

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Risk Management Agency • Topeka Regional Office • 3401 Van Buren Street, Suite 2
Topeka, KS 66611 • (785) 266-0248 • rsoks@rma.usda.gov • <http://www.rma.usda.gov/go/roks>

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Contact:
Rebecca Davis (785) 266-0248

FREEZE-DAMAGED WHEAT

Producers may want to put their wheat acres to another use either by haying or grazing the wheat or by planting the acres to another crop. It is very important that they get their insurance company's consent before taking steps to plant to another crop. The company must have a chance to appraise and release the acres before the crop is destroyed. If the company cannot make an accurate appraisal, or the producer disagrees with the appraisal at the time the acreage is to be destroyed, the company and producer can work out representative strip areas to be left intact for future appraisal purposes.

Wheat that has been damaged and will be taken to harvest must be continued to be cared for and maintained. The degree of maintenance has been a question many producers have been asking. Producers are required to continue to care for the crop, following generally recognized practices. They may seek advice from ag experts in the area as to what, how much, and when to spray to maintain the production that is currently in the field and protect the crop from further damage. Producers that destroy the crop and leave representative samples must maintain the samples the same as if the entire crop was left. The samples must be maintained until the company conducts a final inspection and releases the strips. Failure to maintain the crop following damage could result in an assessment for uninsured causes.

Producers that wish to destroy the wheat crop and go to a second crop have the following options after they talk to their insurance companies:

- 1) Plant but not insure a second crop.
 - a. The policyholder will collect 100% of the indemnity for the first crop after the loss adjuster confirms the loss.
 - b. Written notice must be provided that the policyholder elects not to insure the acreage of a second crop

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2) Plant and insure a second crop

- a. The policyholder will collect 35% of the wheat indemnity
- b. The policyholder will pay 35% of the wheat premium
- c. If there is no loss on the second insured crop, the policyholder can request the remaining 65% of the wheat indemnity
- d. If there is a loss on the second crop, the policyholder may
 - i. Waive the indemnity on the second crop and collect the remaining indemnity on wheat (also pay remaining premium)
 - ii. Collect the loss on the second crop and keep the 35% wheat indemnity

There are a couple of exceptions to this rule. First, none of this applies if the wheat has reached the headed stage at the time it is destroyed and planted to a second nonirrigated crop. In this case, the second crop could not be insured, so the producer would need to keep any production on that crop separate from other acres of the crop. Second, these rules do not apply in situations where double cropping is an insurable practice. In several counties in Southeast Kansas insurance is available on double cropped soybeans. If a producer has a history of double cropping soybeans following harvested wheat, both crops would be eligible for a full indemnity.

Producers should read section 15 of their CRC or RA policies (Section 14 if covered under the APH plan) and their Special Provisions of Insurance for further details. For additional assistance, you may contact the Topeka Regional Office at (785) 266-0248,

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