

NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Reminds Alaska Producers of Sales closing for 2012 Crop Insurance Protection Programs

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, January 9, 2012 --- USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds Alaska producers of the **March 15, 2012 sales closing date for Alaska Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) programs** including the Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite insurance (new application/enrollment policies) and coverage for spring-seeded insurable crops (barley, cabbage, potatoes, oats and wheat).

“Last crop year was the first time Alaska producers could choose to participate in the new yield and revenue protection plans which offer crop revenue protection in addition to yield protection for barley and spring wheat,” said Dave Paul, Regional Director for RMA Spokane Regional Office. “Participation in the new revenue option was strong and we encourage growers to visit with their crop insurance agent about the benefits or revenue type protection.”

Alaska producers also have the option of obtaining a whole-farm revenue protection package, Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite) providing protection against low revenue due to unavoidable natural disasters and market fluctuations that affect income during the insurance year. Most farm-raised crops, animals, and animal products are eligible for protection, including coverage for organic and specialty commodities.

RMA reminds producers of the important link between Federal crop insurance and Farm Service Agency (FSA) disaster programs. For non-insurable crops, a producer may buy coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program by the closing date. For further information about timetables, please contact the local FSA County Office.

Current Alaska policyholders and uninsured growers must make all of their decisions on crop insurance coverage the sales closing date. Also noted are the changes to the billing dates for Federal crop insurance policies, effective for 2012 crop year. Most billing dates were moved up to August 15th.

Producers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent soon to learn specific details for the 2012 crop year. 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 Web site at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents>.

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