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# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Extension and Outreach

## NC Iowa Agronomy Connection Newsletter

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### Looking forward

I refuse to talk about the current weather. So let's look forward and talk about things we need to consider for planting. First up, field work. Generally speaking there has been minimal field work done in NC Iowa, although a few people managed to make it into the field last week and got some tillage done and folks keep hauling manure where the ground is still frozen. There has even been some herbicide applied, but I do question the reasoning in that at this point in time. They certainly were not burning down weeds, because the weeds aren't there or not growing. Make sure soil conditions are good before attempting field work. We have enough challenges with this growing season that we don't need to make it worse by creating poor planting conditions with tillage when the soil is too wet or from compaction from other applications.

Second, cover crop burn down. It is difficult to kill something that is not growing or growing so slowly by starting and stopping with erratic weather. See [Cover Crop Termination Challenges with a Cool Spring](#) for more information. Be sure to consider your crop insurance requirements before termination.

Third, nitrogen applications. Some folks are already making plans to switch from pre-plant anhydrous ammonia to UAN or urea. Things to consider are highlighted in this article [A Late Spring- Nitrogen Considerations](#). The soil is still frozen in most of NC Iowa



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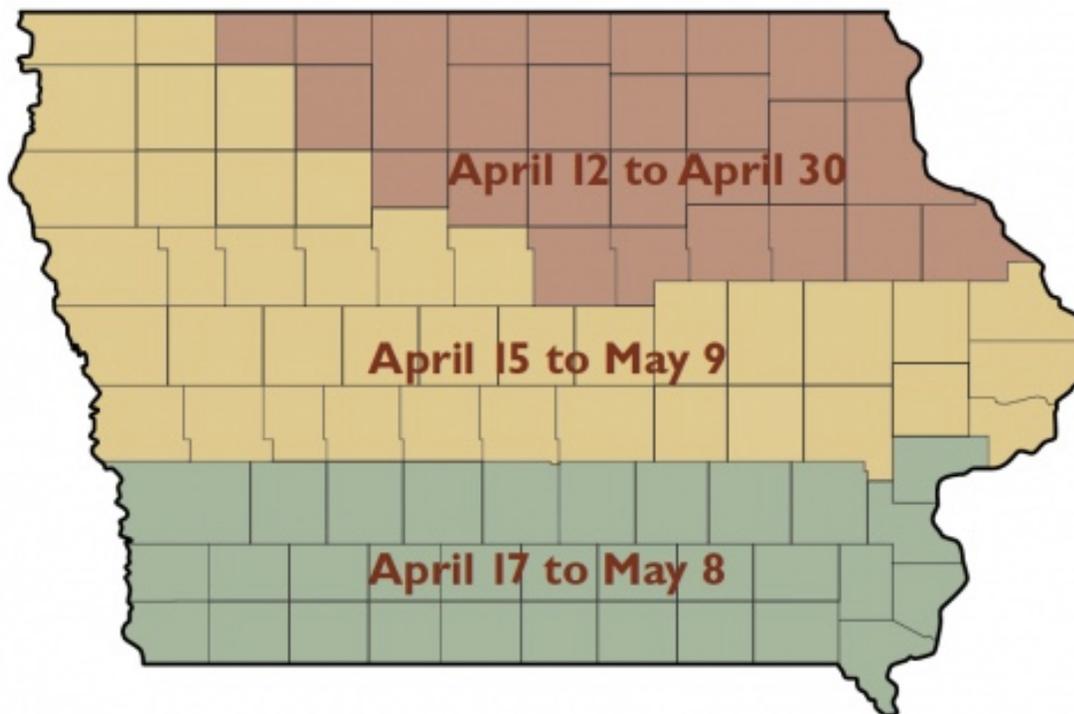
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and frozen soil will prevent movement of surface applied N into the soil putting it at risk for loss. Do not apply UAN or urea on frozen or snow-covered soils. The same is true for any herbicides applied with UAN and or water. If the herbicide can't move into the soil, it is at risk of loss due to water movement (runoff or snow melt).

Patience on your part and that of your retailer is key.

Finally, planting corn. Wait until [soil temps](#) are 50 degrees and warming and as mentioned above, make sure soil condition are suitable, i.e. not too wet. Delay planting if soil temps fall and, cool, wet conditions are predicted in the next 48 hours. Long term data indicates yield potential is maximized at 98-100% from April 12 to April 30 in NC Iowa. With that being said, yield potential is sometimes maximized at planting dates into the first 10 days of May. Again, consider soil conditions. It is too early to consider changing hybrids to a shorter maturity. This consideration should happen if we are delayed until the end of May.



Corn planting window to achieve 98-100% yield potential. (Corn and Soybean Field Guide, IPM 0001, 2016).

## Things to do

Since we seem to have some time available to us, consider these reminders.

1. Review [labels](#) and herbicide application timing given our current delay.
2. Check the [FieldWatch®](#) on-line registry for sensitive crops and

beehives near where you will make pesticide applications. See

[FieldWatch-Before You Spray](#).

3. If you missed the required training to use the new dicamba formulations, you can complete your [training on-line](#) offered by the product registrants.

4. Update your first aid kit and grab some fresh sunscreen.

Have a safe planting season!

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