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Important Crop Insurance Date Near for Nebraska Ranchers

TOPEKA, Kan., July 11, 2014 — The USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds Nebraska producers of fall-planted annual forage crops that the final date to purchase crop insurance under the Rainfall Index - Annual Forage Insurance Plan is July 15. The sales closing date is the last day to buy or make changes to a federal crop insurance policy.

“We want to make sure that producers of annual forage crops are aware of this important program and have the opportunity to meet with their crop insurance agent before the sales closing deadline,” said RMA’s Topeka Regional Office Director, Rebecca Davis. RMA’s Topeka Region includes Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado.

Perennial forage crops that are not covered by the federal crop insurance program at a CAT (catastrophic coverage) level may still be covered under the Farm Service Agency’s Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program. Grazing coverage is still available for most forage crops intended for grazing, including the annually planted crops for grazing.

The Annual Forage Insurance Plan provides coverage for annual crops used for livestock feed or fodder in all counties in Nebraska, and is designed to give maximum flexibility to the rancher to manage their risks. Producers are able to divide their liability into two-month index intervals targeting months when precipitation is most important for their annual forage crop.

The rainfall index uses National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center precipitation data. NOAA creates the grids, which do not follow state, county, or national boundaries. Each grid is individually rated based on the data for that grid. The rainfall index is designed to insure against a decline in an index value that is based on the long-term historical average precipitation for the same area for the same period.

Index tables that provide historical information producers can use to decide whether this plan is right for them and a decision support tool are available on RMA’s website at www.rma.usda.gov/policies/ri-vi/. Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. Contact a local crop insurance agent for more information

about the program. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers or on RMA's website at www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/.

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