USDA releases more details on Market Facilitation Program

The 2019 Market Facilitation Program signup period has begun where farmers growing specified crops will be entitled to a county-wide payment rate as determined by the USDA. The county payment rates were released at the end of July and varied from a minimum of $15 per acre to a maximum of $150 per acre. Many North Dakota counties in the southwestern part of the state will receive the minimum of $15 per acre while the eastern part of the state will have payment rates of up to $60 per acre (Lamoure County). Most of the southeast will receive over $50 per acre with the average payment rate across North Dakota being $31 per acre.

This year's program payments are considerably different than last year in both the weights given to each crop, and how payment rates for farmers are calculated. Last year, the rate was applied to actual 2018 production where a rate was chosen and multiplied by the number of head, bushels, tons, or hundred weights produced and verified after harvest. It was weighted heavily towards soybeans with soybeans getting $1.65 per bushel. In fact, a report by Farm Futures states that Cass County North Dakota received the most money of any county in the U.S. in 2018 having $34.4 million dollars paid out, while Richland and Barnes county were both in the top 10 in 2018.

North Dakota County Market Facilitation Program Payment Rates

Note: Payment rates are in dollars per acre
* $15 per acre is the minimum payment rate that can be received
* $150 per acre is the maximum payment rate that can be received
* The average payment rate across North Dakota is $31 per acre