

For the 2014 growing season livestock producers have several choices to protect their pasture, rangeland, and annual forage production from losses. The following table provides an overview of each.

PRODUCT	IF	THEN	AVAILABLE	TECHNOLOGY	SCD/ARD	CAT
Rainfall Index - Annual Forage	<b>Annual</b> plants seeded on planted acreage and used for livestock feed or fodder	It is insurable	KS, NE, ND, OK, SD, TX	RI	Fall Planted 7/15 SCD* SD – 11/15 ARD* Spring Planted 12/15 SCD 7/15 ARD	Yes NAP is available for 2014. See Notice NAP - 153
Rainfall Index – Pasture, Rangeland and Forage (PRF)	A <b>Perennial</b> Forage must be planted prior to July 1st of the previous crop year Intended Use: Grazing or Mechanically Harvested	It is insurable	AL, AR, CA, FL, GA, KS, MD, MN, MO, MT, NE, NY, NC, ND, OK, PA, SC, SD, TX, VI, WI, and Eastern Colorado	RI	11/15 SCD 11/15 ARD	No NAP may be available. See “NAP” below
Vegetation Index – PRF	A <b>Perennial</b> Forage must be planted prior to July 1st of the previous crop year Intended Use: Grazing or Mechanically Harvested	It is insurable	AZ, ID, NV, NM, OR, UT, WY, and Western Colorado	VI	11/15 SCD 11/15 ARD	No NAP may be available. See “NAP” below
NAP	Grazed and Mechanically Harvested Forage <b>Perennial</b> and <b>Annual</b>	NAP is available	Nationwide	2 Independent Assessments from forage range specialists or similar mechanically harvested forage	Varies by State and County – Recommend contacting local county office for local dates.	N/A

SCD – Sales Closing Date

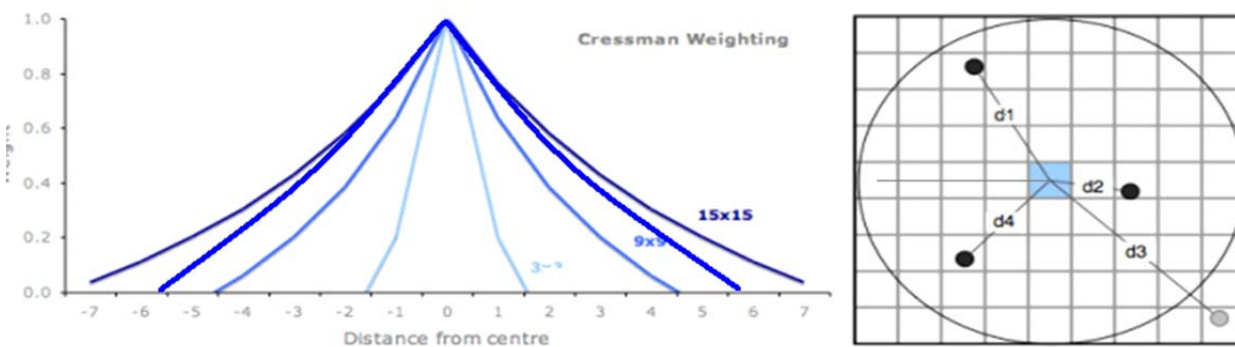
ARD – Acreage Reporting Date

## RAINFALL INDEX PLANS OF INSURANCE

The pilot Rainfall Index (RI) plan of insurance insures against a deviation from historical rainfall on an area basis referred to as grids. The RI plan covers Annual Forage, Apiculture, and Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage.

The RI plan of insurance utilizes NOAA Climate Prediction Center (CPC) gridded interpolated precipitation data since 1948 for specific 2-month time periods, referred to as index intervals. This establishes the baseline for each grid ID for determining if the rainfall for a current year deviates significantly from this established long term normal amount. The RI plan independently determines any indemnities for each two month interval.

The data is not simply the measurement of precipitation from a specific rain gauge(s) within a grid. Each day, NOAA CPC obtains data from the four reporting stations closest to the center of the grid that report data for that day. Different reporting stations may be used from day to day because not all reporting stations report data every day and the reporting station(s) used may be located outside the grid. Therefore, the precipitation data used for a grid is an interpolated value for the entire grid, cannot be traced to a single point or reporting station(s), may utilize data obtained from reporting stations located outside of the grid, and may not match the amount of precipitation received by a producer in a specific location. Only the precipitation received during the index interval is used; therefore, precipitation received during prior index intervals has no effect on subsequent index interval results. Below is an illustration of how the interpolation method is used.\*



\*Because the RI plan of insurance do not measure, capture, or utilize any actual crop production, a producer may experience a loss of production and not receive an indemnity payment. However, it is also possible for a producer to receive an indemnity payment without suffering a loss of actual production. The producer's amount of production is not considered and no on-the-ground inspection of crop conditions is conducted to determine eligibility for an indemnity payment. However, the index correlates well to forage growth and production.

It is critical that the producers use the Decision Support Tool and Historical Indices Tools at:

<http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/pasturerangeforage/> to determine how well the index correlates to their past forage production. RMA suggests comparing your production in prior years where you suffered a regional drought and a localized drought. The results of those comparisons will provide valuable insight into this plan of insurance.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) – USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields or prevented planting occur due to a natural disaster. For mechanically harvested forage NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage. For grazed forage NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected animal unit days. Grazed forage losses are determined based on 2 independent assessments conducted by forage range specialists or similarly mechanically harvested forage production for which an actual production history is established.

Contact your local crop insurance agent for additional information regarding insurance coverage for pasture, rangeland and forage or your local Farm Service Agency Service Center for additional information regarding NAP.