



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Federal Crop
Insurance
Corporation

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September 18, 2014

TO: Board of Directors
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

FROM: Brandon C. Willis /signed/
Manager

SUBJECT: Manager's Report
Exhibit No. 4226

This document is the Manager's Report to the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Board of Directors (FCIC) meeting on September 18, 2014.

Farm Bill Work

Stacked Income Protection Plan for Producers of Upland Cotton (STAX): On August 12, RMA released policy materials and county availability for STAX.

Supplemental Coverage Option: On August 26, RMA released county availability maps on August 26 for spring crops corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, cotton, barley, and rice.

Whole-Farm Revenue Implementation Work and Training: RMA continues work on implementation for the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) insurance product. RMA is preparing to train contractors who have received partnerships with Risk Management Education to train throughout the United States on WFRP and specialty crops.

Research, Contracts, Studies, and Workgroups

Acreage and Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI): The ACRSI Team continues work to achieve:

- (1) Farm Bill requirement to demonstrate substantial progress towards development of a streamlined acreage reporting process for producers participating in USDA programs by September 30, 2014;
- (2) Farm Bill requirement to develop and implement streamlined acreage reporting processes that provide the option of electronic or conventional one-stop acreage reporting for producers participating in USDA programs by September 30, 2015; and
- (3) The broader ACRSI objectives of better data sharing capabilities between USDA agencies.

Biomass and Sweet Sorghum: A solicitation was released on August 15, 2014, for a contract to research and develop a policy to insure biomass sorghum and sweet sorghum that are grown expressly for the purpose of producing biofuel, renewable electricity, or bio-based products. The solicitation will close on September 17 and RMA will review the proposals shortly thereafter and forward acceptable proposals to the contracting officer.

Poultry Catastrophic Disease Loss: A statement of work and cost estimate for a contract to provide a feasibility study for poultry catastrophic disease losses was sent to the contracting officer. The solicitation is expected to be posted in September.

Data and Systems

Crop Insurance Decision Tool (CIDT): RMA publically released a web-based educational tool to help producers and agents understand how the Supplemental Coverage Option and Stacked Income Protection Plan interact with traditional crop insurance. The tool does not provide an exact quote, but rather generalizes the programs as a first step towards making a purchasing decision. RMA plans to release a mobile app version (iOS and Android) of the tool in October.

Staff Changes

Heather Manzano has been selected as the Deputy Administrator for Compliance effective Monday, August 25, 2014. She has over 22 years of experience with the agency and 15 years specifically with Compliance. She has served as the Associate Deputy Administrator and Acting Deputy Administrator for Insurance Services, overseeing RMA's 10 Regional Offices as well as the Risk Management Services Division, Reinsurance Services Division and Risk Management Education Division in headquarters. Prior to her position with Insurance Services, Heather served as a Supervisory Compliance Manager with the Deputy Administrator for Compliance, whose duties primarily involved overseeing the Special Investigations Branch.

Robert Ibarra will serve as Acting Deputy Administrator for Insurance Services effective Monday, August 25, 2014. Robert is currently the Director of the Risk Management Services Division and has 21 years of experience with the Risk Management Agency, previously serving in the Valdosta and Jackson Regional Offices.