

NEWS RELEASE

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Burley Tobacco Quality Adjustment Factor Changes

TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 18, 2012 – USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) announces quality adjustment changes for burley tobacco beginning with the 2013 crop year.

Quality adjustment factors were modified for the least valuable grades of burley tobacco. Producers are no longer required to destroy tobacco assigned these grades to qualify for quality adjustment. Producers can choose to destroy the least valuable graded tobacco resulting in no production to count, or sell it and have twenty percent of that production count toward their insurance guarantee. This allows producers more flexibility in marketing or disposing of their tobacco while retaining the maximum value of their crop insurance benefits.

Tobacco producers are encouraged to visit with their crop insurance agent to learn specific details for the 2013 crop year. Federal crop insurance policies are sold and delivered solely through private insurance companies and agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers in the United States or on RMA’s web site at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>.

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