



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Farm and  
Foreign  
Agricultural  
Services

Risk  
Management  
Agency

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July 22, 2014

**INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: PM-14-031**

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Insurability of Irrigated Cotton planted in a Skip Row Planting Pattern

**BACKGROUND**

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) was requested to clarify the insurability of irrigated cotton planted in a skip row planting pattern. Currently, in select counties across the United States, actuarial documents list and establish a separate practice for non-irrigated skip row cotton. However, there is not a separate practice listed for irrigated skip row cotton. This has led to concerns and questions from some Approved Insurance Providers as to whether irrigated cotton, planted in a Farm Service Agency (FSA) recognized skip row planting pattern, can be insured under an irrigated practice or if irrigated skip row cotton would require a written agreement to be insurable.

**ACTION**

Irrigated cotton planted in an FSA recognized skip row planting pattern is considered insurable under an irrigated practice and does not require a written agreement to be insured. Those acres insured under a written agreement for the 2014 crop year will continue in force under the terms of the written agreement for the remainder of the crop year. Acreage should be adjusted and recorded according to procedures listed in Paragraph 848 of the 2014 Crop Insurance Handbook.

RMA will update actuarial documents to clarify the insurability of irrigated cotton planted in a skip row planting pattern for the 2015 and succeeding crop years.

**DISPOSAL DATE**

November 30, 2014