

July 2011

If you have any questions or problems with Crop Watch, please contact Underwriting at 800-662-5142 ext 6920.



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MPCI Acreage Report Deadlines for Spring Crops

ID / MN / MT / ND / SD / WY - June 30

IN / MI / MO / OH - July 15

CO - See Acreage Report for Due Date

See page 3 for Acreage Report Reminders

Authorized Representative

An Authorized Representative is any person authorized by the insured to make crop insurance decisions on behalf of the insured (i.e., Power of Attorney (POA) or Authorized Representative of a corporation, etc). The Authorization must be a legally executed agreement in writing which indicates the representative's name and details the authority granted.

Because RMA regulations state we are to have a legally executed document, we are reviewing our files and you may be asked to obtain and submit the proper documentation as required.

PREVENTED PLANTING

- ☒ All prevented planting claims **REQUIRE a timely filed notice of claim**. A notice of claim can be filed anytime AFTER the final planting date for the crop that was prevented from being planted, but not later than 72 hours after the end of the late planting period, which is 25 days for most crops.

For example, a crop with a May 31 final planting date and 25 day late planting period must have the notice of claim filed between June 1st and June 28th.
- ☒ If ANY crop is planted on the prevented planting acreage during the late planting period, there is no prevented planting.
- ☒ **Prevented planting acreage MUST be properly listed on the acreage report.**
- ☒ If any crop is planted after the end of the late planting period of the prevented planting crop, there will be a 65% reduction in the prevented planting payment. The prevented planting indemnity will also be reduced by 65% if the acreage is used for haying or grazing before Nov. 1. A cover crop may be planted on the acreage without indemnity reduction as long as it is not harvested, hayed or grazed.
- ☒ When entire fields are prevented from planting, the producer should report the crop which was intended. When partial fields are prevented from planting, the prevented planting crop must be reported as the crop or crops that are planted in the field. An exception can be made if in the past 4 years the crop reported as prevented planting and a second crop currently planted in the field were actually planted in the same field.
- ☒ **Claims cannot be finalized until the accurately completed and timely signed acreage report is processed.**

• CLAIMS....

Early Season Claims

If an insured submits a notice of claim prior to completion of the Acreage Report, it is imperative that the Acreage Report is completed as soon as the planting is completed. Crop Adjusters can inspect crop damage at any time, but the claim cannot be finalized until the Proof of Loss form is generated from the information contained in the timely filed Acreage Report.

Prior to completing the Acreage Report, we would encourage the insured to certify acreage and shares with their County FSA office. This will assist in accurately insuring all acres and the correct share when completing the Acreage Report.

MPCI Replant Claims

For crop policies with a replant provision, please remember:

1. The insured must file the claim before he replants.
2. A "replant" means replanting the same crop.
3. The replant must be at least 20 acres or 20% of the acres in the unit.
4. An adjuster must give consent to destroy the original planting.

There is NO REPLANT PAYMENT on CAT, GRP or GRIP policies.



Submitting Claim Notices

Submitting a claim notice over the web is fast and easy. After you login to the afbisinc.com website, click on "Report a Claim" at the top of the page. Enter the appropriate selection and click "GO". Please contact our Support Department if you have any problems at 800-662-5142 ext.6919.

Help Our Adjusters!

Please enter the cell phone number of the insured or any other pertinent information on the Notice of Claim that may assist our adjusters when contacting the insured.



MPCI Acreage Report Reminders

We ask that agents review their Acreage Reports for accuracy before sending them in. The following is a list of the most commonly missed items.

- 1 Verify all legals and/or FSN's are printed correctly. If a correction needs to be made, please correct and label as such. If it is not labeled, we will enter the FSN/legal as a new database.
- 2 Both the Agent and Insured must sign and date the report by the appropriate deadline. An Acreage Report will not be accepted without **both** signatures.
- 3 Verify all plant dates are listed.
- 4 Verify the insured's percent interest and, if applicable, any shareholder(s) name(s).
- 5 Total all the acres and enter the totals on the Coverage Summary page.
- 6 All acres must be reported by legal location and share (except GRP/GRIP policies).
- 7 If an FSN is reconstituted and results in farms being combined or divided, the date the reconstitution took place needs to be written on the acreage report. If the recon date is after the Production Reporting Date, the combining and dividing of the APH will not take place until next year. Underwriters will not be following up for this information.
- 8 All Acreage Reports are due either in the Fargo Regional Office or must be submitted on-line 10 business days after the Acreage Reporting Deadline.
- 9 Simple Average now defaults to a box checked "Yes."

Joint Venture Signature Requirement

All parties involved in a Joint Venture MUST sign ALL paperwork unless there is an Authorized Representative or Power of Attorney for the policy.

Do you have Organic Acreage?

On the date the acreage is reported, the insured must have an organic plan AND written certification (certificate) in effect from a certifying agency that shows the name of the person certified, effective date of certification, certification number, types of commodities certified, and the name and address of the certifying agency.

The organic plan is a written plan, in accordance with the National Organic Program published in 7 CFR part 205, that describes the organic farming practices that the insured and a certifying agent agree upon annually or at such other times as prescribed by the certifying agent. The organic plan will identify which acreage is certified organic, transitional, or buffer zone. The organic plans we have seen include field numbers, crops, and acreage totals.

Updating Farm Serial Numbers

When you are completing the insured's Production Report or Acreage Report, please update the Farm Serial Numbers (FSN) when shown as a 1 and also when a location has been assigned a new FSN by the county FSA. Now that RMA and FSA are data mining information, we need your help with cleaning up the databases showing the 1.

Added Land

The limitations are 640 acres and maximum 2000 acres. Acreage that exceeds 640 but is less than 2000 acres is sent to RMA for review.

Items needed for a review:

- Producer's written request form
- Previous crop year's APH
- Aerial Photos
- 578's or 156-EZ's

Deadline: Production Reporting Date or Acreage Reporting Date. Early submission is suggested.

Note: All acreage added over 2000 acres will receive a variable T-yield.

The following language is from the 2011 Basic Policy Provisions.
These Provisions must be met for the crop to be insurable.

INSURABLE ACREAGE – All States

(a) All acreage planted to the insured crop in the county in which you have a share:

(1) Except as provided in section 9(a)(2), is insurable if the acreage has been planted and harvested or insured (including insured acreage that was prevented from being planted) in any one of the three previous crop years. Acreage that has not been planted and harvested (grazing is not considered harvested for the purposes of section 9(a)(1)) or insured in at least one of the three previous crop years may still be insurable if:

(i) Such acreage was not planted:

(A) In at least two of the three previous crop years to comply with any other USDA program;

(B) Due to the crop rotation, the acreage would not have been planted in the previous three years (e.g., a crop rotation of corn, soybeans, and alfalfa; and the alfalfa remained for four years before the acreage was planted to corn again); or

(C) Because a perennial tree, vine, or bush crop was on the acreage in at least two of the previous three crop years;

(ii) Such acreage constitutes five percent or less of the insured planted acreage in the unit;

(iii) Such acreage was not planted or harvested because it was pasture or rangeland, the crop to be insured is also pasture or rangeland, and the Crop Provisions, Special Provisions, or a written agreement specifically allow insurance for such acreage; or

(iv) The Crop Provisions, Special Provisions, or a written agreement specifically allow insurance for such acreage; or

(2) Is not insurable if:

(i) **The only crop that has been planted and harvested on the acreage in the three previous crop years is a cover, hay (except wheat harvested for hay) or forage crop (except insurable silage). However, such acreage may be insurable only if:**

(A) The crop to be insured is a hay or forage crop and the Crop Provisions, Special Provisions, or a written agreement specifically allow insurance for such acreage; or

(B) The hay or forage crop was part of a crop rotation;

**FRO will be closed
Monday, July 4th
in observance of
Independence Day.**

****ATTENTION****

Agents in every state are required to keep signed documentation for all forms when information is submitted via the web – agents agree to this in writing when they accept the web procedure.

WHISTLEBLOWER PHONE NUMBER

The toll-free number for the
Inspector General's Hotline is 800-424-9121. ☎