

Area Crop Report 12/23 – 12/27

A Year of Review for Agriculture in 2024

- ***Pesticide Regulations and Product Changes:*** While many different regulations and products were either removed, changed, or accepted back into production (Chlorpyrifos), none was larger and made more headlines than Dicamba. A group 4 herbicide label that was in many producers' herbicide regiment was vacated for over-the-top application in soybeans (June 30th) and cotton (July 30th), among other Dicamba tolerant crops. While companies such as Bayer and Syngenta submitted applications for their Dicamba products earlier this year, the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act mandates 17 months of review time from the date the action gets in-processed. Ultimately, it is highly unlikely Dicamba products will be an option for producers in the 2025 growing season.
- ***Tight Profit Margins:*** Farm income, as a whole, was lower again this year after a decline last year. High input costs and lower-than-anticipated grain market prices led to many producers having to keep a magnifying glass on the checkbook. From a wet, late April that saw corn and bean replants to another hot, dry summer, conditions were less than ideal leading to lower yields. Some experts and analysts forecasted a loss of one million acres of corn and soybeans, which was also seen in NASS's final U.S. bushel estimates.
- ***New Automation Technology and Precision Ag Advancements:*** From autonomic tractors and grain carts, to continually developing A.I. technology, and refined robotic systems, technology continued its on-going advancements in 2024. Aerial imagery through drone scouting has enhanced data analysis leading to less herbicide usage, robotics such as weed machines are reducing labor (double-edged sword in my opinion), and crop resilience through advanced genomics and gene editing (CRISPR) are all things to look to continue going into 2025.
- ***Newly Elected Government Positions and What it Could Mean for 2025:*** Presidential election years can be monumental, and 2024 was no different. With Inauguration Day on January 20th, 2025, President Trump is not the only individual who will be filling a "new" role. Brooke Rollins, Trump's pick to succeed Tom Vilsack as the Secretary of Agriculture, will take office bringing new proposals and ideas. Robert F. Kennedy has/is already making headlines for proposed changes he plans on implementing as Secretary of Health and Human Services, if sworn in. The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), which is in fact not even a government department and still would have to be established through an act of Congress, remains unclear to lawmakers and how it will ultimately function. While there is no crystal ball predicting the future (unfortunately), look for changes to be made after the new year.

The 2024 growing season brought challenges for both cattle and grain producers alike, as each year does. While challenges will continue to arise, we are proud of our grower's resilience and determination. PCA acknowledges these challenges and would like to thank the producers and operations who choose to continually do business with us. Here is to a prosperous 2025 growing season and continued success!

*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year*

Producers Cooperative Association would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

“People will do anything, no matter how absurd, in order to avoid facing their own souls.”

Carl Jung