



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Risk  
Management  
Agency

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

May 20, 2009

**INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: PM-09-023**

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/Development of  
Insurance for Pistachios

**BACKGROUND:**

The Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)(1)(C)) requires that the Risk Management Agency (RMA) enter into contracts to carry out research and development to increase participants by producers of underserved agricultural commodities, including specialty crops. RMA has identified pistachios as a potential crop that would be benefited by research and potential development of a pilot crop insurance program.

The Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)(2)(B)) also requires that RMA consult with groups representing producers of agricultural commodities that would be served by the policies that are the subject of research and development efforts. We are expanding that scope to any parties interested in the subject efforts.

**ACTION:**

RMA will soon issue contracts for research and development of a crop insurance product for pistachio 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 pistachios, or any other relevant issues that should be considered when carrying out the feasibility and research for any potential program development for this product.

Please address correspondence concerning pistachio insurance research by **June 30, 2009** to Karen Fekete, Product Design Branch at [karen.fekete@rma.usda.gov](mailto:karen.fekete@rma.usda.gov) or mail to:

Attn: Karen Fekete  
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The Risk Management Agency Administers  
And Oversees All Programs Authorized Under  
The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

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**DISPOSAL DATE:**

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