



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services
Risk Management Agency

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: R&D-01-003

TO: All Interested Direct Agricultural Marketing Producer Groups
All Risk Management Agency Field Offices
All Reinsured Companies

FROM: Tim B. Witt /s/ *Tim B. Witt* 1/16/2001
Deputy Administrator

SUBJECT: Request for Input from Direct Agricultural Marketing Producer Groups

BACKGROUND:

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) intends to obtain input from producer groups before entering into contracts for research and development to increase participation in areas or for crops that may be underserved by the Federal crop insurance program. RMA believes this input is critical in determining the need and direction of research and potential development.

ACTION:

RMA hereby requests input from groups representing direct agricultural marketing producers so that their needs, concerns, and other input may be considered before it enters into a contract for the research and possible development of crop insurance programs for direct agricultural marketing producers. Of particular interest is any input that would help RMA determine growers' concerns regarding the handling of direct agricultural marketing under existing crop insurance programs, their interest in a crop insurance program specifically for direct agricultural marketing producers, and specific suggestions and concerns regarding the structure, scope, and limitations that such a program should have.



6501 Beacon Drive • Kansas City, MO 64133

The Risk Management Agency Administers and Oversees
All Programs Authorized Under the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Please provide your input to Josephine Scott by February 16, 2001, to assure its consideration. Mrs. Scott may be reached by telephone at (816) 926-7907, by fax at (816) 926-7343, by e-mail at "Josephine_Scott@rm.fcic.usda.gov," or at the following postal address:

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

Anyone who is aware of other persons or organizations representing direct agricultural marketing producers is encouraged to provide a copy of this Informational Memorandum to them and/or to advise Mrs. Scott how to contact them. Listed below are organizations that are being provided this Memorandum because they were previously identified as possible contacts interested in providing input.

North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Association, Southampton, MA
National AGRI-Marketing Association, San Francisco, CA
Block Island Farmers' Market, Block Island, RI
Connecticut Agriculture Information Council, Monroe CT
Fresh Market Growers Association, Portland, OR
Farmers Market Association, Grant Pass, OR
Minneapolis Farmers Market, Inver Grove Heights, MN
Georgia Vegetable Growers Association, Statesboro, GA
Texas Agriculture Council, Amarillo, TX
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association, Orlando, FL

DISPOSAL DATE:

This Informational Memorandum is effective until the disposal date, March 31, 2001.