



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services  
Risk Management Agency

**INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All Reinsured Companies  
All Risk Management Agency Field Offices

**FROM:** Ken Ackerman, Administrator /s/ Ken Ackerman 11-7-00  
Risk Management Agency

**SUBJECT:** Broadcast Seeded Wheat in Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico

**ISSUE:**

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received questions as to the insurability of broadcast seeded wheat in Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico.

**BACKGROUND:**

Broadcast seeded wheat could be replacing as much as 30% of the acreage that would normally have been drill-seeded throughout Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico this year. Historically this practice has been used primarily on acreage which would later be grazed. However, due to the initially dry conditions and delayed planting, more producers are using this method as a means to get their crop planted.

Severe drought conditions have persisted throughout this past summer and fall in most of the major wheat growing areas of Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. These areas, to a large degree, were critically short on available moisture for proper seed germination and development. Seeding of winter wheat has been delayed in most areas in anticipation of some much needed rain. Heavy rain received over the last week is now presenting problems because producers cannot get into the fields to plant. Extended weather forecast indicate a continuation of the rains over the next 10 days. The 2000 crop year final planting dates of November 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> are quickly approaching and growers are reportedly increasing the amount of broadcast seeded wheat.



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About 90 percent of the winter wheat acreage in this area is traditionally planted with a grain drill following conventional tillage methods for proper seed bed preparation. The best and most consistent yields are obtained by use of a grain drill into a properly prepared seedbed. Broadcast seeding of wheat involves broadcasting wheat seed on the soil surface and incorporating the seed with tillage.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Small Grains Crop Provisions (98-011) define planted acreage as land on which seed is initially spread onto the soil surface by any method and subsequently is mechanically incorporated into the soil in a timely manner and at the **proper depth**. The Basic Provisions (01-BR) further define planted acreage as land in which seed has been placed, appropriate for the insured crop and planting method, at the **correct depth**, into a **seedbed that has been properly prepared** for the **planting method** and **production practice**.

In accordance with Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service information and seeding recommendations, field and seedbed preparations up to the point of planting should be the same for both broadcast and drilled planting practices. Without good seed to soil contact, regardless of the seeding method being used, good seed germination will not be possible, stands will not be uniform, yields will be reduced, and damage due to winter kill will increase.

Broadcast seeding of wheat is an insurable practice provided that the field has been prepared utilizing conventional tillage methods prior to seeding. The seed must then be mechanically incorporated into the soil. Wheat which is broadcast into stubble, or into fields which have not been prepared properly, or for which timely mechanically incorporation has not occurred is not insurable.

**DISPOSAL:**

This informational memorandum is providing information and does not change existing policy or procedure. The disposal date is December 31, 2001.