



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services
Risk Management Agency

BULLETIN NO.: MGR-99-042.2

TO: All Reinsured Companies
All Risk Management Agency Field Offices

FROM: Kenneth D. Ackerman /s/ *Kenneth D. Ackerman* 11-29-99
Administrator

SUBJECT: Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 3194) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 and Other
Related Issues

BACKGROUND:

The Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 3194) for FY 2000 recently passed by Congress provides authority to: 1) continue revenue insurance pilot programs through 2001 crop year; 2) offer expansion of pilot programs on a regional, whole State, or national basis through the 2001 crop year if approved by the Board of Directors (Board) prior to September 30, 1999; 3) provide premium discounts for certain 2001 crop year crops; and 4) beginning with the 2000 crop year, changes the earliest sales closing date for any spring planted crop to January 31. In addition to these legislative changes, clarification of inspection requirements with respect to MGR-99-042 has been requested.

ACTION:

Effective when H.R. 3194 is signed by the President, the following will apply.

1. Revenue Programs

Revenue programs for Ventura County, California, avocados, pecans, and crops covered under the Income Protection (IP) and Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) coverage plans will be continued through the 2001 crop year.



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2. Program Expansion

Prior to September 30, 1999, the Board approved expansion of avocados in California, an initial offering of a citrus dollar plan of insurance in California and the expansion of pilot programs for cherries, blueberries, and Florida fruit trees. Attached is a listing of these county crop programs.

3. Premium Discounts

Premium discounts for the 2000 crop year provided under MGR-99-042 apply to the pilot program expansion counties for cherries, blueberries, and Florida fruit trees for the 2000 crop year; and avocados in California, citrus fruit (dollar and production coverage plans), and macadamia nuts for the 2001 crop year.

4. Extended Application Period

- a. Producers of citrus fruit (production coverage plan) and macadamia nuts may submit new or revised applications for limited or additional coverage.
- b. Producers may obtain catastrophic risk protection coverage (CAT), limited, or additional coverage for cherries, blueberries, and Florida fruit trees in expansion counties; all approved California counties for avocados; and all counties for dollar citrus (those listed in attachment).
- c. The extended application date for the programs discussed above is January 14, 2000, (January 31, 2000, for cherries in Stanislaus County, California). The production/acreage reporting dates are the later of January 14, 2000, or the date provided by the applicable crop policy.

5. Premium Billing

Premium billing and other items in MGR-99-042 that reference the 2000 crop year are modified to include the 2001 crop year for avocados in California, citrus fruit (dollar and production coverage plans), and macadamia nuts for the 2001 crop year.

6. Fund Designation

Companies must submit fund designations for the crops and counties covered by this bulletin by February 19, 2000, and March 4, 2000, for cherries in Stanislaus County, California.

7. Clarification of Inspection Requirements

- a. Inspections required to determine eligibility under the terms of the policy for insurance, rather than to determine crop damage at the time of new or revised application, are required. (i.e., the Pilot Mint Crop Insurance Program requires an inspection of mint acreage in the fall for adequate stand determinations for coverage under the Winter Coverage Option.)
- b. Crop inspections to determine damage at the time of new or revised application are not required.
- c. The deadline to complete inspections and to notify insureds of acceptance of acreage required for crops whose inspection/notification deadlines have passed is extended to December 15, 1999. (i.e., currently under the Pilot Mint Crop Insurance Program Winter Coverage Option, the company must notify an insured by November 15 if any acreage inspected is not insurable, or if insurance will attach on that acreage.)

8. Changes in Sales Closing Dates

The earliest sales closing date for spring planted crops is January 31 beginning with the 2000 crop year. The special provisions for the affected crops will not be reissued. The Actuarial Data Master will be changed to January 31 for the affected crops. Reinsured companies must notify agents who service the affected counties. The current January 15 sales closing date in the States and crops that are moved to January 31 are: fresh market sweet corn in Alabama; fresh market and processing tomatoes in California; fresh market tomatoes in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina; and corn, cotton, ELS cotton, grain sorghum, peanuts, popcorn, soybeans, and sunflowers in southern Texas.

DISPOSAL:

This bulletin is for the purpose of transmitting/updating information and the expiration date is December 31, 2000.

Attachment

2000/2001 PROGRAM COUNTY CROP EXPANSION

<u>CROPS</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>COUNTIES</u>	
Avocados	California	Orange San Diego Santa Barbara	Riverside San Luis Obispo
Dollar Citrus	California	Fresno Madera	Kern Tulare
Blueberries	Alabama	Baldwin	
	Florida	Alachua	Highlands
	Georgia	Appling	Bacon Ware
	Maine	Knox Penobscot Waldo	Lincoln Piscataquis
	South Carolina	Horry	
Cherries	California	Stanislaus	
	Michigan	Grand Traverse	Leelanau
	Oregon	Marian Umatilla	Polk Yamhill
	Utah	Utah	
	Washington	Grant Okanogon	Klickitat Walla Walla
Florida Fruit Trees	Florida	Brevard Charlotte Collier Glades Hernando Hillsborough Lake	Broward Citrus De Soto Hardee Hendry Indiana River Lee

Manatee	Marion
Okeechobee	Orange
Osceola	Pasco
Sarasota	Seminole
St. Lucie	Volusia