



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

August 25, 2017

Farm Production  
and Conservation

Risk  
Management  
Agency

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

**INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: PM-17-049**

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

**FROM:** Richard H. Flournoy /s/*Richard H. Flournoy*  
Deputy Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Rainfall Index and Vegetation Index Basic Provisions and Rainfall Index  
Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Crop Provisions Changes Effective for 2018 and  
Succeeding Crop Years

**BACKGROUND:**

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has revised the Rainfall Index and Vegetation Index Basic Provisions (Basic Provisions) to incorporate changes made in the 2014 Farm Bill Final Rule that was published in the Federal Register on June 30, 2016. This will replace the Farm Bill Amendment that was issued April 2017. In addition, language was added to the Basic Provisions and the Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) Crop Provisions to allow for organic practice to be offered.

**ACTION:**

The following materials will be available, by close of business today, on the RMA website at [www.rma.usda.gov/policies/pasturerangeforage/](http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/pasturerangeforage/).

- Rainfall and Vegetation Index Basic Provisions (18-RIVI)
- Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Crop Provisions (18-RI-PRF)
- Rainfall and Vegetation Index Insurance Standards Handbook

In addition to these changes, RMA will be updating the county base values for the intended uses of grazing and non-irrigated hay under the PRF program. This update will change the county base value from a state level price to a sub-state level price for all states for the 2018 crop year. Actuarial documents will be released by the Contract Change Date.

Questions regarding these modifications may be directed to [rma.kcviri@rma.usda.gov](mailto:rma.kcviri@rma.usda.gov).

**DISPOSAL DATE:**

December 31, 2017