

November 3, 2015 United States **Department of** Agriculture **INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: PM-15-052** Farm and Foreign TO: All Approved Insurance Providers Agricultural Services All Risk Management Agency Field Offices All Other Interested Parties Risk Management Agency FROM: Tim B. Witt /s/Tim B. Witt **Deputy Administrator** Beacon Facility Mail Stop 0801 P.O. Box 419205 SUBJECT: Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX) Modifications Kansas City, MO 64141-6205

BACKGROUND:

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill) instructed the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to offer the Stacked Income Protection Plan of Insurance (STAX) to upland cotton producers for the 2015 and succeeding crop years. The STAX program became effective for the 2015 insurance year and was available in all counties where insurance for upland cotton is available (see MGR-14-011).

After considering feedback and input from various program participants during the 2015 insurance year, RMA is making several modifications to the STAX program as follows:

- Allow producers to elect a zero percent coverage range by practice;
- Allow Written Agreements that affect insurable acreage to apply to STAX; and
- Make STAX coverage available for cottonseed through an optional endorsement.

ACTION:

RMA will place, by close of business today, the 2016 crop year STAX Crop Provisions and STAX Cottonseed Endorsement on the RMA Web site at http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies.

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

DISPOSAL DATE:

December 31, 2015.