



Risk Management Agency

3490 Gabel Rd. Suite 100
Billings, MT 59102
Voice 406.657.6447
Email: rsomt@rma.usda.gov
Web: www.rma.usda.gov

News Release

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Contact:
Doug Hagel (406) 657-6447
doug.hagel@rma.usda.gov

Forage Seed Insurance Pilot Program to Become Permanent Insurance Policy

BILLINGS, Mont., May 30, 2014 — USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) today announced that the forage (alfalfa) seed insurance policy offered through the federal crop insurance program will be converted to a permanent policy for the 2015 crop year.

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Board of Directors approved the conversion and extended the policy's available coverage through the written agreement process. The forage seed insurance policy was introduced in 2002 as a pilot program by RMA to provide insurance coverage to alfalfa seed farmers who grew seed for forage crops.

Nationally, the pilot program covered 27,700 acres and \$27.9 million in liability in 2013. In Wyoming and Montana more than 9,500 acres were covered, with \$8.66 million in liability. The permanent program will be available for the 2015 crop year in Big Horn and Park Counties in Wyoming, and Big Horn County Montana.

"Crop insurance is a proven method to provide the farm safety net our producers need, and the success of this pilot proves that it works," said Doug Hagel, Director of the RMA Billings Regional Office.

Producers are encouraged to visit with their crop insurance agent to learn more about the forage seed insurance policy. They may be eligible for coverage on acreage used for producing hybrid alfalfa seed in designated counties; and they may be eligible for coverage under a written agreement if coverage is not generally available in their county.

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 website at: www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents.

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