



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Risk
Management
Agency

Beacon Facility
Mail Stop 0801
PO Box 419205
Kansas City, MO
64141-6205

February 26, 2009

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: PM-09-010

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: Notice of Intent to Research Feasibility of Insurance for Loss of Honey Bees and for Commercial Poultry Production

BACKGROUND:

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) directed the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to “offer to enter into a contract with a qualified entity to carry out research and development regarding insurance policies that cover loss of bees.” RMA currently offers apiculture insurance under the Vegetation and Rainfall Index plans of insurance through a 508h program. The Index plans insure against deviations from normal rainfall and vegetation. Currently, there are no insurance programs that directly cover honey bees as livestock.

The 2008 Farm Bill also directed RMA to “offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with qualified entities to carry out research and development regarding a policy to insure commercial poultry production.” There is currently no insurance program available for poultry production.

ACTION:

RMA will soon issue contracts for research into the feasibility of insuring honey bees as livestock and the feasibility of insuring commercial poultry production. The agency is seeking any preparatory input from interested parties about the level of interest from the industry, availability of private insurance products covering either honey bees or poultry, or any other relevant issues that should be considered when carrying out the feasibility and research for any potential program development for either of these products.



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

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Please address correspondence concerning honey bee or poultry insurance research by **April 30, 2009** to Karen Fekete, Product Design Branch at karen.fekete@rma.usda.gov or mail to:

Attn: Karen Fekete
USDA/RMA/APDD
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DISPOSAL DATE:

This Informational Memorandum is for the purpose of transmitting information and expires on April 30, 2009.