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[**USDA Announces New Grapevine Insurance Program to Protect Against Natural Hazards**](#)

News Release |

Washington DC

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 29, 2023 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that it is expanding crop insurance options with a new Grapevine insurance program, which will provide coverage for loss of grafted vines caused by natural perils such as freeze or fire. The new program also will complement the Grape crop insurance program that covers the fruit growing on the vine.

“We are always striving to offer the strongest risk management resources for our nation’s agricultural producers—sometimes by improving an already existing product or identifying a gap in crop insurance options and creating a new product like this one for Grapevine,” said Marcia Bunger, Administrator for the USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA). “A program like this is especially critical when you realize the loss of fruit can affect a grower for a season, but the loss of a grapevine is a much more costly situation, both in money and the time it takes to reestablish a productive vine. This is one of the strongest reasons producers were requesting coverage possibilities like this Grapevine insurance program — and we listened.”

The Grapevine insurance program is based on the Tree Based Dollar Amount of Insurance (TDO) Plan and includes an Occurrence Loss Option that provides coverage for smaller losses, at an additional premium, for producers with buy-up coverage.

It is classified as a “mortality policy,” paying losses when the vine is dead or so badly damaged it will not recover in the following 12 months. The program covers

freeze, fire, hail, flood, and failure of the irrigation water supply caused by an unavoidable, naturally occurring event. Producers using Freeze Protection practices in their operation that are recognized by industry experts can also benefit from lower premium costs under the program.

The program will be available in select counties in California, Idaho, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington for the 2024 crop year. The deadline for signing up for insurance is Nov. 1, 2023.

More Information

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the [RMA Agent Locator](#). Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at rma.usda.gov or by contacting your [RMA Regional Office](#).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit usda.gov.

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Risk Management Agency:

1400 Independence Ave. SW Washington, DC 20250

Contact:

FPAC Press Desk

FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov