

**United States Department of Agriculture** 

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## **News Release**

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## **Small Grains Crop Insurance Deadline for Maryland is September 30**

RALEIGH, N.C., Aug. 28, 2014 — USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced the deadline for Maryland small grains producers to obtain crop insurance for wheat or barley is September 30.

Current policyholders who wish to make changes to their existing policies also have until September 30 to do so. Prices for the 2015 small grains will be determined by the Commodity Exchange Price Provisions. The projected price is determined from the Intercontinental Exchange average daily settlement price of the July futures contracts for August 15 through September 14 and the harvest price is determined from the Intercontinental Exchange average daily settlement price of the July futures contracts for June 1 through June 30. The small grains projected price and harvest price are posted on the RMA website at: www.rma.usda.gov/tools/pricediscovery.html.

Area Risk Protection Insurance (ARPI) is available for the 2015 crop year and succeeding crop years. ARPI replaces the Group Risk Plan and the Group Risk Income Protection Plan. Under ARPI, producers will be able to choose from one of the following insurance plans: Area Revenue Protection, Area Revenue Protection with the Harvest Price Exclusion, or Area Yield Protection. ARPI is available for wheat only in certain counties.

The Trend-Adjusted Actual Production History (APH) Yield Option is available for the 2015 crop year in certain wheat counties. If elected, the Trend-Adjusted APH Yield Option adjusts yields in APH databases to reflect increases in yields through time in the county. Trend adjustments are made on each eligible yield within a qualifying APH database based on the county's historical yield trend that is provided in the county actuarial documents. The approved APH yield is calculated using trend-adjusted yields, and any other applicable yields, within the APH database.

The new Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) is a county-level policy endorsement that is in addition to an underlying crop insurance policy, and covers a portion of losses not covered by the same crop's underlying policy. SCO is available for wheat only in certain counties. Producers electing to participate in the Farm Service Agency's Agricultural Risk Coverage for a crop on a farm cannot purchase 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 additional time to make an informed decision related to whether to elect to participate in either the ARC or Price Loss Coverage 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. In order 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.

Farmers should contact a local crop insurance agent for premium quotes and other details. For more information, producers are encouraged to visit the RMA website at: <u>www.rma.usda.gov</u>, or to contact their local crop insurance agent as soon as possible.

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance 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/agents/.

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