



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
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INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota Approved Insurance Providers

FROM: Eric Bashore /s/ *Eric Bashore*
Director, Billings Regional Office

SUBJECT: Insuring Carinata (2015 Crop Year)

BACKGROUND:

We have been informed that contracts for a new crop, *Brassica carinata* (hereinafter referred to as "carinata"), are currently being promoted in Montana and North Dakota by Agrisoma. Carinata is an inedible oilseed sharing characteristics of both mustard and canola and is intended for the biofuel market. Carinata is also sometimes called "*Ethiopian mustard*." Questions have recently arisen about whether or not it is insurable and, if so, how to consistently insure it.

Carinata has been grown and insured in Canada for several years and University Experiment Station trials in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota have been underway for at least three years. Agrisoma has published a production manual and various other related information on their website: <http://agrisoma.com/>.

ACTION:

For the 2015 crop year, spring planted carinata is insurable using the Spring High Erucic Rapeseed Type under the Canola and Rapeseed Crop Provisions; therefore, a written agreement is not required to insure carinata when the Spring High Erucic Rapeseed Type exists in the county actuarial documents. Please note that the Canola and Rapeseed Loss Adjustment Standards Handbook states that quality adjustment for rapeseed is limited to excess moisture only. Insuring carinata in this way is **only acceptable for the 2015 crop year**. For the 2016 crop year, further published guidance will be provided.

Please circulate this Informational Memorandum to field offices and agents as appropriate. If you have further questions about insuring carinata, feel free to contact Laura Estes (Senior Risk Management Specialist) in the Billings Regional Office by email at rsomt@rma.usda.gov or by telephone at 406-657-6447.

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