



United States
Department of
Agriculture

June 22, 2004

Risk
Management
Agency

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: R&D-04-020.1

6501 Beacon Drive
Kansas City,
MO 64133-4676

TO: All Reinsured Companies
All Risk Management Agency Offices
All Other Interested Parties

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

SUBJECT: Skip-Row Planting Pattern for Corn and Grain Sorghum

ISSUE:

On May 20, 2004, the Risk Management Agency (RMA) issued Informational Memorandum R&D-04-020 to address questions raised regarding the insurability of corn and grain sorghum planted in a skip-row planting pattern. RMA has received additional questions as to the applicability of the Informational Memorandum in areas where skip-row grain sorghum has been an established practice.

Informational Memorandum R&D-04-020 required a written agreement to insure corn and grain sorghum planted using a skip-row planting pattern where the practice was not an established practice. In areas where such skip-row planting is not an established practice, the experience would not have been included in the premium rates, production guarantees or amounts of insurance, as required in section 8(b)(1) of the Basic Provisions. Therefore, a written agreement is required to insure such acreage.

Since issuance of R&D-04-020, RMA has identified an area in Texas where planting grain sorghum in a skip-row planting pattern has been an established practice for many years.

ACTION:

The requirement for a written agreement contained in Informational Memorandum R&D-04-020 does not apply to areas where skip-row planting patterns have been an established practice (generally including, but not limited to, Andrews, Concho, Jones, Runnels, and Tom Green Counties in Texas) provided the following conditions are met:



The Risk Management Agency Administers
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- 1) The Actual Production History (APH) database is established for the skip-row planting pattern (2X1, 2X2, 8X1, etc.);
- 2) The insured demonstrates consistent use of the skip-row planting pattern;
- 3) The acres planted in a skip-row pattern have been consistently adjusted to the number of acres considered planted by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) using skip-row factors found in Exhibit 17, Table 4, "Acres Considered Planted by FSA" of the Crop Insurance Handbook; and
- 4) The skip-row planting pattern is considered to be a recognized good farming practice in the area.

Any questions regarding whether or not skip-row planting patterns are an established practice for a particular area should be directed to the applicable Regional Service Office.

In areas where the conditions stated above have not been met, insured producers may request a written agreement as stated in R&D-04-020. However, the conditions stated in 1), 3) and 4) will be considered in determining whether to approve a request for written agreement.

DISPOSAL:

This Informational Memorandum is providing information and does not change existing policy or procedure. The disposal date is December 31, 2004.