

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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## ***RMA Announces Expanded Availability for Blueberry and Cherry Coverage and Reminds Growers of Perennial Fruit Sales Closing Dates***

Spokane, Wash., October 16, 2012 ----- USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) announces the expanded availability and program improvements made to blueberry, cherry and grape Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) for the 2013 crop year.

### **Blueberry Crop Insurance**

- Expanded availability for Benton, Cowlitz, Franklin, Grant, Snohomish, Walla Walla and Yakima counties in Washington

### **Cherry Actual Revenue History (Cherry-ARH) Crop Insurance**

- Expanded availability for Gilliam and Sherman counties in Oregon and Kittitas County, Washington

### **Grape Crop Insurance**

- The Mourvedre variety is now recognized as a separate type in the central Washington counties; previously insured within the 'all other red & pink varieties' grouping

**The crop insurance sales closing date is Tuesday, November 20, 2012** for Apple, Blueberry, Actual Revenue History Cherry Pilot, Cranberry, Grape, Pear, and each of the Stonefruit crops (Apricots, Nectarines, Freestone Peaches and Plums/Prunes).

Current policyholders and uninsured growers must make all of their decisions on crop insurance coverage prior to the sales closing date. *If there is no coverage in a county for a specific crop under the traditional MPCI program; producers may ask a crop insurance agent whether they would be eligible for coverage under a written agreement.*

***Producers are encouraged to visit with their crop insurance agent soon to learn specific details for the 2013 crop year.*** Federal crop insurance policies are sold and delivered solely through private insurance companies and agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers in the United States or on RMA's Web site at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>.

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