

April '25 Monthly Crop Report

Giving Grace

Planters are slowly being brought out of shops, fertilizer spreaders are trying to keep up with demand, early planted corn is needing a pre-emergence application pass, prep for early soybeans is underway, wheat fungicide applications are being considered, calving season may be happening for some, rains are scattered throughout the forecast, grain prices are tough, per acre input costs are extensive, help is hard to find, and there are only so many hours in a day. This is the reality for most of us in the agricultural world come April. The overwhelming feeling of needing to get so much done in a short amount of time can wear on a psyche, and many livelihoods depend on the outcome of the production season, being crops or cattle. Stress mounts, frustrations boil over, and tensions rise. Agriculture is an emotional business fueled by passion, generational history, and a drive of continually making operations financially successful. So, where do we allow ourselves, and others in the industry, some grace?

“Therefore, be patient... The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.”

Patience is a virtue, good things come with time, and the sun will rise in the morning. These are all things we have heard uttered, but also phrases that are difficult to accept. I'm just as guilty as anyone of this. We are passionate about our operations and ultimately livelihoods, however, taking a step back every once in awhile and realizing that while not everything may not get accomplished in a time frame you would have liked to see; it will still ultimately get accomplished. Understanding such situations, having the ability to take a breath when everything seems to be piling on at once, and looking at the big picture when times get tough are ways we can give ourselves that little grace period. Many of us have families, kids, grandkids, grand dogs, you name it that enjoy spending the few hours a day or even a week with their hard-working farmer. Find opportunities to give them that grace as well. We care about your well-being, our community greatly appreciates your hard work, and we all want to see our local farmers prosper. This is a different insert than what I have talked about in prior reports, but one I felt was needed. I'll leave with a quote my grandmother instilled upon me I still live by to this day: “This too shall pass.”

Is a Potential Long-Term Gain Worth the Short-Term Pain?

President Trump has announced reciprocal tariffs on U.S. trade partners, with a minimum 10% tariff on at least 60 countries. This includes 34% tariff on China, 24% to Japan, and 20% on the E.U. as three of the larger nations worth noting. This throws even more uncertainty into the mix of things, asking the question will this move reduce trade barriers or end up adding to them? History will show that when a trade war breaks out, they haven't played out for agriculture the way they were intended, leaving farmers in the crossfire. Refer back to the 27-billion-dollar losses that occurred during the trade war with China in 2018. Grain markets could be affected, fertilizer imports look to be impacted, and chemicals to be imported already have some farmers and retailers concerned looking ahead to the '26 growing season. Will this trade war be short lived? And if so, will the U.S. see long-term benefits? I'm glad I don't have to make decisions that will make a ripple affect answering these questions. For the time being, let's control what we can control: putting down fertilizer, ammonia, light tillage if apart of operations, and putting a crop in the ground.



“Our farmers deserve praise, not condemnation; and their efficiency should be cause for gratitude, not something for which they are penalized.

John F. Kennedy