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Michigan Corn Growers Association Thanks USDA for Federal Crop Insurance Flexibility

(LANSING) - The Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) today thanked U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue for providing increased flexibility under Federal Crop Insurance rules for utilizing forage and cover crops, including corn silage, on prevented plant acres.

“The extremely wet weather has created challenging planting conditions for farmers across Michigan this Spring and grain planting has approached the slowest pace on record,” said **Matt Frostic**, president of MCGA. “This announcement by USDA will ensure the planting season is not a total loss and help offset some of the expected shortfalls in feed and forage availability. We thank USDA for providing some much-needed flexibility and relief for farmers during this tough season.”

USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced that farmers will be able to plant forage, haylage or silage on acres of land that they have declared prevented planting and harvest those acres starting September 1. This change will allow farmers to utilize those crops when they are in the best condition and have the best nutritional value for animal feed. Previously, Federal Crop Insurance rules required farmers to wait until November 1 to harvest those acres.

Like other parts of the Midwest, large swaths of Michigan have seen precipitation measurements at double the normal rates. According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Great Lakes Region, grain planting in Michigan has approached the slowest pace on record due to relentless rain. Even the crops that have been successfully planted may see stunted growth or may require replanting.

The Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) is a grassroots organization of grower members dedicated to increasing the profitability of corn production. The MCGA is the only organization in Michigan that works solely on behalf of the state’s corn growers for pro-agriculture legislation. The MCGA works to ensure that corn growers’ voices are heard at the local, state and national levels. Find out more online at www.micorn.org.

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