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Agriculture

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INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

TO: All Approved Insurance Providers Writing in the State of Missouri

FROM: Rebecca Davis /s/ *Rebecca Davis*  
Director, Topeka RO

SUBJECT: Actuarial Rates Resulting from Breached Levees in New Madrid  
County, Missouri for Spring Planted crops.

**I. BACKGROUND**

Due to the 2011 flood event, the Birds Point-New Madrid Levee along the Mississippi River in New Madrid County, Missouri, were breached. The breached levees flooded land in New Madrid County. US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have confirmed for the Topeka RMA Regional Office that the temporary Hercules Engineering Solutions Consortium (HESCO) barriers are an effective flood prevention measure. According to USACE, these temporary barriers, if properly monitored and maintained, will provide, for the 2012 crop year, the same level of protection as an earthen levee built to the same height. The following is a 2012 crop year policy provision in the Special Provisions for spring crops in New Madrid County:

*“Land flooded due to the activation of the Birds Point – New Madrid Floodway is insurable. The applicable rate will be assigned based on conditions of the levee and soils on the latter of the sales closing date or earliest planting date. If, by that date, the levee at the upper and center crevassed locations has not been repaired to provide protection to a flood elevation of at least 55 feet on the gage at Cairo, Illinois as determined by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), or if damaged soil (if any) has not been restored to at least the same crop yield potential as prior to the flood event, the land will be classified as high risk according to the current crop year Actuarial Map. However, if the levee at the upper and center crevassed locations has been repaired to provide protection to a flood elevation of at least 55 feet on the gage at Cairo, Illinois as determined by the USACE, and the soil has at least the same crop yield potential as before the flood, the land classified as AAA on the current crop year Actuarial Map will be classified as Standard Rate.”*



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**II. STATUS OF BREACHED LEVEES AFFECTING NEW MADRID COUNTY MISSOURI AS OF MARCH 1, 2012**

A. Protection to a Flood Elevation of at least 55 feet on the gage at Cairo, Illinois:  
The following breached levee(s) has flood protection to a flood elevation of at least 55 feet on the gage at Cairo, Illinois:

- *Birds Point-New Madrid Levee (Protected as of March 1, 2012)*

B. Protection below a Flood Elevation of at least 55 feet on the gage at Cairo, Illinois:

The following breached levee(s) have protection below a Flood Elevation of at least 55 feet on the gage at Cairo, Illinois:

- *None. All levees have Protection to a Flood Elevation of at least 55 feet on the gage at Cairo, Illinois*

**III. ACTION**

For crop land affected by a breached levee, the Approved Insurance Provider (AIP) is responsible for ensuring the stipulations in the breached levee statement are followed accordingly.

For more information on the breached levee statement, including “damaged soil”, and requesting written agreements, please visit our Frequently Asked Questions document at [http://www.rma.usda.gov/fields/ms\\_rso/2011/FAQbreachedlevee.pdf](http://www.rma.usda.gov/fields/ms_rso/2011/FAQbreachedlevee.pdf)

If this 55 foot level, or a higher level, of protection exists as of the earliest planting date, RMA will issue guidance to all insurance companies in the affected area that the level of protection at 55 feet has been attained. Also, soil was lost and acreage was damaged by the flood. Soil must be restored to the point that it can produce at least the same crop yield potential as prior to the flood event.

To assist AIPs, the Topeka RMA Regional Office has developed a map illustrating how land identified in Policy Provision listed above will be classified. All information can be downloaded from the following:

[ftp://ftp.rma.usda.gov/pub/Miscellaneous Files/Breached Levees/](ftp://ftp.rma.usda.gov/pub/Miscellaneous%20Files/Breached%20Levees/)