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Soybean Prevented Planted Acres: Historical Background and Implications for 2015

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Recent attention has focused on delayed soybean plantings caused by wet weather, leading to the potential for large prevented planted acres. Much of this attention focuses on Missouri, Kansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Historical prevented planted acres are presented to provide perspective on possible prevented planted acres in 2015, providing further information on prevented planting contained in a previous *farmdoc daily* article (June 12, 2015).

Historical Prevented Planted Acres of Soybeans

Farm Service Agency (FSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, reports prevented planted acres. FSA generates these acres from acreage reports provided by farmers and landowners. From 1996 to 2014, the average prevented planted acres were 4,050,000 acres (see Table 1). Soybeans average 759,000 acres, representing 19% of total prevented planting acres.

Soybean prevented planted acres vary by year. Years with low prevented planted acres were in 2012 (158,000 acres), 1997 (225,000 acres), and 2006 (230,000 acres). Four years had prevented planting over 1,000,000 acres: 2001 (1,220,000 acres), 2010 (1,381,000 acre), 2011 (1,441,000 acres), and 2013 (1,697,000 acres). The highest number of prevented planting acres was 1,697,000 acres.

Not all states contribute equally to prevented plantings. Table 2 shows soybean prevented planted acres by state for the four years with over 1,000,000 prevented planted acres. States with large numbers of prevented planted acres were:

- 2001: South Dakota (359,000 acres), Minnesota (222,000 acres), North Dakota (155,000 acres), and Missouri (144,000 acres).
- 2010: South Dakota (458,000 acres), North Dakota (334,000 acres), and Missouri (202,000 acres).

- 2011: North Dakota (476,000 acres), South Dakota (367,000 acres), and Illinois (156,000 acres).
- 2013: North Dakota (442,000 acres), Minnesota (210,000 acres), and North Carolina (149,000 acres).

Three states in the upper Midwest typically have relatively large numbers of prevented planted acres: South Dakota (158,000 acre average for 1996-2014), North Dakota (154,000 acres), and Minnesota (71,000 acres). The next state contributing the most prevented planted acres is Missouri (71,000 acres). A county map supporting the observations is shown in the appendix.

Table 1. Prevented Planted Acres by Crop, United States, 1996 - 2014

Year	Soybeans	Corn	Sorghum	Upland Cotton	Other Crops	Total
1996	283,000	765,000	21,000	13,000	244,000	1,325,000
1997	225,000	273,000	53,000	72,000	474,000	1,096,000
1998	588,000	588,000	42,000	73,000	973,000	2,264,000
1999	778,000	864,000	44,000	33,000	3,563,000	5,282,000
2000	505,000	442,000	29,000	84,000	1,077,000	2,136,000
2001	1,220,000	2,122,000	44,000	132,000	3,120,000	6,638,000
2002	378,000	963,000	63,000	135,000	732,000	2,271,000
2003	777,000	1,250,000	57,000	338,000	932,000	3,355,000
2004	879,000	867,000	86,000	80,000	1,910,000	3,822,000
2005	832,000	548,000	29,000	25,000	3,016,000	4,449,000
2006	230,000	429,000	36,000	42,000	589,000	1,326,000
2007	638,000	543,000	67,000	97,000	605,000	1,949,000
2008	627,000	992,000	85,000	51,000	206,000	1,961,000
2009	939,000	1,942,000	33,000	133,000	1,779,000	4,826,000
2010	1,381,000	2,140,000	30,000	52,000	3,952,000	7,556,000
2011	1,441,000	3,013,000	190,000	181,000	6,216,000	11,041,000
2012	158,000	260,000	50,000	59,000	786,000	1,313,000
2013	1,697,000	3,615,000	171,000	209,000	3,729,000	9,421,000
2014	838,000	1,605,000	73,000	88,000	2,306,000	4,909,000
Average	759,000	1,222,000	63,000	100,000	1,906,000	4,050,000

Source: Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Table 2. Acres of Soybeans Prevented Planted by State, Select Years and Average from 1996 to 2014

	Year				
	2001	2010	2011	2013	Average
South Dakota	359,000	458,000	367,000	87,000	158,000
North Dakota	155,000	334,000	476,000	442,000	154,000
Minnesota	222,000	49,000	76,000	210,000	71,000
Missouri	144,000	202,000	97,000	62,000	57,000
Illinois	14,000	82,000	156,000	117,000	43,000
Arkansas	21,000	19,000	41,000	87,000	35,000
Louisiana	40,000	11,000	33,000	12,000	34,000
Iowa	104,000	80,000	32,000	107,000	28,000
Ohio	7,000	40,000	20,000	18,000	23,000
Wisconsin	95,000	7,000	5,000	89,000	23,000
Indiana	1,000	36,000	35,000	31,000	16,000
Kansas	1,000	7,000	2,000	1,000	14,000
South Carolina	5,000	2,000	6,000	111,000	14,000
Mississippi	2,000	6,000	14,000	18,000	12,000
North Carolina	1,000	1,000	1,000	149,000	12,000
Michigan	25,000	16,000	9,000	10,000	11,000

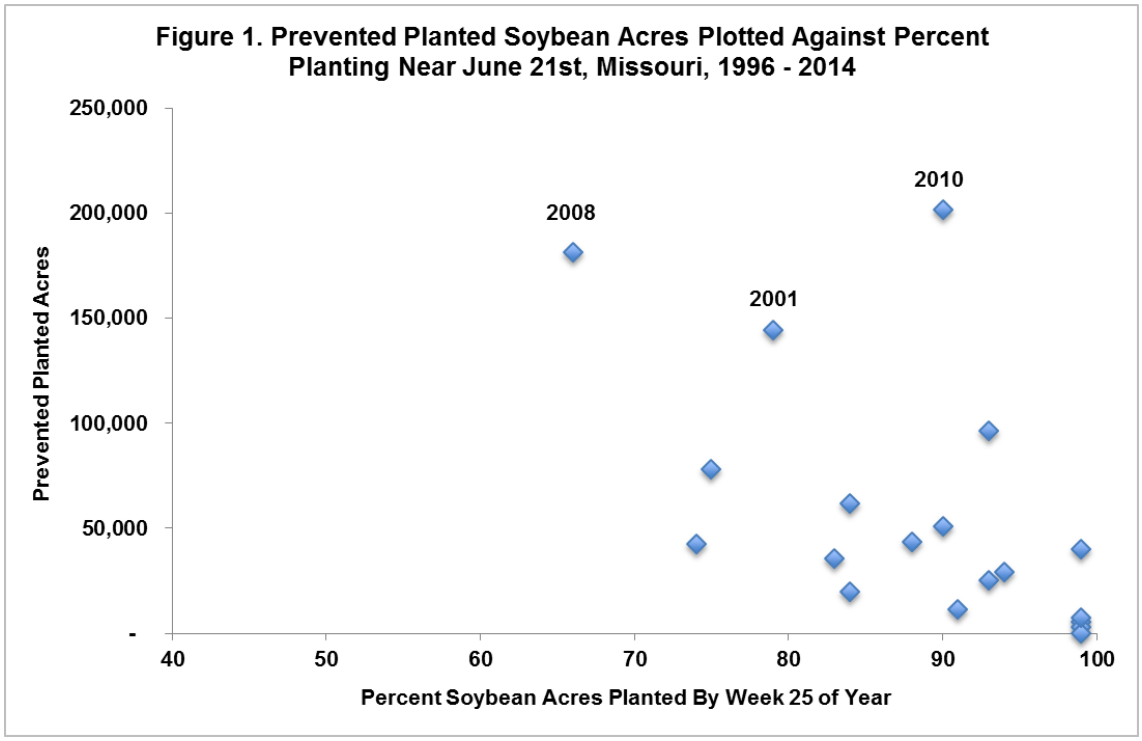
Source: Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Implications for 2015

USDA's planting progress reports indicate that 2015 plantings are nearing completion in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota, the traditional area where prevented planted acres are high. These states likely will have lower than average prevented planted acres.

On the other hand, soybeans plantings are notably behind in Missouri, Kansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Missouri appears to be the epicenter of late plantings. On June 21, USDA reported that only 51% of soybean acres were planted (see here). Missouri was projected to plant 5,650,000 acres in 2015 (see 2015 Prospective Planting Report), suggesting that roughly 2,500,000 acres remain to be planted in Missouri.

From 1996 to 2014, Missouri's highest prevented plantings for soybeans were 202,000 acres in 2010 (see Figure 1). In 2010, 90% of soybeans were reported as planted by National Agricultural Statistical Service by week 25 of the year (near June 21). The next highest acres were 182,000 in 2008, followed by 144,000 in 2001 (see Figure 1). Percent planted by week 25 was 66% in 2008 and 79% in 2001.



The 51% of soybeans planted in Missouri by week 25 is below the lowest observation of 66% from 1996 to 2014, suggesting that a large number of acres will be prevented from planting in Missouri. However, soybeans can be planted quickly if weather patterns change. As a matter of perspective, the highest prevented planted soybeans acres in any state from 1996 to 2014 were 476,000 acres (North Dakota in 2011). Having over 500,000 prevented planted soybean acres in any state has not been observed since 1996. Having over 1,000,000 acres would be an extreme outlier.

Summary

A large number of soybean acres likely will be prevented planted in 2015. Of course, the exact amount of prevented planting will be determined by weather going forward. Planting progress in Missouri, Kansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina will determine how large prevented planted acres for soybeans will be in 2015. Much of the attention will focus on Missouri.

References

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Appendix

Figure 2. Average Prevented Planting Soybean Acres by County, 1996 - 2014