



United States Department of Agriculture
Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services
Risk Management Agency

February 11, 2002

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: R&D-02-011

TO: Melon 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 Melon 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 agricultural 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 melon 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 risk management strategies or products for producers of this commodity. Of particular interest is any input that would help RMA determine the extent that producers want RMA to pursue such research and potential development of risk management strategies or products. RMA is also interested in receiving specific suggestions and concerns regarding the structure, scope, and limitations producers and producer groups want to be considered for such strategies or products. Anyone who is aware of insurance protection that is generally available from private companies to cover the risks that would likely be covered by recommended risk management strategies or products, is encouraged to advise RMA accordingly as indicated below.



6501 Beacon Drive \$ Kansas City, MO 64133

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

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Please provide your input to Ron Lundine by March 22, 2002, to assure its consideration. Mr. Lundine may be reached by e-mail at "Ronald_Lundine@rm.fcic.usda.gov," by fax at (816) 926-7343, 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 below are organizations that are being provided this Informational Memorandum. Anyone who is aware of other persons or organizations representing melon producers is encouraged to provide a copy of this Informational Memorandum to them and/or to advise Mr. Lundine how to contact them.

Arizona Farm Bureau
California - Arizona Watermelon Association
California Cantaloupe Advisory Board
California Farm Bureau
California Fresh Fruit Growers
Florida Farm Bureau
Florida State Horticultural Society
Florida Watermelon Association
Georgia Farm Bureau
Illiana Watermelon Association
South Carolina Watermelon Association
South Carolina Watermelon Board
Texas Farm Bureau
Texas-Oklahoma Watermelon Association
Texas Produce Association
The National Watermelon Association, Inc.
The North Carolina Watermelon Association
United Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Association
Western Growers Association

DISPOSAL DATE:

This Informational Memorandum is effective until the disposal date, April 30, 2002.