



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services  
Risk Management Agency

December 18, 2000

**INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: R&D-00-060**

TO: All Interested Pasture, Range, and Forage Producer Groups  
All Risk Management Agency Field Offices  
All Reinsured Companies

FROM: Tim B. Witt *Tim B. Witt*  
Deputy Administrator

SUBJECT: Pasture, Range, and Forage Consultation

**BACKGROUND:**

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (ARPA) authorizes the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) to enter into contracts for research and development to increase participation in States, areas, and agricultural commodities that are underserved by the Federal crop insurance program. ARPA directs FCIC to establish the development of a pasture, range, and forage program as one of the highest research and development priorities. ARPA also provides that, before entering into a contract for the above purpose, FCIC shall consult with groups representing producers of agricultural commodities that would be served by the policies that are the subject of the research and development.

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has, in the past, consulted with producers and producer groups in conducting research into the development of insurance programs, some of which may include aspects related to pasture, range, and forage. The purpose of this Informational Memorandum is to formally begin the consultation process with groups representing pasture, range, and forage producers, consistent with the above-stated provisions of the Act.

**ACTION:**

RMA is seeking input from groups representing pasture, range, and forage producers so their issues, concerns, and input will be considered before entering into a contract for the research and development of a pasture, range, and forage insurance program. The input of producers and their representatives is critical in determining the need and direction of research and potential development. Of particular interest is any input that would be helpful for RMA to



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determine growers' interest in RMA entering into a contract for the development of an insurance program for pasture, range, and forage as well as any specific concerns producers might have regarding the scope and limitations a desired program should have. A better understanding of producers' risk management needs and requirements will aid RMA in developing contracts and related task orders more appropriately. Please provide your input to Terrence Katzer by January 19, 2001, to assure its consideration. Mr. Katzer may be reached by telephone at (816) 926-6237, by fax at (816) 926-7343, by e-mail at "[Terrence\\_Katzer@rm.fcic.usda.gov](mailto:Terrence_Katzer@rm.fcic.usda.gov)," or at the following postal address:

Attention: Terrence Katzer  
Research and Evaluation Division  
Risk Management Agency  
P. O. Box 419293, Stop 0813  
Kansas City, Missouri 64141-6293

Any party who is aware of other persons or organizations representing pasture, range, and forage producers are encouraged to provide a copy of this Informational Memorandum to them and/or to advise Mr. Katzer how to contact them. Listed below are organizations that are being provided this Informational Memorandum because they were previously identified as possible contacts interested in providing input.

American Bankers Association - AG Division  
Alfalfa Council  
American Forage & Grassland Council  
National Cattlemens Beef Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
National Farmers Union  
Society for Range Management  
Western Range Association  
The National Hay Association  
National Farmers Organization  
National Grange  
American Sheep Industry Association  
Intertribal Agriculture Council

**DISPOSAL:**

This Informational Memorandum is for the purpose of transmitting/updating information and the disposal date is January 31, 2001.