

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Crop Insurance Reminders for Minnesota Severe Weather**

Saint Paul, Minn., June 25, 2012 — Heavy rains, flooding, hail, and high winds in June have damaged Minnesota crops this year. USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) offers a few basic reminders for producers with crop insurance.

If you have a crop loss, notify your crop insurance agent. Your crop insurance company will discuss your options and send a loss adjuster to work the claim. For producers deciding whether to maintain the crop for harvest, keep in mind that to adjust the production for quality the crop must reach maturity. The company can establish representative areas or strips to determine production if you decide not to maintain the entire crop. These areas must be maintained as you would under normal conditions until harvest.

RMA encourages crop producers to discuss their claim with their crop insurance agent and insurance company to understand the options available when crops are damaged by severe weather.

As a reminder, Minnesota's Acreage Reporting Date for spring planted crops is July 15 for 2012, so insured crop producers will need to report their acreage to their crop insurance agent by the deadline.

RMA helps producers manage their business risks through effective, market-based risk solutions. RMA's mission is to promote, support, and regulate sound risk management solutions to preserve and strengthen the economic stability of America's agricultural producers.

USDA encourages all farmers and ranchers to contact their crop insurance companies and local USDA Farm Service Agency Service Centers, as applicable, to report damages to crops or livestock loss. More information about federal crop insurance may be found at [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov). Additional resources to help farmers and ranchers deal with flooding may be found at <http://www.usda.gov/disaster>.

The Obama Administration, with Agriculture Secretary Vilsack's leadership, has worked tirelessly to strengthen rural America, implement the Farm Bill, maintain a strong farm safety net, and create opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers. U.S. agriculture is currently experiencing one of its most productive periods in American history thanks to the productivity, resiliency, and resourcefulness of our producers. A strong farm safety net is important to sustain the success of American agriculture. USDA's crop insurance program currently insures 264 million acres, 1.14 million policies, and \$114 billion worth of liability on about 500,000 farms. And in response to tighter financial markets, USDA has expanded the availability of farm credit, helping struggling farmers refinance loans. In the past 3 years, USDA provided 103,000 loans to family farmers totaling \$14.6 billion.

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