

United States Department of Agriculture

Risk Management Agency

1400 Independence Avenue, SW Stop 0801 Washington, DC 20250-0801 **BULLETIN NO.: MGR-07-008** 

**TO:** All Reinsured Companies

All Risk Management Agency Field Offices

All Other Interested Parties

FROM: Eldon Gould /s/ Eldon Gould 10/12/2007

Administrator

**SUBJECT**: Unharvested Sugar Beet Acreage Due to Lack of Processing Capacity

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has been notified that at least one sugar beet processor will require contracted producers to reduce their harvested acreage up to 15 percent due to the processor's inability to process a record sugar beet crop.

Section 14 of the Common Crop Insurance Policy Basic Provision (Basic Provisions) provides that the insured must notify, and obtain consent from, their approved insurance provider (AIP) before abandonment of any portion of their insured crop. The AIP may not provide consent until it has made an appraisal of the crop's potential production to count. Section 11 further provides that insurance will cease at the time any portion of the insured crop is abandoned. 7 C.F.R., Subpart G, actual production history (APH) regulations provide, in part, that the production report for APH purposes includes both harvested and appraised potential production to count for the insured acreage for the crop year.

## **ACTION:**

Effective immediately and only for non-loss units, when acreage will not be harvested due to the processor's lack of capacity to process the sugar beets, harvested production from acreage within the same unit may be used as the appraisal for APH purposes if: 1) more than 50 percent of the sugar beet acreage within a field is harvested, or 2) more than 50 percent of the insured entity's unit is harvested when more than one entity is operating in the same field. In accordance with the Basic Provisions, the insured must notify the AIP if any portion of the insured crop will be abandoned.

The AIP must verify that the applicable acreage requirement (more than 50 percent) is met and, with the insured's consent, the AIP may use the harvested acreage's actual yield per acre calculated in standardized tons according to the Sugar Beet Crop Provisions (section 13(d) or (e) as applicable), including the sugar content of the harvested acreage, as the appraisal for the unharvested acreage. The insured must provide the AIP with a legible map or photo identifying the unharvested and abandoned sugar beet acreage. The AIP will use the map or photo and the insured's notification of abandonment as documentation of the unharvested acreage.

In accordance with the Basic Provisions, coverage ends with the abandonment of the crop on the unit. Therefore, once acreage has been left unharvested because the production will not be accepted by the processor due to storage or processing capacity, insurance on the abandoned acreage ceases.

AIPs must notify the insured of the requirements contained in this bulletin and ensure that harvested production from one policyholder is not used to establish a yield for the unharvested acreage of any other policyholder.

An appraisal to determine the potential production is required if 50 percent or less of the sugar beet acreage for the field is harvested; if 50 percent or less of the unit is harvested when the field consists of more than one insurable entity; or if acceptable records for the harvested acreage are not provided by the insured.

## **DISPOSAL**

This memorandum is for transmitting information and will expire on December 31, 2007.