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News Release

Release No.: RMA-14-148

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Crop Insurance Fall Sales Closing Date Approaches

BILLINGS, Mont., Sept. 4, 2014 — USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds producers in Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota that the fall sales closing date is September 30. Fall sales closing and cancellation dates are applicable for wheat (in counties with both a fall and spring sales closing date), forage production, and rye.

RMA also recently announced the availability of the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) in select counties for winter and spring wheat for the 2015 crop year. The new SCO is a county-level policy endorsement that can be added to an underlying crop insurance policy, and covers a portion of losses not covered by the same crop’s underlying policy. Producers electing to participate in the Farm Service Agency’s Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) for a crop on a farm cannot buy SCO for the same crop on the farm.

Producers applying for SCO for the 2015 winter wheat crop may withdraw coverage on any farm where they have elected, or where they intend to elect, ARC for winter wheat by the earlier of their acreage reporting date or December 15 without penalty. This allows producers more time to make an informed decision related to whether to elect to participate in either the ARC or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for their winter wheat. If producers withdraw SCO coverage for a farm by the earlier of their acreage reporting date or December 15, they will not be charged a crop insurance premium. To withdraw coverage without penalty, producers must notify their agents of their intended election for ARC by the earlier of their winter wheat acreage reporting date or December 15.

RMA also reminds producers that for the 2015 crop year, summerfallow winter wheat acreage planted to a cover crop in the fallow year must be insured under the continuous cropping practice the year following the cover crop. If a cover crop is planted in the fallow year the acreage cannot be insured under the summerfallow practice, regardless of when the cover crop was terminated. For more information about cover crops refer to the applicable special provisions of insurance, and Natural Resources Conservation Service guidelines for the 2015 crop year.

“Producers should contact their crop insurance agents for more information,” said Eric Bashore, Billings Regional Office director. 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 or on the RMA website at: www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html.

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