



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Risk
Management
Agency

Davis Regional
Office

430 G Street
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Davis, CA 95616

November 15, 2013

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

To: Approved Insurance Providers
All Other Interested Parties

From: Jeff Yasui, Director /s/

SUBJECT: Almond Post Harvest Irrigation Impact on Yields

ISSUE

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received reports that some almond growers were not able to irrigate their trees after the harvest of their 2013 crop due to reduced water supplies from their 2013 water allocations. There have also been reports of post-harvest irrigations where they applied a reduced amount of water, or used water that would result in lower yields. As a result, 2014 yields for these growers are expected to be significantly lower.

BACKGROUND:

In California, 2013 irrigation water supplies were historically low due to low precipitation and snowpack. This drought condition resulted in minimal reservoir inflows and low water allocations. Information from the University of California (U.C) Davis Cooperative Extension (Extension) recommends almond growers apply a post-harvest irrigation to prevent adversely impacting next year's yields. An irrigation trial completed by U.C. Davis in 2000, showed "imposing a complete post-harvest irrigation cutoff resulted in an 800 lb. /acre yield loss the following year."

ACTION:

Approved Insurance Providers are reminded of the following policy provisions and procedural references:

- The Almond Crop Provisions (08-028) states that the insured must report by the production reporting date any changes in practices that may reduce the expected yield below the yield upon which the insured's guarantee is based (Section 3.B).
- The Crop Insurance Handbook requires the insured to complete and submit the Producer's Acceptance Worksheet (PAW) by the production reporting date each year (Part 1520 A). The PAW is a self-certified form that allows the AIP to determine insurability and other policy requirements. If the insured answers 'yes' to whether

practices or production methods been performed that will reduce the insured crop production from previous crop years, then the AIP must conduct an inspection and a **Regional Office Determined Yield is required** (Part 1523). The insured must mark ‘yes’ to this question on the PAW if they fail to apply their normal post-harvest irrigation to their almond orchards as recommended by Extension.

- AIPs will ensure insureds that fail to apply the normal post-harvest irrigation to almonds do not increase their liability (via coverage levels or price elections) from 2013 crop year levels. The Almond Crop Provisions in Section 3. (c) states:

“You may not increase your elected or assigned coverage level or the ratio of your price election to the maximum price election if a cause of loss that would or could reduce the yield of the insured crop has occurred prior to the time that you request the increase.”

DISPOSAL DATE:

December 31, 2014