January 16, 2009

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: PM-09-002

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

FROM: Tim B. Witt */s/Tim B. Witt*
            Deputy Administrator

SUBJECT: 2009 and Subsequent Crop Year Procedure for Skip-Row Planted Corn

PURPOSE:

This document is to provide 2009 and subsequent crop year procedure for skip-row planted corn, including how to:

1. Convert skip-row corn Actual Production History (APH) databases to solid plant;
2. Combine converted APH databases with existing solid plant APH databases, if applicable; and
3. Determine, report and record the number of skip-row planted acres.

BACKGROUND:

Prior to crop year 2008, an unrated practice, type or variety (TP) written agreement (WA) was required to insure skip-row planted corn. For crop year 2008, corn planted for grain in certain skip-row patterns was insurable without a TP WA if specific requirements, as provided in the Special Provisions of Insurance (SPOI), were met.

Regardless of whether or not a WA was required, a separate APH database was required for skip-row planted corn and the number of acres considered planted was determined using a Farm Service Agency (FSA) percent planted factor (factor used to determine the number of acres considered planted to the crop).

For 2009 and subsequent crop years the Risk Management Agency will continue to authorize coverage on certain skip-row planted corn in select areas without a TP WA, and will no longer use the FSA percent planted factor to determine the number of acres considered planted to the crop.

The Risk Management Agency Administers
And Oversees All Programs Authorized Under
The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

An Equal Opportunity Employer

ACTION:

Approved Insurance Providers must follow the procedures provided in the Attachment for skip-row planted corn.

DISPOSAL DATE:

This informational memorandum remains in effect until the procedures in the Attachment are incorporated into the FCIC 18010 Crop Insurance Handbook.

Attachment to Informational Memorandum PM-09-002

1.   **<u>Skip-Row Planted Non-Irrigated Corn for Grain</u>**

The Risk Management Agency (RMA), through Special Provisions of Insurance (SPOI) statements, has provided specific criteria, including specific skip-row planting patterns, that must be met to insure skip-row planted non-irrigated corn for grain without an unrated practice, type or variety (TP) written agreement (WA) in certain counties in Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska.

A WA will be required for any other specific types, practices or planting patterns not mentioned in the SPOI, and any counties that do not contain the SPOI statement.

2.   **<u>Determining the Number of Acres Planted in a Skip-Row Pattern</u>**

Beginning with the 2009 crop year, for skip-row planted non-irrigated corn for grain acres insured without a WA (skip-row planted non-irrigated corn for grain that meets all requirements of the SPOI), the number of acres considered planted to the crop will not be determined using the Farm Service Agency (FSA) percent planted factor (factor used to determine the number of acres considered planted to the crop).

Example: A 100 acre field in Phillips County, Colorado is planted to non-irrigated corn for grain in a two rows planted one row skipped planting pattern with a 30 inch row width, and the crop meets all the requirements contained in the SPOI. Because the FSA percent planted factor is not used to determine the number of acres planted, the total number of acres planted to the crop is 100 acres.

For skip-row planted corn insured under a WA, if the WA requires use of the FSA percent planted factor to determine the number of acres planted to the crop, the percent plant factor will be specified in the WA.

3.   **<u>Converting Skip-Row Non-Irrigated Corn Actual Production History (APH) Databases</u>**

Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) must recalculate the number of acres, and the yield per acre associated with those acres, in existing skip-row non-irrigated planted corn for grain APH databases. The following table provides instructions for recalculating and recording such acreage and yields.

Step	Action
1	For each crop year with acres and production reported, determine the skip-row planting pattern and row width used to plant the crop.
2	For each year identified in step 1, determine the FSA percent planted factor used to determine the number of planted acres recorded for that year. The following are the most common skip-row planting patterns and row widths used for planting non-irrigated corn for grain, and the associated FSA percent planted factor used to determine the number of planted acres for each planting pattern: • 2 rows planted 1 row skipped (30-40 inch rows) = .6667 percent planted factor • 2 rows planted 2 rows skipped (30-40 inch rows) = .5000 percent planted factor • 1 row planted 1 row skipped (30 inch rows) = .6667 percent planted factor.
3	For each crop year identified in step 1, divide the number of acres listed in the APH database by the FSA percent planted factor determined in step 2 and round the result to the nearest tenth of an acre. Replace the number of acres in the APH database for that year with the number of acres calculated in this step. **Example**: The APH database indicates there were 40.0 acres planted for the 2007 crop year. The skip-row pattern used in 2007 was 2 rows planted 1 row skipped with 30 inch rows. Therefore, the FSA percent planted factor used to determine the 40.0 acres was .6667. Recalculate the number of acres planted by dividing 40.0 acres by .6667 (40.0 ÷ .6667 = 60.0 acres). Replace the 40.0 acres in the APH database for crop year 2007 with 60.0 acres.
4	For each crop year identified in step 1, recalculate the per acre yield using the production recorded for that year and the new number of acres recorded according to step 3. **Example**: The APH database indicates there were 2,800 bushels for the 2007 crop year with a per acre yield of 70. Recalculate the per acre yield for 2007 by dividing the 2,800 bushels by the 60.0 acres calculated in step 3 (2,800 ÷ 60.0 = 47). Replace the 70 per acre yield in the APH database for crop year 2007 with 47.
5	Combine the newly modified APH database with the insured's existing solid planted non-irrigated corn for grain APH database, if applicable, in accordance with Exhibit 35 of the FCIC 18010 Crop Insurance Handbook (CIH). Yield limitations (cups) do not apply to either newly converted APH databases or newly combined APH databases the initial year of conversion.

The following is an example of a producer's:

- APH skip-row database
- APH skip-row database after the acres and yields were recalculated according to the above table
- APH conventional solid-planted database
- APH database after the recalculated APH skip-row database and the APH conventional solid-planted database were combined.

In the example, the producer used a skip-row planting pattern of 2 rows planted 1 row skipped with 30 inch rows in all years. Accordingly, a FSA percent planted factor of .6667 was used to determine the number of planted acres for each year.

APH Skip-Row Database
Before Recalculation

2008 UNIT 00100 NI Sec. 10			
YEAR	PROD.	ACRES	YIELD
2004	2900	40.0	A73
2005	3600	40.0	A90
2006	2850	40.0	A71
2007	2800	40.0	A70

APH Skip-Row Database
After Recalculation

2008 UNIT 00100 NI Sec. 10			
YEAR	PROD.	ACRES	YIELD
2004	2900	60.0	A48
2005	3600	60.0	A60
2006	2850	60.0	A48
2007	2800	60.0	A47

APH Conventional Solid-Planted (non-Skip-Row) Database

2008 UNIT 00100 NI Sec. 10			
YEAR	PROD.	ACRES	YIELD
2000	2600	40.0	A65
2001	4300	100.0	A43
2002	4055	85.0	A48
2007	3100	60.0	A52

APH Database After Combining Conventional and Recalculated Skip-Row Databases

2008 UNIT 00100 NI Sec. 10				
YEAR	PROD.	ACRES	YIELD	DAS Skip-Row Code
2000	2600	40.0	A65	
2001	4300	100.0	A43	
2002	4055	85.0	A48	
2004	2900	60.0	A48	20130
2005	3600	60.0	A60	20130
2006	2850	60.0	A48	20130
2007	5900	120.0	A49	

4.   **Recording and Reporting Skip-Row Planting Patterns and Row Widths on the Acreage Report**

For 2009 and subsequent crop years, the skip-row planting pattern and row width for skip-row planted corn must be recorded on the insured's acreage report. A separate line entry is required on the acreage report for solid planted acreage and each separate skip-row planting pattern and row width.   In addition, the recorded skip-row planting pattern and row width must be reported to RMA through the Data Acceptance System (DAS) on the applicable Type 11 Acreage Record.

The DAS skip-row codes are only for acreage planted in a skip-row planting pattern. AIPs must not use the DAS skip-row codes for solid planted acreage.

The following table provides the DAS skip-row codes for skip-row planted corn.

Skip-Row Planting Pattern	Row Width	DAS Skip-Row Code
1 row planted 1 row skipped	30 inch	10130
2 rows planted 1 row skipped	30 inch	20130
2 rows planted 1 row skipped	36 inch	20136
2 rows planted 2 rows skipped	30 inch	20230
Other		11111

Example: Insured A plants non-irrigated corn for grain in Phillips County, Colorado. Some of the acreage is solid-planted and some acreage is planted using different skip-row patterns and row widths. All the acreage planted in skip-row patterns meets all the requirements provided in SPOI. Insured A plants the following:

- 100 acres of solid-plant
- 80 acres in a 2x1 skip-row pattern with 30 inch rows
- 90 acres in a 2x2 skip-row pattern with 30 inch rows
- 40 acres in a 2x1 skip-row pattern with 36 inch rows.

Insured A's acreage report would have the following 4 separate entries:

- 100 acres of solid-plant (no DAS skip-row code)
- 80 skip-row acres of 2x1 30 inch rows (20130 DAS skip-row code)
- 90 skip-row acres of 2x2 30 inch rows (20230 DAS skip-row code)
- 40 skip-row acres of 2x1 36 inch rows (20136 DAS skip-row code).

5.   Recording and Reporting Skip-Row Planting Patterns and Row Widths on the APH Database

The skip-row planting pattern and row width for skip-row planted corn must be recorded on the insured's APH database. In addition, the recorded skip-row planting pattern and row width must be identified using a DAS skip-row code and reported to RMA through DAS on the applicable Type 15 Yield Record.

AIPs must use the DAS skip-row codes provided in paragraph 4 of this attachment to record the skip-row planting pattern and row width. See the following table to determine when to record the applicable DAS skip-row codes in the APH database.

If the corn acreage recorded in the APH database for the crop year …	Then AIPs must …
was all planted on a solid planted basis (no skip-row planted corn)	not record any DAS skip-row code in the insured's APH database for that year.
included some corn acreage planted on a solid planted basis and some acreage planted on a skip-row planted basis	
was all planted on a skip-row planted basis (no solid planted corn)	record the applicable DAS skip-row code in the insured's APH database for that year.

The DAS skip-row code will identify APH databases that contain skip-row planted acres and production; therefore, AIPs will not identify such APH databases with an "S" yield descriptor.

If within the same year an insured plants all acreage within the same APH database using skip-row patterns (no solid planted acreage), but uses multiple skip-row patterns, AIPs must enter the DAS skip-row code for "other".

Example: In 2009, Insured B plants acreage to non-irrigated corn for grain in Phillips County, Colorado using multiple skip-row patterns. No solid planted corn is planted. All the acreage planted in skip-row patterns meets all the requirements provided in SPOI. Insured B plants the following:

- 80 acres in a 2x1 skip-row pattern with 30 inch rows
- 90 acres in a 2x2 skip-row pattern with 30 inch rows
- 40 acres in a 2x1 skip-row pattern with 36 inch rows.

AIP will record a separate line entry on the acreage report for each separate skip-row planting pattern and row width (20130 for the 80 acres, 20230 for the 90 acres and 20136 for the 40 acres), and record the DAS skip-row code 11111 in Insured B's subsequent year's APH database.