United States Department of Agriculture



Federal Crop Insurance Corporation



Risk Management Agency



Product Administration and Standards Division

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# INELIGIBLE TRACKING SYSTEM HANDBOOK

2011 and Succeeding Crop Years

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#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORF	NUMBER: 24050		
SUBJECT: INELIGIBLE TRACKING SYSTEM	OPI: Product Administration and Standards Division		
HANDBOOK FOR THE 2011 AND SUCCEEDING CROP YEARS	APPROVED: /s/ Tim B. Witt Deputy Administrator, Product	8/18/10 Management	

#### THIS HANDBOOK CONTAINS THE OFFICIAL FCIC-APPROVED INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE INELIGIBLE TRACKING SYSTEM FOR 2011 AND SUCCEEDING CROP YEARS.

#### THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS HANDBOOK ARE EFFECTIVE UPON ISSUANCE AND <u>ARE NOT RETROACTIVE TO ANY 2010 CROP YEAR DETERMINATIONS</u>.

#### SUMMARY OF CHANGES

The following list contains significant changes to this handbook, as determined by us. It may not represent all changes made; minor changes and corrections are not included in this listing. All changes made to this handbook are applicable regardless of whether or not they are listed.

Major Changes: See changes or additions in text, which have been highlighted. References to company or reinsured company have been changed to Approved Insurance Provider (AIP) throughout the text of this handbook.

Significant changes for crop year 2011:

- 1. Section 3. Added definitions of crop year, Policy Acceptance and Storage System (PASS), sales closing date and written payment agreement; modified definition of Substantial Beneficial Interest; and changed all references from scheduled installment payment agreement to written payment agreement to be consistent with the terminology used in the Basic Provisions.
- 2. Section 4. Clarified a producer will be placed on ITS for any delinquent debt as of termination date, or any other due date, and may be removed pending the outcome of any dispute resolution.

DISTRIBUTION: RMA Deputy Administrators, Directors, Washington D.C. and Kansas City; RMA Regional and Risk Compliance Offices; National Appeals Division (NAD); Approved Insurance Providers, and National Crop Insurance Services (NCIS).

- 3. Section 7A. Clarified that disputes that are not resolved before the termination date or other due date does not relieve the person of the requirement to pay the debt on or before the termination date, or other due date.
- 4. Section 9A. Clarified when termination will be effective for policies with unpaid administrative fees or premiums, for a policy with other amounts due, and for all other policies that are issued by the AIP under the authority of the Act. Clarified the differences between crop year 2010 and prior years' policies and crop year 2011 and subsequent years' policies based on changes in the 2011 Basic Provisions.
- 5. Section 10A. Clarified that eligibility is regained for delinquent debts on the date that: 1) the delinquent debt is paid in full; 2) a written payment agreement is executed and payments are made in accordance with the agreement; or 3) a petition to have debts discharged in bankruptcy is filed. Also, a written payment agreement cannot be entered into with an insured to pay amounts owed if the insured has previously failed to make a scheduled payment under the terms of any other agreement to pay. Dismissal of the bankruptcy petition before discharge will terminate all policies in effect retroactive to the date the policy would have been terminated.
- 6. Exhibits. Modified exhibits to reflect changes made in letters generated by ITS

# INELIGIBLE TRACKING SYSTEM HANDBOOK

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1	PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE	1
2	CANCELLATION	1
3	DEFINITIONS FOR INELIGIBLE ADMINISTRATION AND ITS	1
4	INELIGIBLE TRACKING SYSTEM (ITS)	4
5	CRITERIA FOR INELIGIBILITY	4
6	DETERMINATION, NOTIFICATION <mark>AND REPORTING</mark> OF INELIGIBILITY	5
7	REVIEWS	7
8	EFFECT OF INELIGIBILITY	9
9	EFFECT OF TERMINATION	14
10	REGAINING ELIGIBILITY	17
11	CLAIM PENDING	18
12	ADMINISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE	19
13	RESPONSIBILITIES	20

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

# **EXHIBITS**

EX	HIBIT DISCLAIMER	.25
1	NOTICE OF DEBT (AIP Pre-termination)	.26
2	NOTICE OF DEBT (CAT Pre-termination)	27
3	NOTICE OF DEBT (Overpayment).	.28
4	NOTICE OF DEBT (Overpayment – Second Notice)	.29
5	WRITTEN PAYMENT AGREEMENT	.31
6	NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY AIP DEBTORS	.32
7	NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY AIP DEBTORS (Partners of an Indebted Partnership)	.33
8	NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY AIP DEBTORS (Spouses)	34
9	NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY DUE TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE VIOLATION	35
10	NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY DUE TO DISQUALIFICATION/ SUSPENSION/DEBARMENT	.36
11	NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY FCIC DEBTORS	.37
12	NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY FCIC DEBTORS (Partners of Indebted Partnership)	.39
13	NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY FCIC DEBTORS (Spouses)	40

#### **1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of this handbook is to provide instructions for the administration of the Ineligible Tracking System (ITS). ITS contains records submitted to it primarily by Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) for persons who are not eligible to participate in any crop insurance programs insured or reinsured by Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) administered under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act).

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) maintains the ITS to aid AIPs in identifying ineligible persons. ITS may not contain the names of all ineligible persons; however, that does not change the ineligible status for such person(s). Federal crop insurance coverage is not available to these persons until their eligibility is reinstated in accordance with applicable policy provisions and regulations.

#### 2 CANCELLATION

- A <u>Effective Date</u>: Upon approval for the 2011 crop year.
- B <u>**Replaces**</u>: The FCIC 24050 dated August 2010, replaces and rescinds the following issuance system and individual directive published as:
  - (1) <u>Handbooks and Amendments</u>: FCIC 24050 (June 2007)
  - (2) <u>Conversion</u> of the above issuance will take place upon receipt of this handbook.

#### **3 DEFINITIONS FOR INELIGIBLE ADMINISTRATION AND ITS**

The following definitions are applicable to this handbook and the administration of ineligibility and the ITS.

Act – The Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.).

<u>Applicant</u> – A person who has submitted an application for insurance coverage under the authority of the Act.

<u>Approved Insurance Provider</u> (AIP) - A legal entity, including the Company, which has entered into a Standard Reinsurance Agreement with FCIC and has an approved Plan of Operations under Section IV.f.2 of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA) for the applicable reinsurance year.

<u>Authorized person</u> – Any current or past officer, employee, elected official, general agent, agent, contractor, or loss adjuster of FCIC, the AIP, or any other government agency whose duties require access to the Ineligible Tracking System to administer the Act.

 $\underline{CAT}$  – The Catastrophic Risk Protection Endorsement which is the part of the policy that contains provisions of insurance that are specific to catastrophic risk protection.

Contract- See "Policy."

<u>Controlled substance</u> – Any prohibited drug-producing plants including, but not limited to, cacti of the genus (lophophora), coca bushed (erythroxylon coca), marijuana (cannabis sativa), opium poppies (papaver somniferum), and other drug-producing plants, the planting and harvesting of which is prohibited by Federal or state law.

<u>Crop year</u> - The period within which the insured crop is normally grown, regardless of whether or not it is actually grown, and designated by the calendar year in which the insured crop is normally harvested, unless otherwise specified in the Crop Provisions.

<u>Debt</u> – An amount of money which has been determined by an appropriate agency official to be owed, by any person, to FCIC or an AIP under any program administered under the Act based on evidence submitted by the AIP. The debt may have arisen from an overpayment, premium non-payment, administrative fee non-payment, interest, penalties, or other causes.

<u>Debtor</u> – A person who owes a debt and that debt is delinquent.

<u>Delinquent debt</u> – Any debt owed to FCIC or the AIP, that arises under any program administered under the authority of the Act, that has not been paid by the termination date specified in the applicable contract of insurance, or other due date for payment contained in any other agreement or notification of indebtedness, or any overdue debt owed to FCIC or the AIP which is the subject of a written payment agreement which the debtor has failed to satisfy under the terms of such agreement. Such debt may include any accrued interest, penalty and administrative charges for which demand for repayment has been made, or unpaid premium including any accrued interest, penalty and administrative charges. A delinquent debt does not include debts discharged in bankruptcy and other debts which are legally barred from collection.

 $\underline{\text{EIN}}$  – An Employer Identification Number as required under section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

<u>FCIC</u> – The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, a wholly owned government corporation within the United Stated Department of Agriculture (USDA).

<u>FSA</u> – The Farm Service Agency, an agency of the USDA, or a successor agency.

<u>Ineligible person</u> – A person who is denied participation in any program administered by FCIC under the Act.

<u>Insured</u> – The named person as shown on the application accepted by the AIP. This term does not extend to any other person having a share or interest in the crop (for example, a

partnership, landlord, or any other person) unless specifically indicated on the accepted application.

 $\underline{\text{Minor}}$  – Any person under 18 years of age. Court proceedings conferring majority on an individual less than 18 years of age will result in such persons no longer being considered as a minor.

<u>Person</u> – An individual, partnership, association, corporation, estate, trust or other legal entity and wherever applicable, a State or a political subdivision or agency of a State. "Person" does not include the United States Government or any agency thereof.

<u>Policy</u> – The agreement between the producer and the AIP to insure an agricultural commodity and consisting of the accepted application, the Basic Provisions, the Crop Provisions, the Special Provisions, the Commodity Exchange Price Provisions, if applicable, other applicable endorsements or options, the actuarial documents for the insured agricultural commodity, the Catastrophic Risk Protection Endorsement, if applicable, and the applicable regulations published at 7 CFR chapter IV. Insurance for each agricultural commodity in each county will constitute a separate policy.

<u>Policy Acceptance and Storage System (PASS)</u> - Any electronic data processing (EDP) system that receives, and accepts or rejects, AIP-submitted data for eligible crop insurance contracts".

<u>Policyholder</u> – An applicant whose completed application for insurance has been accepted by FCIC or an AIP.

<u>Reinsurance agreement</u> – An agreement between two parties by which an insurer cedes to a reinsurer certain liabilities arising from the insurer's sale of insurance policies.

Sales Closing Date (SCD) - A date contained in the SP by which an Application must be filed. The last date by which the insured may change his/her crop insurance coverage for a crop year.

<u>Scheduled installment payment agreement</u> – An agreement between a person and FCIC or the AIP to satisfy financial obligations of the person under conditions which modify the terms of the original debt.

<u>Settlement</u> – An agreement between a person and FCIC or the AIP to resolve a dispute arising from a debt or other administrative determination.

 $\underline{SSN}$  – An individual's Social Security Number as required under section 205(c)(2)(C)(iii) of the Social Security Act.

<u>Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA)</u> – The primary reinsurance agreement between the AIP and FCIC.

Substantial beneficial interest (SBI) – An interest held by any person of at least 10 percent in the applicant/insured (e.g., there are two partnerships that each have a 50 percent interest in the insured and each partnership is made up of two individuals, each with a 50 percent share in the partnership. In this case, each individual would be considered to have a 25 percent interest in the insured, and both the partnerships and the individuals would have a substantial beneficial interest in the insured. The spouses of the individuals would not be considered to have a substantial beneficial interest unless the spouse was one of the individuals that made up the partnership. However, if each partnership is made up of six individuals with equal interests, then each would only have an 8.33 percent interest in the insured and although the partnership would still have a substantial beneficial interest in the insured, the individuals would not for the purposes of reporting persons with a substantial beneficial interest in the insured). The spouse of any individual applicant or individual insured will be presumed to have a substantial beneficial interest in the applicant or insured unless the spouses can prove they are legally separated or otherwise legally separate under the applicable state dissolution of marriage laws. Any child of an individual applicant or individual insured will not be considered to have a substantial beneficial interest in the applicant or insured unless the child has a separate legal interest in such person.

<u>System of records</u> – Records established and maintained by FCIC and FSA containing SSN or EIN data, name, address, city and State, applicable policy numbers, and other information related to Federal crop programs as required by FCIC, from which information is retrieved by a personal identifier including the SSN/EIN, name, or other unique identifier of a person.

Written payment agreement – Means the same as the scheduled installment payment agreement.

#### 4 INELIGIBLE TRACKING SYSTEM (ITS)

The ITS is a system designed to identify producers who are ineligible to participate in any program administered by the RMA under the Act, as amended, including the (CAT) and additional coverage programs and private insurance products authorized under 508(h) of the Act and reinsured by FCIC. Affected persons will be provided an opportunity to resolve or dispute a delinquent debt, or to contest the findings of an administrative proceeding, before a determination of ineligibility will be made by the AIP. These include reconsideration, mediation, appeal rights (for Federal policies), and arbitration (for reinsured policies, if provided for in the applicable policy). A producer will be placed on ITS for any delinquent debt as of termination date, or any other due date, and may be removed pending the outcome of any dispute resolution.

#### 5 CRITERIA FOR INELIGIBILITY

A person shall be determined to be ineligible to participate in all programs insured or reinsured by FCIC if the person meets one or more of the following criteria:

- A **<u>Has a delinquent debt</u>** with FCIC or an AIP.
  - (1) <u>A delinquent debt is limited</u> to a debt arising from programs under the Act which:
    - (a) Is not paid on or before the termination date or other due dates contained in an agreement (i.e., written payment agreement) or other notification;
    - (b) Must be verifiable; and
    - (c) May be from crop years prior to the effective date of 7 CFR part 400, Subpart U.
  - (2) <u>A delinquent debt</u> does not include:
    - (a) CAT administrative fees through the 1998 crop year for all crops, except:
      - <u>1</u> For raisins, for the 1997 and prior crop years; and
      - 2 For Arizona, California and Texas citrus, for the 1999 and prior crop years;
    - (b) A debt that is discharged in bankruptcy; or
    - (c) A debt that is not legally collectable (including an insured who has filed a petition to have the debt discharged in bankruptcy).
- B <u>**Has been convicted of violating**</u> the controlled substance provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended.
- C **Is disqualified, suspended, or debarred** under the Act and applicable regulations.

#### 6 DETERMINATION, NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING OF INELIGIBILITY

Any person certified to RMA as having met any of the criteria for ineligibility in accordance with 7 CFR part 400, Subpart U, 7 CFR part 457 and the requirements of this procedure will be identified as ineligible by RMA.

A <u>A person must be given notice</u> and an opportunity for review [see Sec. 7] of the reasons program eligibility may be denied BEFORE data justifying ineligibility is certified to RMA:

- (1) For disqualification, debarment, suspension and controlled substance violations, notice and review requirements (including reconsiderations, mediation, arbitration, or appeals) are met before the person's name is submitted to RMA for ineligibility purposes. There are no additional notification and review requirements under 7 CFR part 400, Subpart U. This procedure must be met before a person is notified by RMA of ineligibility and placed on ITS.
- (2) For debt, a notice must be provided to the person prior to the termination date or other due date (e.g., overpaid indemnity notice) by the AIP at the person's last known address. The Notice of Debt [see Exhibits 1 4] will advise the person:
  - (a) Of the current amount of debt owed;
  - (b) That if the debt is not paid or a written payment agreement is not signed by the insured and approved by the AIP on or before the termination date or other payment due date, the policy will terminate;
  - (c) That the person will be ineligible for the next crop year for any crop on which the termination date has not passed and on all crops in subsequent crop years until eligibility is reinstated; and
  - (d) That the person will be certified to RMA as a debtor for ineligibility purposes.
- (3) <u>The person will be allowed</u> 30 days from the date of the Notice of Debt to challenge the debt and to request a review according to the terms of the policy. [See Sec. 7A]
- (4) <u>All documentation</u> and evidence supporting the delinquent debt will be maintained by the AIP and/or RMA, if an FCIC debt, (see [Sec. 13A(8)] for retention requirements). Such documentation and evidence will be made available to RMA on request. [See Sec. 13A(7).]
- B <u>**By submitting electronic records to ITS,**</u> the AIP is certifying that all requirements under these procedures have been met [see Appendix III for Ineligible Producer Input Record (Type 60 record) and CAT Fee Receivable Record (Type 65 record) requirements].
- C <u>**Upon receipt of a certification**</u> of a debtor, disqualification, debarment, or suspension, RMA will take the following actions:
  - (1) <u>Request supporting documentation</u>, if needed (see Sec. 13A(7)), and

- (2) <u>Issue a Notice of Ineligibility</u> to the person (and the notifying AIP, if ineligibility is for delinquent debt) at the person's last known address. Members of an ineligible general partnership or joint operation/joint venture/co-ownership are ineligible and will also be notified. The Notice of Ineligibility [see Exhibits 6 8 and 10 13] will:
  - (a) List the criteria upon which ineligibility has been based;
  - (b) Contain a brief statement of the facts to support ineligibility;
  - (c) State the time period of ineligibility;
  - (d) Advise the person of the rights to appeal the ineligibility [see Sec. 7]; and
  - (e) Advise the person that any insured in which he or she has a substantial beneficial interest (SBI) will be affected by having the premium and coverage reduced by the amount of the ineligible person's interest in that policy.

Failure to receive the Notice of Ineligibility by the person does not limit the enforcement of ineligibility or extend the deadline for filing an appeal determined by using a reasonable receipt date for the notice.

- D <u>Upon receipt of a certification</u> of ineligibility due to conviction of controlled substance violations, RMA will issue a Notice of Ineligibility to persons convicted of controlled substance violations [see Exhibit 9]. Documentation certifying a controlled substance violation shall be provided to RMA. Sequence of events as follows:
  - (1) <u>AIP receives signed court order for conviction of producer.</u>
  - (2) <u>AIP faxes</u> a copy of court order to RMA Financial Accounting and Operations Branch (FAOB).
  - (3) <u>FAOB will research</u> the policyholder database to verify crop, <u>SCD</u> of crop, crop year and ineligible/eligible dates.
  - (4) <u>FAOB will prepare</u> manual entry of ineligible person data.
  - (5) <u>FAOB will mail</u> ineligibility notification letter with applicable appeal rights to the producer.

#### 7 **REVIEWS**

A **<u>BEFORE a person</u>** is certified as ineligible:

- (1) For debt:
  - (a) If the debt is an AIP policy debt and the person disputes the debt, the person may submit a request for a review to the AIP or seek arbitration (if permitted by the policy).

Binding arbitration or disputes that are not resolved before the termination date or other due date does not relieve the person of the requirement to pay the debt on or before the termination date, or other due date, and will not delay a person being certified to RMA, listed as ineligible, and issued a Notice of Ineligibility by RMA.

- (b) AIP decisions cannot be appealed to National Appeals Division (NAD) unless notification and review requirements have not been met [see Sec. 7B].
- (2) <u>For disqualification</u>, debarment, or suspension and controlled substance violations:

There are no review requirements under this item. [See Sec. 6A(1).]

- B <u>AFTER a person is certified</u> to RMA as ineligible and listed as ineligible by RMA, the person may submit an appeal to NAD:
  - (1) <u>Basis to Appeal Ineligibility to NAD</u>:
    - (a) If a person believes he or she has been listed **IN ERROR.**
    - (b) If a person believes RMA or the AIP failed to comply with the requirements of Sec. 6A(2)-(3).

Failure to meet these requirements does not prevent termination of insurance under the terms of the policy. It only limits a timely determination of ineligibility.

- (2) <u>Guidelines for NAD appeals</u>:
  - (a) The person must be an FCIC or AIP policyholder.
  - (b) Any appeal of ineligibility must be submitted to NAD within 30 days of the date of receipt of the Notice of Ineligibility. [See Sec. 6C.]

- (c) A person who is listed as ineligible cannot appeal to NAD contesting ineligibility based solely on debt unless [Par. (1)(b)] above applies. Any challenge to debt must be made under [Sec. 7A].
- (d) A person whose ineligibility is based on a conviction for a controlled substance violation or disqualification, debarment, or suspension may appeal to NAD if [Par. (1)(a) above] applies.
- (e) A request for appeal will not cause the removal of person from ITS.

#### (3) <u>Pending resolution of the appeal</u>:

- (a) All policy provisions and responsibilities (e.g., filing applicable reports, giving notice of damage, etc.) of the person and AIP will apply to assure all determinations necessary to establish premium, liability, any indemnity, etc., under the policy can be made.
  - 1 No payment or indemnity will be made while the appeal is pending.
  - <u>2</u> If an appeal is found in favor of appellant, RMA will remove them from ITS.
  - The person will be entitled to all applicable insurance benefits for any affected crop effective with the beginning of the crop year insurance coverage was denied due to being listed as ineligible provided conditions in [Par. (3)(a)1] are met.

See [Sec. 13A(3)(f) and 13B(9)] for AIP and RMA responsibilities regarding appeals that reestablish eligibility and coverage

#### 8 EFFECT OF INELIGIBLITY

- A <u>**The effect of ineligibility**</u> is to deny reinsurance, premium subsidies, and other benefits under the Act for persons meeting any of the ineligibility criteria stated in 7CFR § 400.679.
- B <u>All persons submitting</u> an application or who are currently insured under the Act are subject to verification of their eligibility status.

- C <u>A person's eligibility</u> is not affected by 7 CFR part 400, Subpart U prior to the effective date of its publication in the Federal Register.
- D <u>A person with</u> a current delinquent debt from any prior crop year that remains unpaid after the effective date of Subpart U is subject to ineligibility determinations as stated in Subpart U and these procedures. The debtor must be certified to ITS [Sec. 13A] once regulatory and procedural requirements are met.
- E **Ineligibility is effective** (i.e., the date of ineligibility) for the person on the:
  - (1) <u>Date that a policy was terminated</u> for an unpaid premium, administrative fee, or any related interest owed;
  - (2) <u>Date payment is due</u> contained in any notification of indebtedness for any overpaid indemnity, prevented planting payment or replanting payment if the amount owed, including any related interest owed, as applicable, is not paid on or before the due date;
  - (3) <u>Termination date</u> determined under the applicable policy provisions in effect at the time the written payment agreement is entered.

For example, for written payment agreements entered into while the 2011 Common Crop Insurance Policy-Basic Provisions is in effect, the termination date for the crop year prior to the crop year in which a scheduled payment is due and the amount owed is not paid is applicable. If the insured enters a written payment agreement on March 14, 2012, for a policy with a termination date of March 15, 2012, and does not make the scheduled payment due on or before July 1, 2013. The applicable termination date would be March 15, 2013;

- (4) <u>Termination date the policy</u> was or would have been terminated if the bankruptcy petition is dismissed before discharge;
- (5) <u>Beginning of the crop year</u> in which the person is convicted of a controlled substance violation, effectively the earliest termination date applicable under any policy (e.g., the effective date for ineligibility is the earliest termination date for the 2011 crop year for a person convicted of a controlled substance violation in the 2011 crop year); or
- (6) <u>The date specified</u> in a notification of disqualification, debarment, or suspension.

If the termination date, or other due date, falls on a Federal legal holiday or weekend, the next business day will apply for purposes of determining if the debt is delinquent. This applies to the date of postmark as well as the date payment is received. The published termination date or due date will NOT be changed and will be the date of ineligibility if the person is determined a debtor and ineligible for crop insurance programs administered by FCIC under the Act.

For example: The termination date of November 20, 2011, falls on a Sunday. The AIP may accept payments on the next business day of November 21, 2011. If the producer does not pay on or before November 21, 2011, the ineligible record sent to RMA must have a debt delinquency date of November 20, 2011. When determining eligibility on policies with a November 20, 2011, termination date, the postmark date for payments mailed will also be extended to the next business day of November 21, 2011.

- F <u>**The applicable date**</u> for ineligibility applies to the person, not to the specific crop to which the delinquent debt, controlled substance violation, or disqualification, debarment, or suspension pertains. However, program benefits may not cease immediately for all insured crops.
  - (1) <u>Benefits will continue</u> for any crop for which the termination date is prior to the date of ineligibility and will continue to the end of the insurance period for that crop. Benefits will be denied for such crop on the next termination date for that crop provided eligibility has not been reinstated.

**Exception:** Benefits are denied immediately for a producer convicted of controlled substance violations or whose petition for bankruptcy is dismissed for cause during the crop year effective with the crop year of conviction or dismissal irrespective of any applicable crop termination date or whether insurance has already attached to the crop.

(2) <u>Benefits will be denied</u> immediately for any insured crop for which the termination date has not passed prior to the date of ineligibility, and includes any prevented planting coverage applicable for a person insured the previous crop year.

**Example 1**: Producer A insures his 2010 wheat and corn. When the AIP transmits data to RMA for fall wheat on October 15, 2010, the insured is eligible for 2011 wheat coverage. Producer A fails to pay the premium for 2010 corn and is terminated March 15, 2011. On March 21, 2011, the AIP transmits to ITS a Type 60 record certifying Producer A as a debtor for corn. A Notice of Ineligibility is mailed to Producer A and his name is added to ITS. The effective date of ineligibility is the March 15 termination date. Insurance data for any crop with a SCD of March 15, 2011, or later, will be rejected by PASS. All insurance data for the 2011 wheat will be accepted. Producer A will be ineligible for wheat coverage beginning with the 2012 crop year and corn coverage beginning with the 2011 crop year.

**Example 2**: Producer B owes AIP A for 2010 corn and is terminated March 15, 2011. Producer B submits an application for insurance for 2011 corn to AIP B on March 15, 2011, and Appendix III entity and policy records are transmitted on March 21, 2011, and are accepted by PASS. A Type 60 record certifying Producer B as a debtor is transmitted by AIP A to ITS on March 22, 2011, and Producer B is added to ITS. AIP B submits the acreage record data on June 15, 2011, which is rejected because of the ineligible status.

All previously submitted data accepted by **PASS** for affected crops must be deleted [see Sec. 13A(5)]. The application is rejected by the AIP B in accordance with the provisions of the policy and any payments of indemnities made prior to rejecting the application must be repaid.

- G **<u>The time period</u>** for ineligibility for:
  - (1) <u>Delinquent debt</u> is from the date of ineligibility until:
    - (a) The debt is paid in full;
    - (b) A petition to have debts discharged in bankruptcy is filed (dismissal of the bankruptcy petition before discharge will terminate all policies in effect retroactive to the date the policy would have been terminated); or
    - (c) A written payment agreement is executed to pay any amount owed and make payments in accordance with the agreement,
  - (2) <u>A controlled substance violation is from the beginning of the crop year of</u> conviction and the four subsequent consecutive crop years, or
  - (3) <u>Disqualification, debarment, or suspension</u> is from the date the order of disqualification, debarment, or suspension is signed until the period specified in the order has expired. This period may vary based on coverage plan (CAT or additional).
- H <u>**The ineligibility of a general partnership** applies to the individual members of the general partnership.</u>
- I <u>Individual members</u> (substantial beneficial interest holders) of a corporation or other business entity (excluding general partnerships and joint operations/joint ventures/co-ownerships) are not individually ineligible based on the ineligibility of the corporation or other business entity.
- J **Because all members of a joint operation/joint venture/co-ownership** must sign the application or give an authorized representative authority to sign, the

ineligibility of a joint operation/joint venture/co-ownership applies to all members of the joint operation/joint venture/co-ownership.

- K <u>**The transferor and transferee**</u> under the transfer of right to indemnity are both responsible for payment of the premium, administrative fees and applicable interest. Both will be ineligible if any amount is not paid by the applicable termination date. If only part of the share of the policy is transferred, transferee is only responsible for the premium for that portion of the share of the policy.
- L <u>**The spouse and minor children**</u> of an individual are considered to be the same as the individual except:
  - <u>A spouse may be considered a separate person if the spouse has a separate and distinct farming operation, as specified in FCIC-18010, Crop Insurance Handbook, Sec. 5</u>. Transfers of interest between spouses within the farming operation will not be considered a separate farming operation.
  - (2) <u>A minor child</u> who has a separate farming operation will be a separate person with respect to the separate farming operation if all of the following are met:
    - (a) Parent or other entity in which the parent has a substantial beneficial interest does not have any interest in the minor's separate farming operation or in any production from such operation,
    - (b) Minor has established and maintained a separate household from the parent,
    - (c) Minor personally carries out the farming activities with respect to the minor's farming operation, and
    - (d) Minor establishes separate accounting and recordkeeping for the minor's farming operation.

An individual shall be considered to be a minor until the age of 18 is reached, unless court proceedings confer majority status on an individual less than 18 years of age.

- M <u>If an ineligible person</u> (including individual members of a general partnership or joint operation/joint venture/co-ownership) is the sole insured, the data for the applicant or insured will be rejected by PASS.
- N <u>If an ineligible applicant or insured</u> is a corporation, general partnership, or other business entity, the policy will be rejected by PASS. If an ineligible person has a substantial beneficial interest in the applicant or insured, that person must be

reported and the share of the applicant or insured reduced commensurately. If the share of the applicant or insured with the ineligible person is not reduced commensurately, the policy will be rejected by PASS.

- O <u>If the applicant or insured</u> is a corporation, general partnership, or other business entity that was created to conceal the interest of a person in the farming operation to evade the ineligibility determination of a person with a substantial beneficial interest in the applicant or insured, the applicant or insured is not eligible for insurance.
- P If it is determined that a trust or estate is managed, operated by an executor, or administered by a person who is ineligible, that person's ineligibility will not affect eligibility of the trust or estate. The trust or estate is a separate entity and those that manage, operate, or administer have no immediate interest. However, ineligible SBI holders for trusts impact the eligibility of a trust. Revocable trusts are considered to be the same as the grantor of the trust for ineligibility purposes.
- Q <u>Insureds who enter into a written payment agreement</u> with the AIP, signed and approved by both parties, on or before the termination date are eligible for programs administered by FCIC under the Act. Insurance coverage is available in accordance with the policy. In the event the insured defaults on a payment, ineligibility is established effective on the date determined under the applicable policy provisions in effect at the time the written payment agreement was entered.

For example, an insured with a crop termination date of March 15, 2011, is indebted and enters into a written payment agreement that is signed and approved by both parties (insured and AIP) on or before the crop termination date. The payments are due on the first of each month beginning April 1. The May 1 payment is not received or postmarked by May 1, 2012, as scheduled. Ineligibility is established on the termination date for the crop year prior to the crop year in which the payment was due (March 15, 2012). Prior to the defaulted written payment agreement, new applications for corn and soybeans were accepted by March 15, 2012, the SCD. The corn and soybean policies will be terminated as of their respective termination dates for the prior crop year. Any new application for a crop will be rejected if the debt is not resolved prior to termination date.

#### 9 EFFECT OF TERMINATION

#### A **<u>Termination will be effective</u>** on:

- (1) <u>For a policy</u> with unpaid administrative fees or premiums, the termination date immediately subsequent to the billing date for the crop year:
  - (a) For the 2011 crop year policies for all crops with a 2011 contract change date on or after April 30, 2010, and for 2012 and

subsequent crop years for all crops with a SCD prior to the termination date, the policy will terminate for the current crop year, even if insurance attached prior to the termination date. Such termination will be considered effective as of the SCD and no insurance will be considered to have attached for the crop year and no indemnity, prevented planting (PP) or replant payment will be owed;

For example, 2011 crop year wheat has a SCD of September 30, 2010, and a termination date of November 30, 2011. The insured does not pay the premium for the 2011 crop year by the termination date of November 30, 2011. The insured planted wheat prior to November 30, 2011. The wheat policy would be terminated for the 2012 crop year as of September 30, 2011. All other policies with a termination date after November 30, 2011, would be terminated if the debt still existed on their respective termination dates.

(b) For the 2011 crop year policies with a 2011 contract change date before April 30, 2010, and for 2010 and prior years' policies for all crops on which insurance attached before the insured became ineligible, the termination date on or immediately following the date the insured became ineligible;

For example, 2010 crop year wheat has a SCD of September 30, 2009, and a termination date of November 30, 2010. The insured does not pay the premium for the 2010 crop year by the termination date of November 30, 2010. The insured planted wheat prior to November 30, 2010. Since insurance attached prior to the termination date, the wheat policy cannot be terminated for the 2011 crop year. All other policies with a termination date after November 30, 2010, would be terminated if the debt still existed on their respective termination dates. The wheat policy would be terminated for the 2012 crop year, if the insured remained ineligible at that time.

- (2) <u>For a policy</u> with other amounts due, the termination date immediately following the date the debt becomes delinquent:
  - (a) For the 2011 crop year and subsequent crop years' policies for all crops with a 2011 contract change date on or after April 30, 2010, and for 2012 and succeeding crop years for all crops with a SCD prior to the termination date, such policies will terminate for the current crop year even if insurance attached prior to the termination date. Such termination will be considered effective as of the SCD and no insurance will be considered to have attached

for the crop year and no indemnity, PP or replant payment will be owed;

- (b) For the 2011 crop year policies with a 2011 contract change date before April 30, 2010, and for 2010 and prior crop years' policies for all crops on which insurance attached before the insured became ineligible, the termination date immediately following the date the insured became ineligible;
- (3) For all other policies that are issued by the AIP under the authority of the Act:
  - (a) For the 2011 crop year and subsequent crop years' policies for all crops with a 2011 contract change date on or after April 30, 2010, and for 2012 and succeeding crop years, the termination date that coincides with the termination date for the policy with the delinquent debt or, if there is no coincidental termination date, the termination date immediately following the date the insured became ineligible;
  - (b) For the 2011 crop year policies with a 2011 contract change date before April 30, 2010, and for 2010 and prior crop years' policies for all crops on which insurance has attached before the insured became ineligible, the termination date immediately following the date the insured became ineligible;
- (4) For execution of a written payment agreement and failure to make any scheduled payment, the date determined in accordance with the applicable policy provisions in effect on the date the written payment agreement is executed.

For written payment agreements executed when the 2011 Common Crop Insurance Policy-Basic Provisions is in effect, the termination date for failure to make any scheduled payment will be the termination date for the crop year prior to the crop year in which the insured failed to make the scheduled payment. For this purpose only, the crop year will start the day after the termination date and end the next termination date. For example, if the termination date is November 30, and the insured fails to make a payment on November 15, 2011, the policy will terminate on November 30, 2010, for the 2011 crop year; or

- (5) <u>For dismissal of a bankruptcy petition</u> before discharge, the termination date the policy was or would have been terminated.
- B **<u>For all policies terminated</u>**, any indemnities, prevented planting payments or replanting payments paid subsequent to the termination date must be repaid.

- C <u>Once the policy is terminated</u>, it cannot be reinstated for the current crop year unless the termination was in error. Failure to timely pay because of illness, bad weather, or other such extenuating circumstances is not grounds for reinstatement in the current year.
  - **Exception:** Some crops, such as Nursery, allow applications to be submitted after the SCD with a waiting period for insurance attachment. In those instances, the person would be able to participate in that crop program in the crop year eligibility is regained, if a new application is submitted and all other criteria met. This is considered a new policy, not a policy being reinstated.

#### 10 **REGAINING** ELIGIBLITY

#### A **<u>Eligibility may</u>** be regained:

- (1) For delinquent debts, on the date:
  - (a) The delinquent debt is paid in full;
  - (b) A written payment agreement is executed and payments are made in accordance with the agreement. A written payment agreement cannot be entered into with an insured to pay amounts owed if the insured has previously failed to make a scheduled payment under the terms of any other payment agreement;
  - (c) A petition to have debts discharged in bankruptcy is filed.
    Dismissal of the bankruptcy petition before discharge will terminate all policies in effect retroactive to the date the policy would have been terminated [see Sec. 9A];
- (2) <u>For conviction for a controlled substance violation</u>, the fifth consecutive crop year following the crop year of conviction;
- (3) <u>For disqualification, debarment, or suspension</u>, after the period contained in an order of disqualification, debarment, or suspension has ended and the payment of all applicable penalties and overpayments have been made;
- (4) <u>If the person should not have been made ineligible</u> (the result of a NAD determination under [Sec. 7B]), insurance coverage will be reinstated effective with the beginning of the crop year for affected crops.
- B <u>Following the regaining of eligibility for any reason</u> (except as provided in [Par. (4) above]), the person may obtain insurance coverage only by submitting a new application for any crop that was terminated or any new crop.

- (1) <u>Application for insurance coverage</u> must be made by the applicable SCD for each crop to be insured.
- (2) <u>When eligibility is regained after the applicable crop SCD</u> for the crop year, the person may not participate in that crop program until the following crop year.
- (3) <u>A crop policy cannot be reinstated for the crop year</u> if the payment is made any time after SCD for the crop(s).
  - **Exception**: Some crops, such as Nursery, allow applications to be submitted after the SCD with a waiting period for insurance attachment. In those instances, the person would be able to participate in that crop program in the crop year eligibility is regained, if a new application is submitted and all other criteria met. This is considered a new policy, not a policy being reinstated.
- C <u>Regaining of eligibility</u> under a written payment agreement requires the person to make all payments in accordance with the agreement. Failing to comply with the agreement will result in an immediate determination of ineligibility and does not require notification under [Sec. 6A] or another Notice of Ineligibility.
  - (1) <u>The effective date of ineligibility</u> will be the termination date determined under the applicable policy provisions in effect at the time the written payment agreement was entered.
  - (2) <u>Denial of benefits will be established</u> as provided in [Sec. 8].

#### 11 CLAIM PENDING

- A <u>An insured may have a claim</u> for an indemnity pending at the time of the termination date. A pending claim does not affect the obligation of the insured to pay the premium by the termination date to maintain eligibility for crop insurance coverage.
- B <u>**The AIP will terminate insurance coverage**</u> on the termination date on the basis that the premium is delinquent without regard to a pending indemnity.
- C <u>When a claim which results</u> in a payable indemnity was signed by the producer prior to the crop termination date and satisfies the outstanding insurance debt:
  - (1) <u>Eligibility will be reinstated</u> effective with the beginning of the crop year for the affected crop(s) and,

(2) <u>Crop insurance coverage</u> will be effective provided all policy provisions and responsibilities (e.g., filing applicable reports, giving notice of damage, etc.) have been met.

#### 12 ADMINISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE

- A **<u>RMA, Product Analysis and Accounting Division (PAAD),</u>** will maintain ineligible producer data in a system of records in accordance with the Privacy Act and 7 CFR part 400, Subparts Q and U. This system contains identifying information of the ineligible person including, but not limited to:
  - (1) <u>Name</u>,
  - (2) <u>Address</u>,
  - (3) <u>Telephone number</u>,
  - (4) <u>SSN, EIN, or assigned identification number</u>,
  - (2) <u>Reason</u> for ineligibility, and
  - (3) <u>Time period</u> for ineligibility.
- B **Information** within the system may be used by, but not limited to:
  - (1) <u>Federal agencies</u>,
  - (2) <u>RMA and FSA employees</u>,
  - (3) <u>Contractors</u>, and
  - (4) <u>AIPs and their personnel</u> who require such information in the performance of their duties in connection with any program administered under the Act.
- C <u>The information may be furnished</u> to other users including, but not limited to:
  - (1) <u>RMA contracted agencies</u>,
  - (2) <u>Credit reporting agencies</u> and collection agencies,
  - (3) <u>In response to judicial orders</u> in the course of litigation, and
  - (4) <u>Other users</u> as may be appropriate or required by law or regulation.
- D <u>**The individual data**</u> will be made available through an RMA inquiry system to ITS or electronic files for programs administration by FCIC under the Act. Such

information must be protected from unauthorized disclosure. Unauthorized use or disclosure of information contained in ITS by authorized persons may result in regulatory or statutory penalties.

 All persons applying for or renewing policies for programs administered by FCIC under the Act will be subject to validation of their eligibility status using ITS. Applications or benefits approved and accepted are considered approved or accepted subject to review of eligibility status.

#### **13 RESPONSIBILITES**

#### A <u>AIPs must</u>:

- (1) <u>Provide notification of debt</u> to the person prior to the termination date for the indebted crop, sufficient to allow the person at least 30 days to challenge the debt before the termination date;
- (2) <u>Meet all requirements</u> of Sec. 6A(2) and (3) prior to certifying a debtor to ITS;
- (3) <u>Transmit a Type 60 Record</u> or Type 60 and 65 Record, if applicable, to the ITS certifying a debtor (not later than 21 days after the applicable ineligibility date (see Sec. 8E), or not later than 21 days of failure to make payments under a written payment agreement) for affected persons including **all** substantial beneficial interest holders for general partnerships and joint operations/joint ventures/co-ownerships.
  - (a) Ineligible transferees and transferors (under transfer of right to indemnity) are both transmitted and certified in the same manner as other policy debtors.
  - (b) FAILURE TO TIMELY CERTIFY DEBTORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE PROCEDURES MAY RESULT IN A DELAY IN DENYING PROGRAM BENEFITS TO THE PERSON.
  - (c) Days are calendar days.
  - (d) If the specified termination date specified occurs on a Federal legal holiday or weekend, the next business day will apply only for purposes of determining if the debt is delinquent. The published termination date will NOT be changed and will be the date of ineligibility if the person is determined a debtor and ineligible for programs administered by FCIC under the Act.

- (e) If the date of ineligibility falls on a Federal legal holiday or weekend, the next business day will apply for determining the record submission deadline. If the resulting 21<sup>st</sup> calendar day also falls on a Federal legal holiday or weekend, the next business day will be the deadline.
- (f) The Type 60 Record will be used to:
  - <u>1</u> Initially establish ineligibility.
  - 2 Reestablish eligibility by resolution of the delinquent debt (through full payment, a bankruptcy filing and the debt is not legally collectible, discharging the debt in bankruptcy, approval of a written payment agreement, or a favorable appeal decision), or

When a specific time limit is set for ineligibility (for example, a controlled substance violation), ITS will automatically restore eligibility at the end of the time limit.

- <u>3</u> Reestablish ineligibility if the person fails to complete payments under a written payment agreement or dismissal of a bankruptcy for cause [see Sec. 8E].
- (g) Type 60 Records for items (f)2 above must be submitted to ITS within 21 days after the date of a resolution of the delinquent debt or notification of dismissal of a bankruptcy for cause. Type 60 Records for written payment agreements must be submitted to ITS within 21 days after the date of the failure to make payments under a written payment agreement.
- (4) <u>Delete any incorrect Type 60 Record</u> within 7 days of initial transmission. Any deletions required after 7 days must be submitted with documentation to the PAAD. Requests to delete CAT Type 60 and/or 65 records must be submitted to PAAD with appropriate documentation.
- (5) <u>Submit a Type 49 Record</u> deleting any insured data submitted prior to a determination of ineligibility effective for the current crop year.
- (6) <u>Verify the eligibility status</u> of applicants and insureds.
- (7) <u>Send documentation and evidence</u> of the person's delinquent debt and documentation related to the notification of debt to FAOB, **upon request**. Such documentation and evidence may include:
  - (a) The application, acreage reports, claims, and all correspondence;

- (b) Billing statements;
- (c) Pre-termination letters;
- (d) Responses to pre-termination and demand letters; and
- (e) Notice of Debt.
- (8) <u>Maintain supporting documentation</u> regarding a determination of delinquent debt and its resolution for a period of three years after its resolution. If a delinquent debt is not resolved (e.g., debt is not satisfied or discharged through bankruptcy) supporting documentation must be maintained indefinitely.
- (9) <u>Notify applicable RMA Regional Compliance office</u> of suspected controlled substance violations and suspected cases of fraud, misrepresentation, or use of a material scheme or device relating to an insured's policy.
- (10) <u>Maintain security of data files</u>, records and reports in accordance with the Privacy Act and 7 CFR part 400, Subpart Q.
- B **PAAD** shall:
  - (1) <u>Develop, test, and maintain</u> the record descriptors, database, and data processing requirements and programming for ITS.
  - (2) <u>Assure ITS</u> is properly defined in the System of Records.
  - (3) <u>Assure proper security</u> is maintained for access to the database.
  - (4) <u>Validate ineligibility criteria</u> are met.
  - (5) <u>Generate, review, and distribute</u> Notices of Ineligibility.
  - (6) <u>Administer appeals</u> including:
    - (a) Contacting the AIP for documentation whenever a person files a request for an appeal relating to being placed on the ITS, and
    - (b) Updating ITS with appropriate data indicating eligible or ineligible status at the completion of the appeal.
  - (7) <u>Provide a Notice of Debt to FCIC debtors</u> and certify ITS records for FCIC debtors.

- (8) <u>Provide a Notice of Ineligibility</u> to persons convicted of controlled substance violations or disqualified, debarred or suspended.
- (9) <u>Process eligibility reinstatements</u> and delete AIP ITS records per written request. Delete requests are submitted to FOAB for additional coverage policies (after 7-day period) and all Type 60/65 record CAT delete requests are submitted to FOAB.
- (10) <u>Maintain ITS records</u> for FCIC debtors, persons convicted of controlled substance violations or disqualified, debarred, or suspended.
- (11) <u>Maintain AIP records</u> which are requested by RMA and submitted as documentation and evidence of delinquent debt as related to Notice of Ineligibility.
- (12) <u>Prepare reports</u> as requested.
- (13) <u>Modify or define</u> ITS requirements for DAS processing that will be specified in Appendix III of the SRA.
- (14) <u>Provide assistance</u> to AIPs, RMA offices, and others, as needed.
- (15) <u>Transmit ineligible producer file</u> (Type 61 records) to AIPs.
- (16) <u>Respond to inquiries</u> regarding ITS errors.
- (17) <u>Reject DAS records</u> that are identified as ineligible.
- (18) <u>Amend the Appendix III</u>.
- (19) <u>Review AIP's operations</u> to determine compliance with the provisions of Subpart U and this procedure as part of the financial review process.

#### C **Product Administration and Standards Division (PASD)** shall:

- (1) <u>Revise 7 CFR part 400, Subpart U</u> as appropriate,
- (2) <u>Update the ITS handbook</u>, and
- (3) <u>Provide assistance</u> regarding Subpart U and this procedure.
- D **<u>RMA Risk Compliance Division</u>** shall:

(1) <u>Notify appropriate authorities</u> regarding suspected controlled substance violation (including FSA), and cases of suspected fraud, misrepresentation, and use of a material scheme or device.

# **EXHIBITS DISCLAIMER**

The letters contained in Exhibits 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 are to be used <u>exclusively</u> by RMA in the Notice of Ineligibility.

Exhibits 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are provided by RMA **AS A GUIDE** for AIPs in the development of the letters and written payment agreements used in debt notification and resolution. These letters and written payment agreement should BE REVIEWED BY THE AIPs TO DETERMINE IF THEY ARE ADEQUATE FOR THE AIP'S PURPOSES AND MODIFIED AS NECESSARY, PROVIDED ANY CHANGES CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 7 CFR PART 400, SUBPART U, THE CROP INSURANCE POLICY AND THIS PROCEDURE.

#### NOTICE OF DEBT (PRE-TERMINATION) (For all debts except CAT fees)

#### (AIP Letterhead) MM/DD/YY

\_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

The enclosed billing states the amount of premium, interest, administrative fees and/or other related charges which are unpaid according to our records. Also included on the billing is the termination date as stated in your policy. IF YOUR PAYMENT WAS RECENTLY MADE, PLEASE DISREGARD THE REMAINDER OF THIS LETTER.

The regulations governing your crop insurance policy provide you and <u>(AIP name)</u> with certain rights prior to determining that the debt is past due.

- 1. You have the right to a complete explanation of this debt, to inspect and copy our records related to the debt, to dispute any information in our records pertaining to the debt, and to an administrative review if you believe this is not a correct billing.
- You may make arrangements to enter into a written payment agreement on terms acceptable to you and us, if a review of your financial position supports your statement that you are unable to pay the debt in full. Requests for a written payment agreement should be sent to this office at the above address. Written payment agreements must be executed on or before the crop termination date.
- 3. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) compiles a list of persons who have been found ineligible for participation in the crop insurance program because of non-payment of premium, overpaid indemnity, administrative fees, collection costs and/or other related charges. The ineligible list will be used by RMA and distributed to all approved insurance providers reinsured by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC). If this debt is not paid by the crop termination date, your name will be placed on the list and future insurance coverage will be denied.

A request for review of your account must be in writing, must state the basis of your belief the billing is incorrect and must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice. The request should be addressed to: <u>(AIP name and address)</u>. A review does not take the place of, or limit your right to arbitration. A review that is not resolved by the termination date does not delay your name from being placed on the ineligible list.

We appreciate your business and if you have any questions, please contact your agent.

#### NOTICE OF DEBT (PRE-TERMINATION) (Used for CAT fees only)

#### (AIP Letterhead) MM/DD/YY

\_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

According to our records, you have not paid <u>crop year</u> administrative fees and other related charges in the amount of <u>\$</u> under the above referenced policy number. The crop termination date, as stated in your policy, is <u>(date)</u>. <u>IF YOUR PAYMENT WAS</u> <u>RECENTLY MADE, PLEASE DISREGARD THE REMAINDER OF THIS LETTER.</u>

The regulations governing your crop insurance policy provide you and <u>(AIP name)</u> with certain rights prior to determining that the debt is past due.

- 1. You have the right to a complete explanation of this debt, to inspect and copy our records related to the debt, to dispute any information in our records pertaining to the debt, and to an administrative review if you believe the debt is not correct.
- You may make arrangements to enter into a written payment agreement on terms acceptable to you and us, if a review of your financial position supports your statement that you are unable to pay the debt in full. Requests for a written payment agreement should be sent to this office at the above address. Written payment agreements must be executed on or before the crop termination date.
- 3. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) compiles a list of persons who have been found ineligible for participation in the crop insurance program because of non-payment of premium, overpaid indemnity, administrative fees, collection costs or other related charges. The ineligible list will be used by RMA and distributed to all approved insurance providers reinsured by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC). If this debt is not paid by the crop termination date, your name will be placed on the list and future insurance coverage will be denied.

A request for review of your account must be in writing, must state the basis of your belief the debt is incorrect and must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice. The request should be addressed to: (AIP name and address). Administrative fees that are not paid by the crop termination date will be referred to RMA, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, for collection.

We appreciate your business and if you have any questions, please contact your agent.

\_\_\_\_\_

#### NOTICE OF DEBT (OVERPAYMENT)

#### (AIP Letterhead) MM/DD/YY

We have processed the <u>yyyy</u> corrected <u>crop</u> claim for the unit(s) listed below under contract <u>xxxxxxxxx</u> and have determined that you were overpaid <u>\$\_\_\_\_\_</u>

<u>(Unit #'s)</u>

Brief Explanation of Cause of Debt\_\_\_\_\_

To prevent interest assessment, you must pay the \$\_\_\_\_\_ balance due on this crop within thirty (30) days from the date of this letter. The balance due may include interest paid to you on the original indemnity claim. Please send your check, draft, or money order in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

You may request that we provide you with a complete explanation of the overpaid indemnity and allow you to inspect and copy records related to the debt. For a detailed explanation or additional information concerning the overpaid indemnity, please contact <u>AIP name</u> at the address shown above.

If you do not agree with our decision, you have the following options:

You may seek a review of the decision by filing a written request for review within thirty (30) days from the date of this letter. Your written request must be filed with this office at the address shown above and must be submitted with any information you have regarding our decision. A review does not take the place of or limit your right to arbitration.

If you and we fail to agree on any factual determination, disagreement may be resolved in accordance with the terms of your policy.

We appreciate your immediate attention to this matter.

#### NOTICE OF DEBT (OVERPAYMENT) (Second Notice)

#### (AIP Letterhead) MM/DD/YY

You were sent a letter informing you that you were overpaid on contract  $\underline{xx-xxx-xxxxx}$ . As of this date, no payment has been received.

Regulations governing the Federal crop insurance program provide you and us with certain rights prior to initiating collection action.

- 1. You have the right to a complete explanation of the overpaid indemnity and to inspect and copy records related to the overpaid indemnity if you believe the overpaid indemnity is not correct. In our previous letter, you were given notice of your rights relating to the overpaid indemnity.
- 2. If you are unable to pay the debt, you may consult with our representative about arrangements for a written payment agreement of the overpaid indemnity on terms acceptable to the Approved Insurance Provider (AIP). Request for a written payment agreement should be sent to this office at the above address. Written payment agreements must be executed on or before the crop termination date.
- 3. If applicable, the overpaid indemnity may be referred to a collection agency. In addition, the overpaid indemnity may be referred to credit reporting agencies 60 days from the date of this letter. Information disclosed to credit reporting agencies may include your name, address, tax identification number, and the amount, history and status of your debt to the AIP.
- 4. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) compiles a list of persons who have been found ineligible for program benefits under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act) because of non-payment of premium or administrative fees, an overpaid indemnity, or program or controlled substance violations. The ineligible list will be used by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) and all AIPs reinsured by FCIC for the purpose of denying crop insurance coverage.

Your name will be placed on the ineligible list if the overpaid indemnity is not paid within 30 days from (or postmarked on or by) the date of this letter. If this debt is not paid, future benefits under the Act will be denied in accordance with your crop insurance policy. If you submit a new application for crop insurance, that application will be rejected. If you have a substantial beneficial interest in an insured entity, the premium and coverage for the entity will be reduced by the amount of your share in the entity. 5. Your ineligibility for Federal crop insurance may cause you to be ineligible for certain other USDA program benefits.

Date

#### WRITTEN PAYMENT AGREEMENT

#### (AIP Letterhead) MM/DD/YY

#### \_(AIP NAME)\_\_\_

I(we),	do hereby acknowledge a debt to the(AIP
name) under contract	for the <u>YYYY</u> crop year. In
consideration of the Approved Insurance	Provider (AIP) agreeing to forebear immediate
collection action, I(we) agree to pay \$	per (month, quarter, semiannual, or
annual) beginning	and continuing each subsequent (month, quarter,
semiannual, or annual) until such indebte	edness plus accrued interest is paid in full.

These payments will be made to \_\_\_\_\_(AIP name and address)\_\_\_\_\_. These payments are to be made by me(us) without regular billings from the AIP. I(we) may request and will be given a current status of my(our) debt by contacting the AIP.

If the AIP processes any indemnity claim while any debt referred to in this agreement is still outstanding, I(we) understand the indemnity will not be paid to me(us), but will be applied as payment against this debt.

If I(we) fail to make payment on or before, or payment is not postmarked on or before, the scheduled due date, I(we) understand that this agreement will be null and void. I(we) understand that I(we) may be ineligible for certain other USDA program benefits.

Signature	Date
Signature	Date

Approved \_\_\_\_\_\_ AIP Representative

#### NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY AIP DEBTORS (USDA/RMA/FCIC Letterhead)

Tax Id Number: XXXXXXXXX

I. Was Insured 123 Any Street City, State XXXX-XXXX

#### <u>ABC Insurance Company</u> (555) 555-5555

The above stated approved insurance provider (AIP) notified this office of their determination that you are ineligible to participate in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. The reason stated was your failure to pay the <u>(premium and/or overpaid indemnity) associated</u> with your crop insurance policy by \_\_\_\_\_\_, the date stated in the policy. The AIP has certified that the debt was not paid by the termination date, or date it was due, that you were notified of the debt and you were given the opportunity to dispute the amount and

you were notified of the debt and you were given the opportunity to dispute the amount and existence of the debt. Based on the terms of your policy and 7 C.F.R. §400, subpart U, after proper notification and ability to contest the debt, failure to pay these amounts when due renders you ineligible to participate in the Federal crop insurance program.

In accordance with the terms of the policy and 7 C.F.R. §400.681(b), this determination will affect all insurable crops on all farming operations in which you have a substantial beneficial interest. You will remain ineligible to participate from the date the debt was determined to be delinquent until the date eligibility is reinstated in accordance with 7 C.F.R. §400.682. Once reinstated, to obtain crop insurance, you must make new application for insurance in accordance with 7 C.F.R. § 400.682(d).

Since the determination that you are ineligible was made by the AIP, any dispute regarding the indebtedness must be made with the AIP in accordance with the terms of your policy. If you have documentation to show that action taken to include you on the Ineligible Tracking System by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation was in error, you may appeal in accordance with procedures found at <u>http://www.nad.usda.gov/app\_appeal.html</u>. A request for appeal must be in writing and made to the National Appeals Division (NAD) Regional Office, within 30 days of your receipt of this notification. Their address is <u>(NAD Regional Office address)</u>.

Your ineligibility for Federal crop insurance may cause you to be ineligible for other USDA program benefits.

#### NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY AIP DEBTORS (Partners of Indebted Partnership)

#### (USDA/RMA/FCIC Letterhead) MM/DD/YYYY

Tax ID Number: XXXXXXXXX

I. Was Insured 123 Any Street City, State XXXXX-XXXX

#### ABC Insurance Company (555) 555-5555

The above stated approved insurance provider (AIP) notified this office that you are a partner in the partnership of <u>(name of partnership)</u>. The AIP determined the partnership is ineligible to participate in the Federal crop insurance program based on failure to pay (premium and/or overpaid indemnity) associated with the crop insurance policy by \_\_\_\_\_\_, the due date stated in the policy.

The AIP certified that the debt was not paid by the termination date, or date it was due, that the partnership was notified of the debt and the partnership was given the opportunity to dispute the amount and existence of the debt. Based on the terms of the policy and 7 C.F.R. §400, subpart U, after proper notification and ability to contest the debt, failure to pay these amounts when due renders the partnership ineligible to participate in the program. Pursuant to 7 C.F.R. §400.681(b), if the ineligible person is a partnership, all partners will be individually ineligible.

In accordance with the terms of the policy and 7 C.F.R. §400.681(b), this determination will affect all insurable crops on all farming operations in which you have a substantial beneficial interest. You will remain ineligible to participate from the date the debt was determined to be delinquent until the date eligibility is reinstated in accordance with 7 C.F.R. §400.682. Once reinstated, to obtain crop insurance you must make new application for insurance in accordance with 7 C.F.R. § 400.682(d).

Since the determination that you and the partnership are ineligible was made by the AIP, any dispute regarding the indebtedness must be made with the AIP in accordance with the terms of the partnership's policy. If you have documentation to show that action taken to include you on the Ineligible Tracking System by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation was in error, you may appeal in accordance with procedures found at <u>http://www.nad.usda.gov/app\_appeal.html</u>. A request for appeal must be in writing and made to the National Appeals Division (NAD) Regional Office, within 30 days of your receipt of this notification. Their address is <u>(NAD Regional Office address)</u>.

Your ineligibility for Federal crop insurance may cause you to be ineligible for other USDA program benefits.

1

#### Exhibit 8

#### NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY AIP DEBTORS (Spouse of Indebted Person)

#### (USDA/RMA/FCIC Letterhead) MM/DD/YYYY

Tax ID Number: XXXXXXXXX

I. Was Insured 123 Any Street City, State XXXXX-XXXX

ABC Insurance Company (555) 555-5555

The above stated approved insurance provider (AIP) notified our office that you are ineligible to participate in the Federal crop insurance program. The reason stated was the failure of your spouse to pay (premium and/or overpaid indemnity) associated with a <u>(Crop Year)</u> crop insurance policy, by the due date stated in the policy.

The AIP certified that the debt was not paid by the termination date, or due date, that notification of the debt was provided to your spouse, that your spouse was provided the opportunity to dispute the amount and existence of the debt, and you were provided an opportunity to contest that you and your spouse should be considered the same individual pursuant to 7 C.F.R. § 400.681(c)(1). Based on the terms of the policy and 7 C.F.R. §400, subpart U, after proper notification and opportunity to contest the debt, failure to pay these amounts when due renders you and your spouse ineligible to participate in any program authorized by the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended.

According to the terms of the policy and 7 C.F.R. §400.681, this determination will affect all insurable crops on all farming operations in which you have a substantial beneficial interest and you will remain ineligible to participate in the Federal crop insurance program from the date the debt was determined to be delinquent until the date eligibility is reinstated pursuant to 7 C.F.R. §400.682. Once reinstated, to obtain crop insurance, you must make new application for insurance in accordance with 7 C.F.R. §400.682(d).

Since the determination that you and your spouse are ineligible was made by the AIP, any dispute regarding the indebtedness must be made with the AIP in accordance with the terms of your policy. If you have documentation showing that action taken to include you on the Ineligible Tracking System by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation was in error, you may appeal in accordance with procedures found at <u>http://www.nad.usda.gov/app\_appeal.html</u>. A request for appeal must be in writing and made to the National Appeals Division (NAD) Regional Office, within 30 days of your receipt of this notification. Their address is <u>(NAD Regional Office address)</u>.

Your ineligibility for Federal crop insurance may cause you to be ineligible for other USDA program benefits.

#### NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY DUE TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE VIOLATION

#### (USDA/RMA/FCIC Letterhead) MM/DD/YYYY

#### Tax ID Number: XXXXXXXXX

I. Was Insured 123 Any Street City, State XXXXX-XXXX

This office has been notified that you have been convicted of a controlled substance violation that renders you ineligible for any program benefits under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act). On that basis, you will be ineligible for program benefits under the Act for the crop year of conviction and the succeeding four crop years.

If you are not the person that has been convicted of a controlled substance violation, you may appeal your ineligibility status in accordance with procedures found at <a href="http://www.nad.usda.gov/app\_appeal.html">http://www.nad.usda.gov/app\_appeal.html</a>. A request for appeal must be in writing and made to the National Appeals Division Regional Office, at <a href="http://NAD Regional Office.com">(NAD Regional Office address)</a> within 30 days of your receipt of this notification.

A crop insurance policy insuring a farming entity in which you have an interest of 10% or more will be affected as the premium and coverage will be reduced by the amount of your share in the policy. Furthermore, any entity that is comprised of your spouse, child, or member of your household in which you have an interest, will also be ineligible to obtain crop insurance coverage as specified above. Your ineligibility for Federal crop insurance may cause you to be ineligible for certain other USDA program benefits.

Your ineligibility for Federal crop insurance may cause you to be ineligible for certain other USDA program benefits.

#### NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY DUE TO DISQUALIFICATION/SUSPENSION/DEBARMENT

#### (USDA/RMA/FCIC Letterhead) MM/DD/YYYY

Tax ID Number: XXXXXXXXX

I. Was Insured 123 Any Street City, State XXXX-XXXX

This office has been notified that you have been disqualified/debarred/suspended under Section 506(n) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act) and 7CFR Part 400 subpart R. On this basis, you will be ineligible for any program benefits under the Act from <u>(date)</u> through <u>(specify the period of time)</u>.

If you are not the person that has been disqualified/debarred/suspended, you may appeal your ineligible status in accordance with procedures found at <a href="http://www.nad.usda.gov/app\_appeal.html">http://www.nad.usda.gov/app\_appeal.html</a>. A request for appeal must be in writing and made to the National Appeals Division Regional Office (NAD Regional Office address) within 30 days of your receipt of this letter.

A crop insurance policy insuring a farming entity in which you have an interest of 10% or more will be affected as the premium and coverage will be reduced by the amount of your share in the policy. Furthermore, any entity that is comprised of your spouse, child, or member of your household in which you have an interest, will also be ineligible to obtain crop insurance coverage as specified above.

Your ineligibility for Federal crop insurance may cause you to be ineligible for certain other USDA program benefits.

#### NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY FCIC DEBTORS

#### (USDA/RMA/FCIC Letterhead) MM/DD/YYYY

I. Was Insured 123 Any Street City, State XXXX-XXXX Tax ID Number: XXXXXXXXX

ABC Insurance Company (555) 555-5555

The above stated approved insurance provider (AIP) notified this office of their determination that you have incurred a debt associated with unpaid catastrophic risk protection (CAT) administrative fees on a crop insurance policy reinsured under the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended. The AIP certified that the debt remains unpaid, that you were notified that the debt was not paid by \_\_\_\_\_\_, the termination date stated in your policy, and you were given the opportunity to dispute the amount and existence of the debt. Based on the terms of your policy and 7 C.F.R. part 400, subpart U, after proper notification and ability to contest the debt, failure to pay these amounts by the termination date renders you ineligible to participate in the Federal crop insurance program. If you have questions regarding the validity of these fees due us or previous payments made regarding these fees (before the stated crop termination date), please contact the above AIP.

According to the terms of the policy and 7 C.F.R. §400.681, this determination will affect all insurable crops on all farming operations in which you have a substantial beneficial interest and you will remain ineligible to participate in the Federal crop insurance program from the date the debt was determined to be delinquent until the date eligibility is reinstated pursuant to 7 C.F.R. §400.682. Once reinstated, to obtain crop insurance, you must make new application for insurance in accordance with 7 C.F.R. §400.682(d).

On the above referenced termination date, the responsibility for collection of your CAT administrative fees transferred to the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC). Other crop insurance amounts due (i.e., premium, overpaid indemnity) are payable to the AIP. To pay the amount of CAT administrative fee of \$ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, remit payment by check or money order made payable to Federal Crop Insurance Corporation in the enclosed, self-addressed envelope. If the debt is not paid in full within 30 days of the above referenced crop termination date, please contact the Risk Management Agency at 816-926-7299 for your current balance due since more interest will have accrued. Please include your Tax Identification Number on the check or money order. DO NOT SEND CATASTROPHIC ADMINISTRATIVE FEE PAYMENTS TO YOUR AIP OR YOUR AGENT. If you fail to pay the amount of CAT administrative fees plus accrued interest that are owed FCIC within 30 days from the date of this letter, this debt may be referred to the Department of Treasury and the Department of Justice for collection.

If you have documentation to show that action taken by the FCIC to include you on the Ineligible Tracking System is in error, you may appeal your ineligibility according to procedures found at <a href="http://www.nad.usda.gov/app\_appeal.html">http://www.nad.usda.gov/app\_appeal.html</a>. A request for appeal must be in writing and made to the National Appeals Division Regional Office within 30 days of your receipt of this notification. Their address is <u>(NAD Regional Office Address)</u>. Your ineligibility for Federal crop insurance may cause you to be ineligible for certain other USDA program benefits.

Sincerely, John Doe, Chief Reinsurance Accounting and Eligibility Tracking Section

Producer XYZ 123 Any Street City, State XXXXX-XXXX

Tax ID: XXX-XX-XXXXTotal Debt Due:\$ 307.50Principal:\$ 300.00Accrued Interest:\$ 7.50

Details:

Insurance Provider: ABC Insurance Company Insurance Provider Phone #: (555)555-5555

Policy	<mark>Reins</mark>	Crop	Crop	Сгор	County	Unpaid	Interest
Number	<b>Year</b>	Year	Code	Name	Name	Principal	Amount
903069	<mark>2011</mark>	<mark>2011</mark>	0021	COTTON	Caldwell	100.00	2.50
903069	<mark>2011</mark>	<mark>2011</mark>	0041	CORN	Caldwell	100.00	2.50
903069	<mark>2011</mark>	<mark>2011</mark>	0081	SOYBEANS	Caldwell	100.00	2.50

#### NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY FCIC DEBTORS (Partners of Indebted Partnership)

#### (USDA/RMA/FCIC Letterhead)

I. Was Insured Any Street Anytown, Anystate xxxxx MM/DD/YYYY Tax Id Number: xxx xx xxxx

A12 Insurance Company

The above stated Approved Insurance Provider (AIP) notified this office that you are a partner in the partnership of \_\_\_\_\_\_. The AIP determined the partnership is ineligible to participate in the Federal crop insurance program based on failure to pay catastrophic risk protection (CAT) administrative fees associated with the crop insurance policy by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the termination date as stated in the policy. A notification letter detailing the amount of administrative fees due, accrual of interest, and applicable collection procedures has been mailed to the partnership.

The AIP certified that the debt was not paid by the termination date, that the partnership was notified of the debt and the partnership was given the opportunity to dispute the amount and existence of the debt. Based on the terms of the policy and 7 C.F.R. §400, Subpart U, after proper notification and ability to contest the debt, failure to pay these amounts when due renders the partnership ineligible to participate in the program. Pursuant to 7 C.F.R. §400.681(b), if the ineligible person is a partnership, all partners will be individually ineligible. If you have questions regarding the validity of these fees due us or previous payments made regarding these fees (before the stated crop termination date), please contact the above AIP.

According to the terms of the policy and 7 C.F.R. 400.681(b), this determination will affect all insurable crops on all farming operations in which you have substantial beneficial interest and you will remain ineligible to participate in the Federal crop insurance program from the date the debt was determined to be delinquent until the date eligibility is reinstated in accordance with 7 C.F.R. §400.682. Once reinstated, to obtain crop insurance you must make new application for insurance in accordance with 7 C.F.R. 400.682(d).

Since the determination that you and the partnership are ineligible was made by the AIP, any dispute regarding the indebtedness must be made with the AIP in accordance with the terms of your policy. If you have documentation to show that action taken to include you on the Ineligible Tracking System by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation was in error, you may appeal in accordance with procedures found at <a href="http://www.nad.usda.gov/app\_appeal.html">http://www.nad.usda.gov/app\_appeal.html</a>. A request for appeal must be in writing and made to the National Appeals Division (NAD) Regional Office, within 30 days upon receipt of this notification. Their address is <a href="http://www.nad.usda.gov/app\_appeal.html">(NAD Regional Office Address)</a>. Your ineligibility for Federal crop insurance may cause you to be ineligible for certain other USDA program benefits.

#### NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY FCIC DEBTORS (Spouse of Indebted Person)

#### (USDA/RMA/FCIC Letterhead)

MM/DD/YYYY Tax Id Number: xxx xx xxxx

I. Was Insured Any Street Anytown, Anystate xxxxx

A12 Insurance Company

The above stated Approved Insurance Provider (AIP) notified this office of their determination that you are ineligible to participate in the Federal crop insurance program. The reason stated was the failure of your spouse to pay catastrophic risk protection (CAT) administrative fees on a crop reinsured under the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended, by the due date as stated in the policy. A notification letter detailing the amount of administrative fees due, accrual of interest, and applicable collection procedures has been mailed to your spouse.

The AIP certified that the debt was not paid by the termination date, or due date, that notification was provided to your spouse, that your spouse was provided the opportunity to dispute the amount and existence of the debt, and you were provided an opportunity to contest that you and your spouse should be considered the same individual pursuant to 7 C.F.R. §400.681(c)(1). Based on the terms of the policy and 7 C.F.R. §400, subpart U, after proper notification and opportunity to contest the debt, failure to pay these amounts when due renders you and your spouse ineligible to participate in any program authorized by the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended. If you have questions regarding the validity of these fees due or previous payments made regarding these fees (before the stated crop termination date), please contact the above AIP.

According to the terms of the policy and 7 C.F.R. §400.681, this determination will affect all insurable crops on all farming operations in which you have substantial beneficial interest and you will remain ineligible to participate in Federal crop insurance program from the date the debt was determined to be delinquent until the date eligibility is reinstated pursuant to 7 C.F.R. §400.682. Once reinstated, to obtain crop insurance you must make new application for insurance in accordance with 7 C.F.R. 400.682(d).

Since the determination that you and your spouse are ineligible was made by the AIP, any dispute regarding the indebtedness must be made with the AIP in accordance with the terms of your spouse's policy. If you have documentation showing that action taken to include you on the Ineligible Tracking System by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) was in error, you may appeal in accordance with procedures found at <u>http://www.nad.usda.gov/app\_appeal.html</u>. A request for appeal must be in writing and made to the National Appeals Division (NAD) Regional Office, within 30 days upon receipt of this notification. Their address is <u>(NAD Regional Office Address)</u>. Your ineligibility for Federal crop insurance may cause you to be ineligible for certain other USDA program benefits.