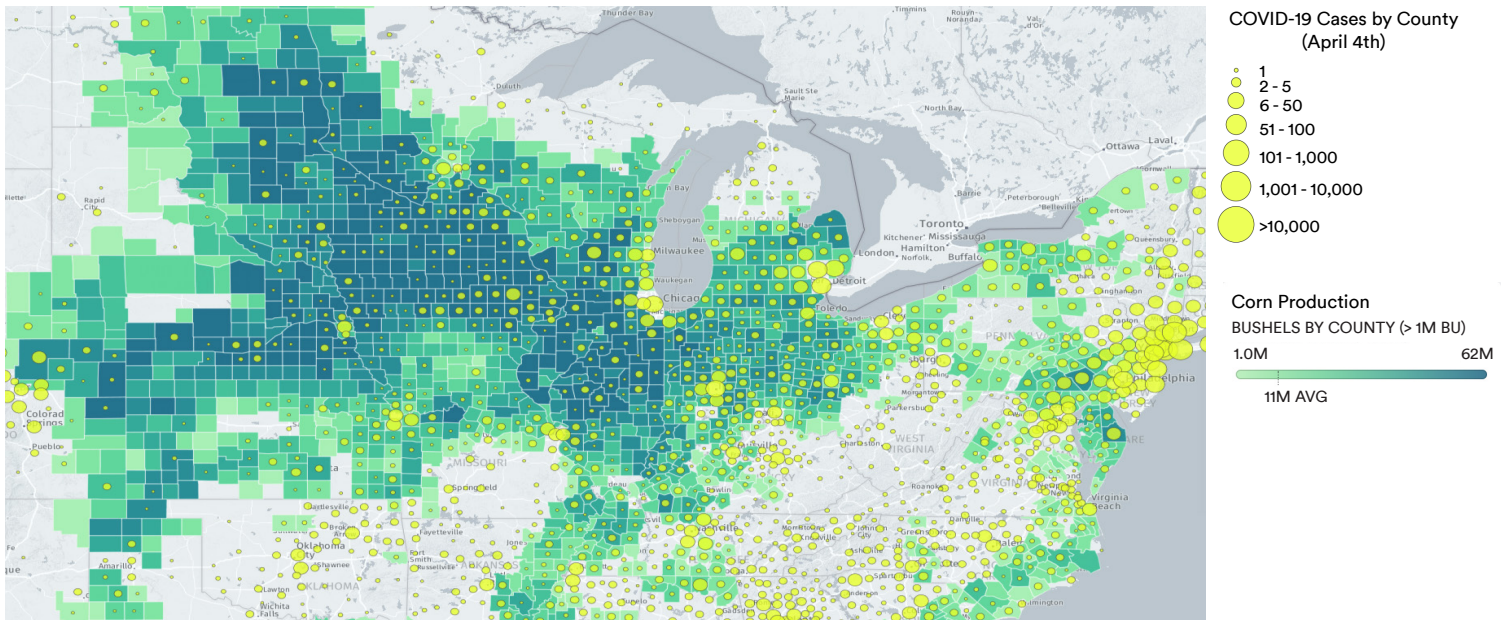


Tracking the intersection of our food system and COVID-19 presence or absence matters: UT Austin research shows that even 1 reported case boosts the likelihood of an undetected outbreak to 51% from a background risk of 9% for counties with no cases.¹ As of April 4th, 74% of US corn and soybean production capacity is in counties with at least 1 confirmed COVID-19 case,² an increase of 14% over the previous 7 days. Those same COVID-19 impacted counties are home to 84% of the 3.4 million US producers.³

This is the first in a new series of special coverage on the impact of coronavirus in farming communities; we will track potential effects on the food system. For more information or to share ideas for future topics please contact Indigo at covidmap@indigoag.com.

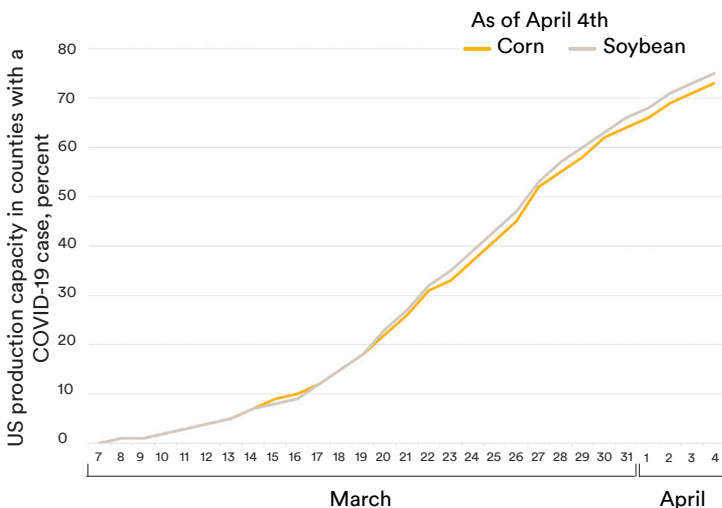
COVID-19 Cases in Corn-producing Counties



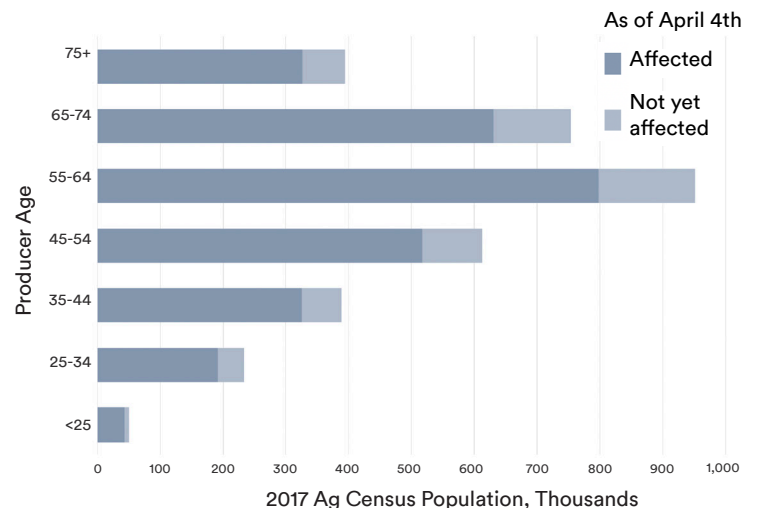
COVID-19 cases in the Corn Belt

The share of corn and soy acres located in a county with 1+ COVID-19 case has increased. From March 21 to April 4, corn has gone from 27% to 73% and soy from 29% to 75%. According to CDC guidelines, 34% of producers living in affected counties are high risk based on age.

Producers Living in COVID-19 Affected Counties



Producers Living in Counties with a COVID-19 Case



Methodology

This geospatial analysis was conducted at the scale of US counties, with all of the US production system in view. Two day lag in COVID-19 cases used in this analysis is due to lags in the most reliable available source data.

Sources:

¹“Probability of current COVID-19 outbreaks in all US counties”, Emily Javan, Dr. Spencer J. Fox, Dr. Lauren Ancel Meyers. Available at: (https://cid.utexas.edu/sites/default/files/cid/files/covid-risk-maps_counties_4.3.2020.pdf)

²For COVID-19 prevalence, the team relied on the New York Times (NYT) COVID-19 dataset which is updated daily and based on “state and local health agencies, hospitals, and the CDC.” NYT cautions that data represents “number of people there who have tested positive, which may differ from where they contracted the illness.” (<https://www.nytimes.com/article/coronavirus-county-data-us.html>)

³ Data on production and producers comes from from the 2017 Census of Agriculture (USDA NASS), which defines a producer as “all persons involved in farm operations and agricultural production” and people who identify as “someone involved in making decisions for the farm.” (www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus)

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