



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Crop Insurance During A Drought

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio

August 2012

Notification of Drought Loss

If you think you have a crop loss, you need to:

1. Notify your agent within 72 hours of the discovery of damage. A notice of loss can be made by phone or in person. Although drought loss is not immediate, you should contact your agent as soon as you think a loss is present.
2. Continue to care for the crop and protect it from further damage, if possible.
3. Get permission from the company before destroying or putting any of the crop to an alternate use.

Appraisal of Drought Loss

The company will appraise the crop and assess the loss. You must maintain the crop until the appraisal is complete. If the company cannot make an accurate appraisal, or you disagree with the appraisal, the company may allow you to leave representative sample areas.

Representative sample areas of the crop are to be maintained - including normal spraying and tillage - until the company conducts a final inspection. Failure to maintain the representative sample areas could result in a determination that the cause of loss is not covered. Therefore, no claims payment is due to the producer.

Once appraised, the crop can be released by the company and:

1. Left in the field as residue
2. Used as silage or feed - See FAQ
3. Tilled or destroyed - See FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Once released, may I harvest my corn as silage or feed?

A: *Check with your crop insurance agent.* In a county where corn can be insured as grain only, the corn can be appraised and released, harvested as silage and/or sold as feed. Any grain will be counted as production for your claim. In a county where corn can be insured as silage, the harvested silage will be counted as production.

Q: Under what circumstances must I destroy my corn production?

A: *Check with your crop insurance agent.* You must destroy your corn crop only if:

1. The aflatoxin level is 300 part per billion, or more, and cannot be sold or used in any other market (for example: ethanol)
2. It has been determined to be zero market value.

Q: Can I plant following soybeans that failed to emerge?

A: *Check with your crop insurance agent.* Yes, the next crop cannot be planted until the soybeans are appraised no sooner than the 9th day after the late planting period (or final planting date if no late planting period applies). The soybean crop must also have been planted 15 days before appraisal. The original seedbed must be destroyed before the claim can be finalized and the next crop planted.

Q: Will there be enough money to pay claims this year?

A: RMA evaluates the financial stability of insurance companies every year to ensure they have the funds to meet their obligations. Also, because the policies are reinsured by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), if an insurance company is financially unable to pay the claim, FCIC will pay the loss based on your insurance policy.

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