

NEWS RELEASE

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Crop Insurance Spring Sales Closing Date Approaches

BILLINGS, Mont. March 1, 2012 - The USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA), reminds producers in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming that the spring sales closing date is **March 15**. Spring sales closing and cancellation dates are applicable for spring planted crops and for wheat, in counties with a spring sales closing date. Some changes may be made to an existing wheat policy in counties with both a fall and spring sales closing date if no winter wheat was planted.

Producers should also be aware that there are major changes in the way prevented planting acreage eligibility will be determined. One of the most important is that in 2012, the producer will be required to provide the Approved Insurance Provider with proof that any acreage claimed as prevented planting has been planted, insured, and harvested in one of the four most recent crop years. Failure to provide the information, for any reason, will result in a denial of the prevented planting on that acreage.

Another important change to the crop insurance program for 2012 is a change in the premium billing date. The premium billing date for spring crops was October 1, and has been moved to August 15.

Producers are encouraged to contact their crop insurance agent to discuss these and any other changes for the 2012 crop year.

Federal crop insurance program policies are sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance companies and agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers throughout the United States or on the RMA Web site at:

<http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>

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