



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services
Risk Management Agency

BULLETIN NO.: MGR-01-019

TO: All Reinsured Companies
All Risk Management Agency Field Offices

FROM: Phyllis W. Honor /s/ Phyllis W. Honor 7-3-01
Acting Administrator

SUBJECT: 2001 Crop Year Cotton Appraisal Deviation for Texas Counties in the Coastal Bend and Lower Rio Grande Valley

BACKGROUND:

The current drought conditions that have persisted over the past several months have created requests from insureds, agents, Cooperative Extension Service, and the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Board for immediate release of affected acreage in specific Texas counties in the central Coastal Bend area and the lower Rio Grande Valley.

Both areas received timely rains in mid-January and early February that provided adequate moisture to plant and establish an adequate stand of cotton. Unfortunately, no significant rainfall has occurred since and drought conditions have prevailed. Crop assessment reports by personnel of the Texas A&M University Agricultural Extension Service, Nueces County Farm Service Agency and Texas A&M University Extension Service in Hildalgo County indicate crop conditions continue to deteriorate and justifies the approval of an appraisal deviation.

Coastal Bend

The final planting date in the affected area was April 15. Cotton plants on affected acreage are 8 to 12 inches in height. There are either no bolls present or there are 1 or 2 blooms in the top of the plant. Blooming in the top of the plant generally indicates completion of the fruiting cycle and vegetative growth stops. In other situations, plants are aborting leaves, squares, and immature bolls and also have poorly developed root systems.

The normal harvest date for cotton is mid-July through early August. The cotton stalk plow down date imposed by the Texas Department of Agriculture is September 10.



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Rio Grande Valley

The final planting date in the affected area was March 31. Cotton plants on the affected acreage are 8 to 12 inches in height with one bloom in the top of the plant. However, some of the plants have one or more small bolls in the top of the plant. Most of the dryland cotton is deteriorating similar to what is occurring in the Coastal Bend.

The normal harvest date for cotton is mid-July through early August. The cotton stalk plow down date imposed by the Texas Department of Agriculture is September 1.

ACTION:

Due to the drought conditions as described above, an early release of non-irrigated cotton will begin on July 3 using the boll count appraisal method. A 4.5 bolls per pound factor will apply for all green and unopened bolls in the following counties or portions of counties located in the Coastal Bend and Rio Grande production areas.

- 1 Coastal Bend: The southern half of Nueces County (an area located south of highway 44), all of Jim Wells, Kleberg, and San Patricio Counties.
- 2 Rio Grande Valley: Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties.

Insurance providers are to document the use of this bulletin to support the appraisal deviation.

DISPOSAL:

This bulletin is for the purpose of transmitting/updating information and the disposal date is December 31, 2001.