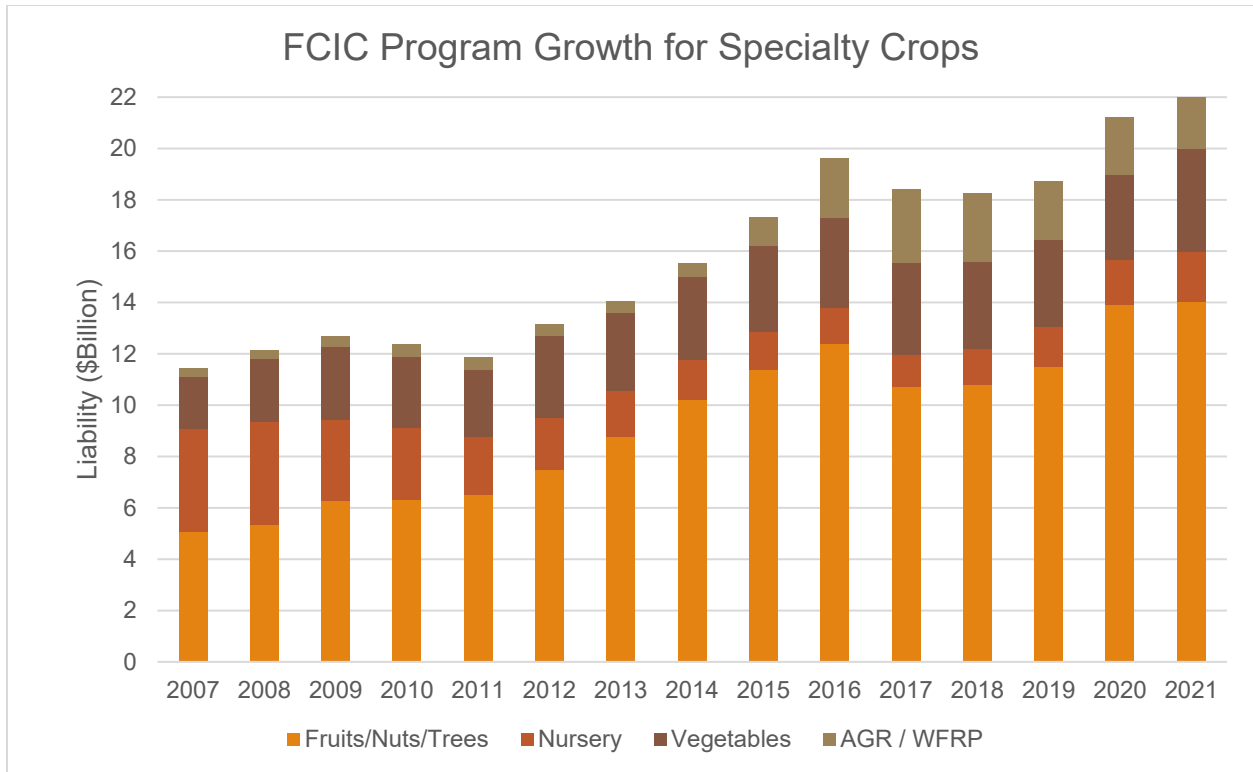


Date	Event	Participating RMA Office(s)	Purpose	Audience	Location
3/18/22	National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition	Product Management	Discuss recommendations to WFRP	NSAC representatives	Virtual
3/25/22	Processing Bean PPA Outreach	St. Paul RO	Obtain input for processing bean program	Regional producer groups, government offices, universities	E-mail
4/1/22	Florida Avocado Committee meeting	Valdosta RO	Obtain feedback on avocado program	Producer organizations	Virtual
4/5/22	Pecan PPA Outreach	Valdosta RO	Obtain recommendations for pecan program	University of Georgia extension representative	Virtual
5/16/22	Michigan Blueberry Kick-off	Springfield RO	Discuss ways to improve blueberry program	Michigan State University Extension	Virtual
7/12/22	Creamer Potato Program Improvement	Davis RO	Discuss ways to improve the potato program	Producer organizations	Virtual
7/12/22	PRH Discussion	Valdosta RO, Product Management	Discuss overview of PRH insurance plan	Producer, crop insurance agent	Virtual
7/25-7/28	New England Outreach	Raleigh RO, Product Management	Farm visits	Producers	New England states

Specialty Crop Program Improvements

RMA continually refines existing specialty crop programs to improve coverage and increase participation. Coverage for specialty crops overall has grown steadily over the past 15 years. In 2021, the amount of insurance for specialty crops totaled around \$22 billion, as shown in the chart below. The following are recently implemented improvements to programs.



- 2022 Crop Year Changes
 - Fresh Market Beans
 - This pilot program was converted to a permanent one based on its actuarial soundness and the overall acceptability of the program to producers, AIPs, and other interested parties.
 - Modified the policy by applying an overplanting factor to production counted during claim settlement to improve accuracy.
 - Grapes
 - Allowed producers with both contracted and non-contracted production the ability to use a weighted average price for their production.
 - Extended the acreage reporting date from January 15 to May 15 to allow producers additional time to finalize their contracts in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.
 - Clarified how to convert a contract price expressed in dollars per acre to dollars per ton.
 - Hemp
 - Added flexibility to insurability requirements for hemp under contract.

- Clarified how the amount of insurable acreage is determined if the processor contract specifies both an acreage and a production amount.
 - Added insurability requirement for producers who grow direct-seeded hemp to have acreage inspected and have met minimum plant requirements.
 - Pistachios
 - Revised the calculation for the Variability Adjustment Factor (VAF) to utilize the producer's actual yield data instead of using a fixed formula to calculate the VAF. The revision is supported by growers and will improve the accuracy of the insurance guarantee. The VAF is a ratio that adjusts the guarantee to account for the alternative bearing nature of the pistachio crop.
 - Added VAF maximums and minimums to be used when the calculated VAF is outside an established range to promote program soundness.
 - Sweet and Tart Cherries
 - Extended the end of insurance for revenue losses from January 15 to March 1 to accommodate producers in Michigan, New York, and Wisconsin who may not have sold their production by the previous end of insurance date to ensure producers can use their actual price when determining claims.
 - Recognize sweet cherries in Michigan as a distinct processing type that often receives a higher price than briner and other processing types.
 - Expanded coverage by allowing written agreement requests for sweet and tart cherries in all counties and states.
- 2023 Crop Year Changes
 - APH Caneberries
 - Simplified the program by removing the cut back, grow through, mow down, and new planting growing practices, alleviating the need for producers to maintain production records at the growing practice level. The change was made in response to feedback concerning the complexity of maintaining production records for locations containing multiple growing practices within the same field or unit.
 - Added insurance coverage for direct marketed caneberries.
 - Florida Avocado
 - Added a new mid-variety type, in response to producer requests and the Florida Avocado Administrative Committee. This mid-

variety type will better align insurance coverage with industry designations for early, mid, and late variety type growing practices and harvest periods.

- Florida Citrus APH
 - Expanded coverage for lemons to the counties of Broward, Charlotte, DeSoto, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Okeechobee, Osceola, Palm Beach, and Sarasota in Florida.
 - Moved the deadline for a revised acreage report and the date insurance attaches following a revised acreage report from March 1 to May 15 to allow additional time for ownership and lease changes.
 - Removed the acreage limitation for producers insuring a contract price. Producers with both contracted and non-contracted production can use a weighted average price to value their production.
 - Allowed state required, detailed trip tickets to be considered as acceptable production records for APH purposes when multiple units are commingled in a single conveyance (truck, fruit trailer, etc.).
 - Provided quality adjustment for low juice content due to an insurable cause of loss to fruit production insured as fresh but later sold as juice. This makes the policy more consistent with the Florida Citrus Fruit Dollar Plan, which will provide for an easier transition from the Dollar Plan to the APH plan.
- Hurricane Insurance Protection – Wind Index (HIP-WI)
 - Clarified policy provisions and terms to indicate that coverage provided by this endorsement may be combined with other endorsements that do not duplicate the coverage of HIP-WI and is not limited to the Supplement Coverage Option Endorsement and the Stacked Income Protection Plan.
- Hybrid Vegetable Seed
 - Revised the policy to determine the amount of insurance in terms of gross acres instead of female acres. This alleviates the need for calculations to convert to gross and female acres.
- Pecan Trees
 - Several program modifications were implemented to simplify the program to increase producer participation.
 - Reduced the number of pecan tree improved variety group types from 3 to 2. This simplification should help adjusters administer loss adjustment in the field.





- Reduced the number of growth stages available from 5 to 3. This simplification should reduce the administrative burden for the producer and AIPs to report and track tree stages for underwriting and loss adjustment purposes.
- Eliminated “native” type of trees in states where pecan trees do not grow naturally. All other states in which native pecans represent most or a large proportion of the pecan acreage will continue to offer insurability for native trees meeting the commercial orchard definition.
- Removed organic practices and the restoration method choices used to calculate liability and premium. This is intended to simplify the actuarial documents, recognizing that these organic practices do not apply to the replacement and rehabilitation coverage provided for insurable pecan trees.
- Improved pricing accuracy by offering separate tree reference prices for irrigated and non-irrigated practices.
- Removed drought as a cause of loss for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina due to the lower probability of extended drought damage in these areas.

See the Appendix for the information below concerning specialty crop insurance programs.

- Individual Specialty Crops Insured Under 2021 Crop Insurance Programs
- Market penetration by categories of fruits/nuts and vegetables
- RMA/NASS specialty crop comparison tables
- Top specialty crops in liabilities

RMA is committed to continue its focus on expanding crop insurance options for specialty crop producers.