

NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Reminds Fruit Producers with Crop Insurance of Actions to take in the Event of Fruit Damage

Spokane, Wash., July 31, 2012 ---- With the recent weather related damage to crops in Washington State the **USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA)** offers a few important reminders for Federal crop insured fruit growers.

If your crop will not be harvested

- Provide notice at least 3 days before the date harvest would normally begin.
- You may be required to harvest a representative sample so the insurance company can perform an appraisal.

During harvest

- Provide notice within 3 days of discovering damage.

Direct marketing of crop

- You must notify us at least 15 days before any production from any unit will be sold by direct marketing.

No production loss, but anticipate revenue loss (for cherries)

- Provide notice no later than March 1 following harvest.

Important: All notices that are made by telephone or in person must be confirmed in writing within 15 days. It is extremely important not to dispose of the crop without contacting your insurance company. You must get written consent from your insurance company before you destroy any of the insured crop that is not harvested; put the insured crop to another use; put the acreage to another use; or abandon any portion of the insured crop. Timely notices of damage and loss adjustment are extremely important for cherries because they are highly perishable.

For more information on duties in the event of damage, loss, abandonment, destruction, or alternative use of the crop or acreage contact your crop insurance agent.

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