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New Whole-Farm Revenue Protection Insurance Premium Subsidy Established *2014 Farm Bill Required Policy Offers Diversified Farms More Affordable Protection*

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3, 2014 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) today announced that a premium subsidy has been established to offer more affordable protection to eligible diversified farm operations, as part of the new Whole-Farm Revenue Protection insurance policy.

Whole-Farm Revenue Protection, required by the 2014 Farm Bill, will be offered through the RMA managed federal crop insurance program. The new policy will offer fruit and vegetable growers and producers with diversified farms selling commodities to wholesale markets, local and regional markets, farm identity preserved markets, or direct markets, more flexible, affordable risk management coverage options.

"Crop insurance options continue to adapt to meet the farm safety net needs of today's farmers," said RMA Administrator Brandon Willis. "Whole-Farm Revenue Protection insurance will expand options for specialty crop, organic and diversified crop producers, allowing them to insure all the crops at once instead of one commodity at a time. That gives them the option of promoting crop diversity and helps support the production of a wider variety of healthy foods."

The new policy will offer a whole-farm premium subsidy to farms with two or more commodities as long as minimum diversification requirements are met. This will provide diversified farms a higher premium subsidy than previously available. Farms with only one commodity will continue to receive the standard subsidy rate used for basic units.

Whole-farm insurance allows farmers to insure all of the crops and livestock on their farm under one insurance policy rather than insuring each commodity separately. Farmers will be able to purchase insurance coverage at levels that fit their risk management needs. The coverage levels can range anywhere from 50 to 85 percent, depending on what producers feel is appropriate for their businesses. The new Whole-Farm Revenue Protection Policy will be offered as a pilot program for the 2015 insurance year. More information, including availability of the new policy, will be available mid-November on the RMA website at www.rma.usda.gov. All federal crop insurance is sold solely through crop insurance agents. To find a crop insurance agent, go to: www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html.

Today's announcement was made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill. The 2014 Farm Bill builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years, while achieving meaningful

reform and billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

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