



Risk Management Agency

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News Release

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New Cover Crops Fact Sheet Published for Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin

SAINT PAUL, Minn., January 21, 2014 – The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) today announced updated guidance providing producers more flexibility when insuring a crop that follows a cover crop in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. To view the updated cover crop fact sheet, visit: www.rma.usda.gov/fields/mn_rso/2014/covercrops.pdf.

RMA changed federal crop insurance special provisions concerning cover crops as a result of increasing interest in this conservation practice. Producers using cover crops are encouraged to discuss these new provisions with their crop insurance agents when they make decisions for the upcoming crop year.

According to Duane Voy, Director of the Risk Management Agency’s St Paul Regional Office, the agency updated insurance policy special provisions in response to changing concerns of farmers and ranchers in the region. “Producers let USDA know about their interest in cover crops and the changing agricultural practices,” noted Voy. “USDA listened and developed consistent, simple and flexible policy changes for 2014.”

A cover crop is a crop generally recognized by agricultural experts as agronomically sound for the area for erosion control or other purposes related to conservation or soil improvement.

For the 2014 crop year, crops planted following a cover crop are insurable as long as the cover crop is managed and terminated per the Natural Resources Conservation Services’ Cover Crop Termination Guidelines and Cover Crop Termination Zones Map.

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 the RMA website at: www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/.

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