



United States
Department of
Agriculture

August 31, 2015

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Risk
Management
Agency

Beacon Facility
Mail Stop 0801
P.O. Box 419205
Kansas City,
MO 64141-6205

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: PM-15-044

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: Rainfall and Vegetation Index Pasture, Rangeland, Forage and Apiculture
Modifications Effective for 2016 and Succeeding Crop Years

BACKGROUND:

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) Board of Directors (Board) approved the following modifications to the Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) pilot program beginning with the 2016 crop year:

- Replace the Vegetation Index-PRF with the Rainfall Index (RI)-PRF program in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming;
- Expand RI-PRF to 19 states;
- Revise the pricing methodology for both haying and grazing practices;
- Add an irrigated practice for haying in specific states to address added irrigation costs;
- Add an irrigated and non-irrigated practice reporting requirements on the acreage report; and
- Remove the RI capping process for PRF only. The capping process remains for Apiculture (API) and Annual Forage

In addition to the FCIC Board approved modifications, the Ineligibility Amendment (15-Ineligibility) and Farm Bill Amendment (15-RIVI-Farm Bill) have been incorporated into the Rainfall and Vegetation Index Common Policy applicable to the PRF and API.

ACTION:

The following materials will be available by close of business today on the RMA website at www.rma.usda.gov/policies/ri-vi/

- Rainfall and Vegetation Index Plan Common Policy (16-RIVI)
- RI-PRF Crop Provisions (16-RI-PRF)
- Rainfall and Vegetation Insurance Standards Handbook (18150)

Any Vegetation Index Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (VI-PRF) policies in force for the 2015 insurance year must be cancelled by the cancellation/termination date specified in the policy for 2015. Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) are encouraged to cancel these policies in a timely manner to provide producers adequate time to consider the RI-PRF plan on insurance and to make appropriate decisions.

Producers currently enrolled in the VI-PRF pilot are eligible for the RI-PRF pilot. Qualified producers who were enrolled in the VI-PRF pilot programs in 2015 and who enroll in the RI-PRF pilot for 2015 will be considered carry-over insureds and will not have a break in continuity for insurance coverage purposes. Producers who had VI-PRF must complete a new application prior to the sales closing date if they wish to obtain RI-PRF. Producers must use the Grid ID Locator found on the RMA web site at: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/pasturerangeforage/> to establish the grid id for the RI-PRF program.

Interested producers should contact a crop insurance agent for further information. A list of agents can be found on the RMA web site: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/>.

Questions regarding these modifications may be directed to rma.kcviri@rma.usda.gov.

DISPOSAL DATE:

December 31, 2015