July 17, 2001

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: R&D-01-037

TO: Perennial Crop Producer Groups
    All Risk Management Agency Field Offices
    All Reinsured Companies

FROM: Tim B. Witt  /s/ Tim B. Witt
      Deputy Administrator

SUBJECT: Request for Input from Perennial Crop 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 commodities 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 requests input from groups or individuals representing producers of perennial crops so that their needs, concerns, and other input may be considered before it enters into a contract for the research and possible development of a risk management strategy that would provide coverage against losses associated with perennial crop pathogens such as Pierce’s disease and plum pox. Of particular interest is any input that would help RMA determine producers’ interest in such a risk management program, as well as specific suggestions and concerns regarding the structure, scope, and limitations of such a program.
Please provide your input to Ron Lundine by August 24, 2001, to assure its consideration. Mr. Lundine may be reached by telephone at (816) 926-3854, by fax at (816) 926-7343, by e-mail at “Ronald_Lundine@rm.fcic.usda.gov,” or at the following postal address:

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

Listed on the attachment are organizations that are being provided this Memorandum. Anyone who is aware of other persons or organizations representing perennial crop producers is encouraged to provide a copy of this Informational Memorandum to them and/or to advise Mr. Lundine how to contact them.

**DISPOSAL DATE:**

This Informational Memorandum is effective until the disposal date, September 30, 2001.

Attachment
Perennial Crop Producer Groups:

- Arizona Grape Growers Association
- Arizona Apple Growers Association
- American Farm Bureau Federation
- California Association of Winegrape Growers
- California Apple Commission
- California Avocado Commission
- California Fig Advisory Board
- California Kiwifruit Commission
- California Olive Association
- California Pear Advisory Board
- California Rare Fruit Growers, Inc.
- California Table Grape Commission
- California Walnut Commission
- Cherry Industry Administrative Board
- Edinburg Citrus Association
- Florida Citrus Mutual
- Florida Grape Growers Association
- Hazelnut Growers of Oregon
- Michigan Blueberry Growers Association
- Michigan Plum Advisory Board
- National Cherry Growers & Industries Foundation
- National Grape Growers
- National Juice Products Association
- National Peach Council
- New England McIntosh Growers Association
- North American Blueberry Council
- Northern Nut Growers Association
- Olive Growers Council
- Oregon Blueberry Growers' Association
- Oregon Hop Commission
- Pear Bureau Northwest
- Pennsylvania Apple Marketing Board
- Pennsylvania Grape Industry Association
- Pennsylvania Peach & Nectarine Research Board
- Saticoy Lemon Association
- Sonoma County Grape Growers Association
- Texas Fruit Growers Association
- The Cranberry Institute
- The North American Blueberry Council
- U.S. Apple Association
- Vinifera Wine Growers Association
- Walnut Council
- Washington Apple Commission
- Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers
- Washington State Fruit Commission
- Western Growers Association
- Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association