

NEWS RELEASE

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RMA Announces Soybean, Green Peas and Processing Beans Multi-Peril Crop Insurance Program Expansions and Spring Sales Closing Dates

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, January 9, 2012 ---- USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) announces the crop expansion availability of the **Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI)** for Soybeans, Green Peas and Processing Beans for Pacific Northwest producers. The 2012 crop program expansions and MPCI changes include:

- ** **Podded Peas** under the Green Pea policy are now insurable in Bannock, Bonneville and Jerome counties, Idaho
- ** **Green Garbanzo type** is now insurable under the Processing Bean policy in Walla Walla County
- ** **Soybean MPCI availability** has been expanded to Umatilla County, Oregon and Walla Walla County, Washington

“These expansions were made as a result of working closely with regional commodity groups and growers to ensure our programs best fit the needs of our producers” said Dave Paul, Regional Director of RMA’s Spokane Regional Office.

Current Pacific Northwest policyholders and uninsured growers must make all of their decisions on crop insurance coverage by the **upcoming regional sales closing dates:**

January 31, 2012: Final date to obtain or change AGR insurance in select counties in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Final date to submit required documents to continue or change 2012 AGR-Lite insurance for EXISTING POLICY HOLDERS in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington

February 1, 2012: Final date to obtain or change crop insurance coverage for 2012 Spring Planted Onions in Idaho, Oregon and Washington and Cabbage in Oregon and Washington.

March 15, 2012: Final date to obtain or change ALL OTHER Spring Seeded MPCI (excluding wheat in counties with Fall and Spring planted types). Final date to obtain 2012 AGR-Lite insurance for NEW APPLICATION/ENROLLMENT POLICIES in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

A few additional notes of importance:

- ** **Changes to the billing dates** for Federal crop insurance policies, effective for 2012 crop year. Most billing dates were moved up to August 15th
- ** **Changes to the Acreage Reporting dates** for Federal crop insurance policies, effective for 2012 crop year. Most spring crops acreage reporting dates (excluding wheat and some barley and dry pea counties) were changed to July 15 to match Farm Service Agency Dates.
- ** **80 and 85 percent coverage levels** are now available for corn (and the new soybean counties)

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.

RMA encourages growers to contact their crop insurance agent by the sales closing dates to learn how MPCI protection might enhance their current year's risk management decisions. ***Insurance coverage for soybeans and other crops outside the approved counties is potentially available if a request for a "written agreement" is submitted through a producer's crop insurance agent by the sales closing date and certain qualification requirements are met.***

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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