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## [USDA Expands Crop Insurance Coverage for Sesame Nationwide](#)

News Release |

Washington DC

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**WASHINGTON, Nov.17, 2023** - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now offering crop insurance for sesame producers nationwide. Beginning in the 2024 crop year, USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) is expanding the Actual Production History (APH) plan to allow producers to request written agreements anywhere sesame or a similar crop has been grown successfully. RMA is expanding the program in response to requests from sesame producers.

“USDA has seen an increased interest in sesame production over the last few years due in large part to the fact that sesame is a low-input, drought, and heat tolerant crop,” RMA Administrator Marcia Bungler said. “After listening to feedback, the Risk Management Agency worked with producers to develop crop insurance options that will help producers begin or expand their sesame production.”

The APH plan is specifically for clean, dry sesame. In the 2023 crop year, producers insured more than 35,000 acres of sesame with more than \$9 million in liabilities. The sesame APH plan of insurance is already available in select counties in Alabama, Georgia, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas without a written agreement. Prior to the 2024 crop year, written agreements were limited to specified counties. Producers will now be able to request written agreements anywhere sesame or similar crops such as cotton, wheat, and grain sorghum are successfully grown.

Non-dehiscent sesame resists shattering at maturity, allowing it to be harvested with the same equipment used for wheat. Producers have incorporated sesame into their

usual rotation of corn or grain sorghum, wheat, and cotton.

Additionally, RMA is expanding the availability of enterprise units to sesame, giving sesame producers greater options to manage their risk. An enterprise unit allows a producer to insure all acres of the insured crop in the county together, as opposed to other unit structures that separate the acreage for insurance. Enterprise units are attractive to producers due to lower premium rates offered to recognize the lower risk associated with the geographic diversification. In general, the larger the enterprise unit, the lesser the risk, and the greater the enterprise unit discount.

Producers that are interested in planting and insuring sesame should speak to their crop insurance agent to get additional details, including upcoming sales closing dates for their area and written agreement requirements.

### **More Information**

Sesame producers and other specialty crop producers can learn more on [RMA's Specialty Crops webpage](#) or by contacting one of RMA's specialty crop liaisons, who serve as contacts for local specialty crop producers. Producers can receive the most up to date information about RMA insurance options for specialty and organic crops by subscribing to [RMA email updates](#).

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](#). Producers can learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at [rma.usda.gov](http://rma.usda.gov) or by contacting their [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](http://usda.gov).

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