

MGR-23-007

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Date

December 5, 2023

To

All Approved Insurance Providers

All Risk Management Agency Field Offices

All Other Interested Parties

From

Marcia Bunger, Administrator

Subject

Relay Cropping Practice Insurable by Written Agreement for Soybeans seeded into a small grain crop or camelina for the 2024 and Succeeding Crop Years

Background

Beginning in February 2022, the Risk Management Agency (RMA) allowed written agreements for a new relay cropping practice for soybeans seeded into a small grain crop through Manager's Bulletin MGR-22-002 and, subsequently, through [MGR-22-009](#) for the 2023 crop year. This MGR replaces [MGR-22-009](#) beginning with the 2024 crop year. This expanded insurance opportunity addresses climate change, soil degradation, and depletion of natural resources, all of which are challenges for crop productivity and environmental sustainability. Policyholders view relay cropping as a tool for crop diversification with special focus on soil health and the potential of increasing overall production value on the acreage. This practice utilizes acres to produce two crops for harvest within the same crop year. The most commonly reported relay cropping practice is planting soybeans into an established winter small grain crop, such as wheat, barley, or rye.

Relay cropping is defined as:

A cropping practice where a second-planted crop (“relay crop”) is planted (using a generally recognized seeding rate) into an established crop (other than a cover crop) where the crops are planted in a manner that allows separate agronomic maintenance and harvest of the crops unless otherwise defined in the Crop Provisions. Damage to either crop during planting, harvest, or general maintenance of either crop will be considered an uninsurable cause of loss.

Under the relay cropping practice, the first crop is harvested above the immature relay crop, thereby limiting damage to the relay crop. The relay crop is harvested later in the growing year during its normal harvest period.

Action

For the 2024 and succeeding crop years, RMA will allow soybeans relay cropped into an established small grain or camelina crop (insured or uninsured) to be insurable via written agreement in accordance with section 9(a)(2)(iii) of the [Common Crop Insurance Policy Basic Provisions](#) (CCIP Basic Provisions).

Written Agreement Requirements:

To insure relay cropped soybeans, the policyholder must submit an unrated practice/type (TP) type request for a written agreement in accordance with section 18 of the CCIP Basic Provisions and the 2024 and succeeding [Written Agreement Handbook](#) (WAH).

Renewal Requests:

Policyholders requesting to renew a written agreement for relay-cropped soybeans must follow the requirements in the WAH. For renewal requests:

- The deadline is the sales closing date;
- Evidence of adaptability is not required; and
- Minimum production history requirements listed below for new requests do not apply to renewal requests. Refer to the production history requirements in Paragraph 22B (3) of the WAH for required information that must accompany renewal requests.

New Requests:

Policyholders requesting a new written agreement for relay cropped soybeans must follow the requirements in the WAH. For new requests:

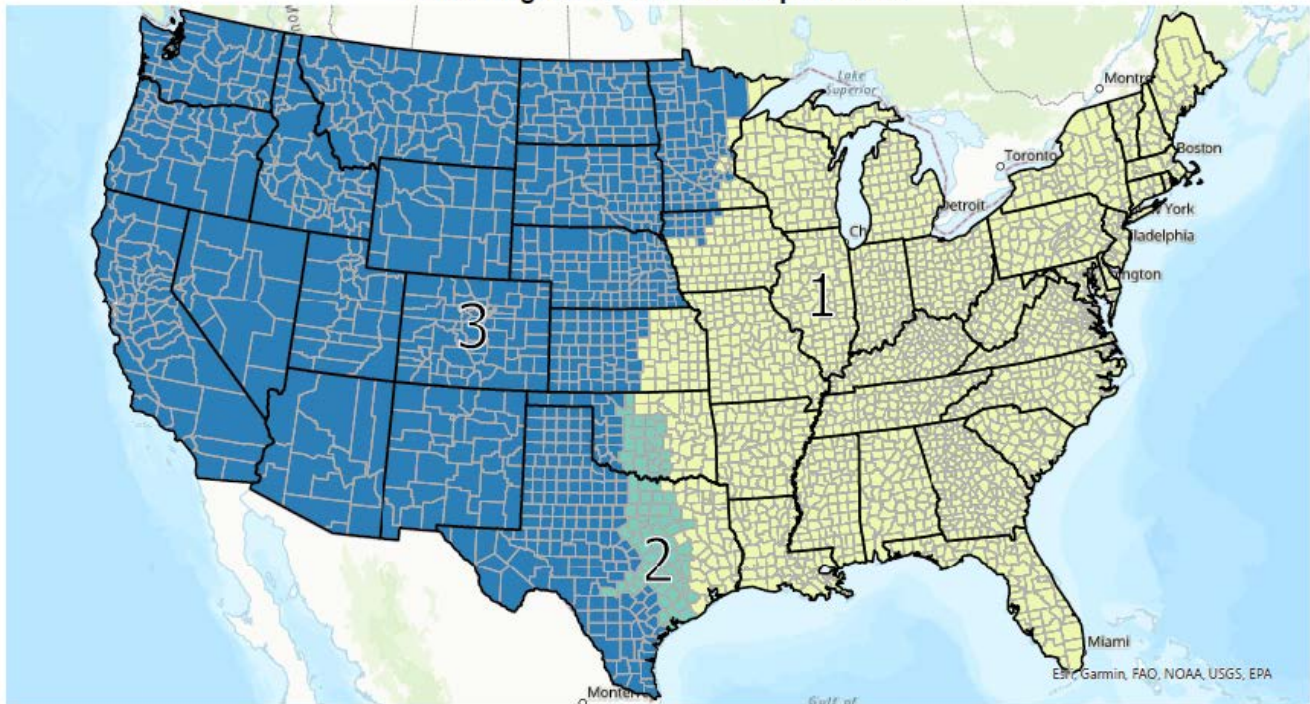
- The deadline is the acreage reporting date;
- Evidence of adaptability is required from an agricultural expert that relay cropping is an acceptable practice for the requested location; and
- Minimum production history as required for the zones below.

Policyholders requesting a written agreement for the non-irrigated relay cropping practice in a county on the map below located in:

- Zone 1 - requires no prior relay cropping actual production history;
- Zone 2 - must submit at least the most recent two years of their relay cropping actual production history from the county; or
- Zone 3 - must submit at least the most recent three years of their relay cropping actual production history from the county.

Policyholders requesting a written agreement for the irrigated practice in any of the zones do not need to submit prior relay cropping actual production history.

Relay Crop Written Agreement Record Requirements



Relay Crop Zones

Zone 1 - No Records Required

Zone 2 - Two Year Records Requirement

Zone 3 - Three Year Records Requirement

All Zones - Irrigated Practice - No Record Requirement

This map depicts written agreement record requirement zones for relay crops. Insurance is available, by written agreement, in all of the contiguous United States. Counties without soybean actuarial documents must submit an XC type written agreement for the crop to be insurable.

The information displayed in this map is intended to serve as an aid in displaying data provided or stored by the Risk Management Agency. It does not modify, replace or supersede any USDA published policy provisions or procedures.

Maps created by USDA Risk Management Agency are for spatial and visual context for depicting the basic information for "where". Maps are not considered a survey. General Reference Only.

-- Public Information --

Map Creation Date: October 24, 2023

Layer Credits: USDA, NOAA

Source: USDA Risk Management Agency

Data Current Date: October 24, 2023

Map Projection: USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic

RMA Risk Management Services Division



[Relay Crop for Zones 1, 2, and 3 Text \(PDF\)](#)

Interested producers should contact their crop insurance agent for further information and guidance on how to submit their written agreement request. If a producer is not currently working with a crop insurance agent, a list of agents can be found on the RMA website at www.rma.usda.gov/tools-reports/agent-locator.

RMA Regional Offices are permitted to exclude soybean Special Provisions statements that restrict the relay cropping practice through the individual written agreement offer.