



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Risk
Management
Agency

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW
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BULLETIN NO.: MGR-14-020

TO: All Approved Insurance Providers
All Risk Management Agency Field Offices
All Other Interested Parties

FROM: Brandon C. Willis */s/ Brandon Willis* *11/4/2014*
Administrator

SUBJECT: Loss Adjustment for Late Apple Harvest in the Pacific Northwest

BACKGROUND:

Due to an unprecedented extended warm autumn, the maturity of apples in the Pacific Northwest has been delayed. According to the Washington Tree Fruit Association, the 2014 apple harvest will likely be delayed beyond the record set in 2011 and Washington State University (WSU) reported apple maturity and harvest remain behind schedule by up to two weeks due to the unprecedented warm night time temperatures occurring this fall. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has been advised many insureds, despite their best efforts, will not be able to finish harvest before the calendar date for the end of the insurance period (EOIP), of November 5th, (Fuji variety November 10th). Concerns have been expressed apples will remain on the trees beyond the EOIP requiring many field appraisals. Questions have been asked as to whether or not coverage will continue until the apples are harvested or appraised.

ACTION:

Approved insurance providers (AIPs) may authorize insured apple producers additional time to harvest through November 20, on a case-by-case basis, so that claims may be settled based on harvested production, when the EOIP has passed because of a delay in crop maturity due to an insured cause of loss.

AIPs must document that it was not possible to harvest the crop by the EOIP due to an insured cause of loss; and the delay in harvest (after the EOIP) was not due to uninsured causes of loss such as insufficient equipment or labor. Insured producers must also have complied with the notice of damage or loss requirements identified in the policies and procedures, and; made every reasonable attempt to harvest the crop by the EOIP, but not later than November 20.

AIPs must perform appraisals and close out any open claims as soon as possible after the EOIP, but no later than November 20, 2014.

During the extended harvest period, any subsequent and unavoidable loss of production due to insured causes of loss is considered an unavoidable loss resulting from the original insurable cause, e.g. excessive heat, delaying the timely harvest of the crop.

DISPOSAL DATE:

December 31, 2014