and hanging out with friends.

Career Aspirations:
I am currently enlisted in the North Dakota Air National Guard. I will be in for at least six years. I plan to attend Concordia College in the fall of 2022.

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Good Luck Rothsay Seniors From The Rothsay Regional Report And Clay County Connection!