



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

May 20, 2004

Risk  
Management  
Agency

6501 Beacon Drive  
Kansas City,  
MO 64133-4676

**INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: R&D-04-020**

**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:**

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received several inquiries for the 2004 crop year regarding the insurability of corn and grain sorghum planted in skip-row planting patterns in Colorado, Nebraska, and Texas: and how to determine the insurance guarantee and amount of planted insurable acres.

**DISCUSSION:**

Skip-row planting patterns consist of alternate rows of unplanted, idle land (termed skips or blanks) between planted rows. RMA has been advised that some producers have agreed to plant a small portion of their acreage to corn in a skip-row planting pattern in response to the continuation of a research project that was conducted by the University of Nebraska last year. Additionally, RMA has been advised that some producers have planted grain sorghum in Texas in a skip-row planting pattern.

Although cotton producers have commonly used various skip-row planting patterns for many years, such planting patterns have not generally been used for corn and grain sorghum. Therefore, unlike the Cotton Crop Provisions, the Coarse Grains Crop Provisions do not contain provisions allowing the use of Farm Service Agency skip-row acreage factors to determine the insurable acreage or the use of a skip-row yield conversion factor to determine the insurance guarantee.

Section 8(b)(1) of the Common Crop Insurance Policy Basic Provisions (Basic Provisions) states the crop will not be insured:

“If the farming practices carried out are not in accordance with the farming practice for which the premium rates, production guarantees or amounts of insurance have been established, unless insurance is allowed by a written agreement.”



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

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A skip row farming practice for corn and grain sorghum is not in accordance with the farming practice for which premium rates, production guarantees, or amounts of insurance have been established.

**ACTION:**

Since corn and grain sorghum production guarantees or amounts of insurance have not been established based on skip-row planting patterns, any corn or grain sorghum planted using a skip-row planting pattern will not be insured under the terms of the Basic Provisions, unless a written agreement is in effect. If requested by the acreage reporting date, a written agreement may be issued establishing the amount of insurable acreage based on the skip-row planting pattern. A separate Actual Production History (APH) database will also be required for acreage planted in this manner.

**DISPOSAL:**

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