



United States
Department of
Agriculture

October 6, 2011

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

Risk
Management
Agency

TO: Pacific Northwest Approved Insurance Providers
Idaho, Oregon and Washington State FSA Offices

Spokane Washington
Regional Office

FROM: Dave P Paul /s/ *Dave P. Paul*
Director

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SUBJECT: **REVISED** 2011 Crop Year Perennial Damage and Resulting Regional
Office (RO) Determined Yields

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The freeze event(s) of last fall and winter had the potential to severely damage several of the perennial fruit crops within Washington state and adjacent areas. For example, in some situations, the extreme cold temperatures resulted in injury or death of some or all of the perennial crop trees / vines. Depending on the degree of damage the producer may have cut out non-recovering limbs / cordons or pulled the tree / vine entirely. Concerns and questions have been raised regarding completion of the Actual Production History (APH) forms, Pre-Acceptance Inspection Report (PAIR) requirements and RMA RO Determined Yield request for the 2012 crop year.

RMA approved procedures address many of these issues.

Winter damage:

For producers who certify winter damage has occurred on the Producer's Pre Acceptance Worksheet (PAW) by answering "Yes" to the question "Has damage (e.g., Disease, Hail, Freeze) occurred to Trees/ Vines / Bushes/ Bog that will reduce the insured crop's production from previous crop year?", the Crop Insurance Handbook (CIH) requires the Approved Insurance Provider (AIP) to complete a PAIR and submit the APH for an RO Determined Yield. These must be submitted to the RO with hardcopy records of acreage and production [see CIH Sec. 16 D (3)].

Inspection Requirements:

Routinely, inspections (and completion of the PAIR) are performed by the AIP near or shortly after insurance has attached to an insured crop (e.g. November 21). Prior damage may be difficult to assess after the crop has gone into dormancy. Therefore, on policies with a 2011 notice of loss for the fall/winter 2011 crop year freeze events, we recommend AIP's perform a pre-dormancy PAIR during the claim review to document existing damage along with completing the attached Revised Addendum Worksheet. The addendum can be attached to the Existing PAIR [if within the 5 year minimum, see CIH Sec. 16E(1)(b)].



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For new policyholder's, please use the revised addendum worksheet when the PAIR is performed in order to document any damage that may have resulted from the fall/winter freeze events in the 2011 crop year and the degree of recovery obtained during the 2011 growing season.

RMA procedure outlined in Section 16 B (2) of the CIH requires an acreage reduction for the coming crop year if the reduction affects the production potential of the insured crop; and, damage to the orchard / vineyard / bog is greater than 20 percent based on the original planting pattern. This addendum worksheet will assist the AIP in this determination.

If a policyholder transfers to a different AIP, documentation should be forwarded by the ceding company to the assuming company as quickly as possible in order to streamline the process of yield and insurance establishment.

Winter damage described above can more severely impact trees/vines where the rooting structure has not yet fully developed. For instances involving plants damaged to the extent that significant loss of fruiting structures exists, insurance may not attach on the effected acreage until the replacement fruiting structures (e.g. limbs, cordons, etc.) of the tree / vine has re-achieved the capability of producing the minimum production amounts provided in the appropriate policy and Actuarial Documents. The attached revised addendum worksheet will aid RMA and the insurance provider in making these determinations.

If you have any questions, or need any assistance working through any of this, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

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Winter Damage
(Revised) Addendum Worksheet (10/06/2011)

Crop: _____ State _____
County _____ Block: _____
Insured: _____ Acres in the Block: _____
Policy Number: _____ Insurable Type: _____
Inspection Date: _____ (for "all other" grapes) Variety: _____
Unit Number: _____ Year Planted: _____

Healthy Trees / Vines / Bushes @ 100% production capability _____ % of acres

Injury / Damage to Original Vines

Original cane remains, 85% or > cordon nodes (spurs) viable, standard APH applies

Original cane remains, < 85% cordon nodes (spurs) viable

Without unpruned regrowth _____ % of acres

With unpruned regrowth (# canes _____) secured to trellis _____ % of acres

With unpruned regrowth (# canes _____) not secured to trellis _____ % of

acres

Original cane cut

With regrowth completely retrained _____ % of acres, standard APH applies

With unpruned regrowth (# canes _____) secured to trellis _____ % of acres

With unpruned regrowth (# canes _____) not secured to trellis _____ % of

acres

Removed / Replanted _____ % of acres

Removed / *Not* Replanted _____ % of acres

Injury / Damage to Trees or Bushes

Pruned to remove dead fruiting structures _____ % of acres; and on injured /
damaged acreage percentage of previous viable fruiting wood remaining _____ %

Removed / Replanted _____ % of acres

Removed / *Not* Replanted _____ % of acres

requires RMA RO Determined Yield

Please record anything, which in your opinion, will have an impact on the production potential of the Orchard/Vineyard block particularly those requiring an RO Determined Yield

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