



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural Service

Risk
Management
Agency

Beacon Facility –
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February 11, 2011

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: PM-11-006

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: Pilot Biotechnology Endorsement (BE) and Insurance Standards
Handbook (Handbook) Effective for the 2011 Crop Year

BACKGROUND:

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has amended the Pilot BE and Handbook for the 2011 crop year. The Pilot BE and Handbook have been amended to (1) add Optimum AcreMax 1 as qualifying hybrids; (2) be consistent with the 2011 Basic Provisions; and (3) reference the applicable quality assurance and program integrity provisions in the 2011 Standard Reinsurance Agreement.

Trait expression testing of plant tissue samples remains part of the Pilot BE quality control provisions. The collection materials required for the trait expression testing process will be available at no charge to the Approved Insurance Provider (AIP). RMA will notify the AIP's designated representative as soon as the collection materials are available for order.

AIPs that offered the Pilot BE in 2010 and that will continue to offer it for the 2011 crop year do not have to notify RMA unless their designated representative(s) have changed. AIPs that previously did not offer the Pilot BE but will offer it for the 2011 crop year must notify RMA of such and their designated representative by February 28, 2011. These required notifications must be e-mailed to DirectorPDD@rma.usda.gov.

The Pilot BE and Handbook will be placed on the RMA website by close of business today.

DISPOSAL DATE:

December 31, 2011.



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

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