

NEWS RELEASE

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November 15 Sales Closing Date Near For Crop Insurance in South Carolina

VALDOSTA, Ga., November 1, 2012 ---- The United States Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds forage, livestock, and honey producers of the upcoming crop insurance sales closing date, in South Carolina. Acreage intended for grazing and haying is insurable under the Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) program. Colonies of bees are insurable under the Apiculture program. For 2013, the PRF and Apiculture programs are under the Rainfall Index insurance plan. The sales closing date and acreage reporting date for both programs is **November 15, 2012** for the 2013 crop year.

PRF and Apiculture are pilot programs that cover a decline from the long-term, historical, normal precipitation for an area. They do NOT provide protection from other perils such as flood, fire, hail, and insects. Only National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center (NOAA CPC) data is used for the Rainfall Index. Precipitation that occurs at individual farms, ranches, or a specific weather station is not used.

NOAA CPC gathers data daily from the four closest reporting stations to the center of an area, also known as a grid. The size of a grid is 0.25 degree longitude by 0.25 degree latitude. It is possible that the closest reporting station may be located outside a grid.

Producers must select time periods, called index intervals, for which precipitation is important to their operation. Producers should consider type of forage (for PRF), nectar sources (for Apiculture), location, elevation, and intended use when deciding which index intervals to select.

The Rainfall Index allows producers to personalize their coverage. Producers can choose a productivity factor anywhere between 60 and 150 percent of the county base value. They also may choose up to 90 percent coverage level. Producers also need to allocate the percentage of the total value for their selected index intervals. The minimum percent of total value allowed is 10 percent while the maximum amount is 60 percent.

A payment occurs only when the final grid index is less than the trigger grid index. The trigger index is the result of multiplying the expected grid index by the producer's coverage level. The producer's amount of production is not considered when determining payments as with most traditional crop insurance plans.

Since these are area-based, insurance plans and do not measure, capture, or use any actual crop production, it is possible for a producer to experience a production loss and not receive a payment. However, it is also possible for a producer to receive a payment without suffering a production loss.

Information about PRF, Apiculture and the Rainfall Index, including the Decision Support Tool, Grid ID Locator, and Historical Indices for each grid ID and index interval, are available on the RMA website: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/ri-vi/>. Producers and agents are encouraged to use this information to determine whether the producer's production history follows the average precipitation patterns for the grid.

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. Contact a local crop insurance agent for more information. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers or on the RMA website at <http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>.

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