

NEWS RELEASE

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Pistachio Pilot Crop Insurance

DAVIS, Calif., Nov. 8, 2012 - The United States Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds growers that we now offer crop insurance for pistachios. The pilot program insures growers against production loss due to adverse weather, fire, insects, plant disease, wildlife, and failure of irrigation supply. The sales closing date to buy pistachio crop insurance for the 2013 crop year is December 31, 2012. Insurance is available in Alameda, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba counties in California, and Cochise and Graham counties in Arizona.

The Pistachio Crop Insurance Program is a new pilot program designed as a two-year, production based policy. The program features a new approach for addressing alternate bearing commodities like pistachios, where production can vary significantly with years of low production, or "off" years, typically followed by years of high production, or "on" years.

Growers choose a coverage level from 50 to 75 percent and a price election percentage of 55 to 100 percent for the two-year life of the policy. Since production is reported annually, the approved yield is recalculated, adjusting to account for cases where the unit is expected to be either "on or off" for the following year. Any losses will be indemnified on a year-to-year basis.

Growers must provide at least four years of production records for their crops to be insurable. Pistachio orchards are insurable after trees have reached at least the tenth growing season.

Growers can estimate the premium amount for their insurance needs with the online Cost Estimator at: <http://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/>.

Growers should contact a crop insurance agent before December 31, for more information and program requirements. A list of insurance agents is available at all USDA service centers and on the RMA web site at: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html>.

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