



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Federal Crop
Insurance
Corporation

FCIC-20018U (11-2024)

DOWNED RICE CROP INSURANCE STANDARDS HANDBOOK

2025 and Succeeding Crop Years

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

TITLE: Downed Rice Crop Insurance Standards Handbook	NUMBER: FCIC-20018U OPI: Product Administration and Standards Division
EFFECTIVE DATE: 2025 and Succeeding Crop Years	ISSUE DATE: November 8, 2024
SUBJECT: Provides the underwriting procedures and instructions for administering the Downed Rice Endorsement Crop Insurance Program.	APPROVED: <i>/s/ John W. Underwood for</i> Deputy Administrator for Product Management

REASON FOR ISSUANCE

This handbook provides procedures and instructions for administering the Downed Rice Crop Insurance Program for the 2025 and succeeding crop years. This handbook is effective for the 2025 and succeeding crop years and is not retroactive to any 2024 or prior crop year determinations.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Listed below are the changes to the FCIC-20018U Downed Rice Crop Insurance Standards Handbook. All changes or additions are highlighted. Minor changes and corrections are not included in this listing. *** used throughout the handbook indicate where major deletions occurred.

Reference	Description of Change
Throughout	Updated the handbook format. Throughout the amended pages, changes were made to correct spelling, punctuation, formatting, and to correct subparagraph and section numbering.
Cover page	Deleted the blank page after the cover page.
TP	Control Chart was removed.
Para. 1A	Added statement for effective date of standards for consistency with other handbooks.
Para. 1C	Added required Civil Rights Act language.
Para. 1D	Added Related Handbooks table and language.
Para. 11	Added clarification that optional units by irrigated and non-irrigated practices do not apply.
Para. 13	Renamed to General Requirements.
Exhibit 1	Removed acronyms and abbreviations that can be found in the GSH.
Exhibit 3	Reserved Exhibit.
Exhibit 4	Removed Loss Adjuster responsibilities, this language exists in the DR LASH.

DOWNED RICE CROP INSURANCE STANDARDS HANDBOOK

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PART 1: GENERAL INFORMATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1 General Information

A. Purpose

- (1) The purpose of this handbook is to provide supplementary instructions for establishing Rice crop insurance coverage in accordance with the Rice CP (11-0018) and the Downed Rice Endorsement (25-DR-0018A), and as a supplement to the CIH (FCIC-18010) and any other issuance that may be referenced herein. The supplemental RMA-issued standards for this crop and crop year are in effect as of the signature date for this handbook at www.rma.usda.gov.

This handbook remains in effect until superseded by reissuance of the entire handbook subject to any directives contained in any bulletin or FAD released by RMA. A bulletin or FAD can supersede selected portions of the handbook.

- (2) The Rice Crop Insurance Program is an APH based program. The CIH applies and provides instruction for coverage and insurability determinations in conjunction with the BP and Rice CP.
- (3) This DR CISH provides specific information regarding the administration and underwriting of the DRE. All procedures, rules, and requirements for DRE will follow the procedures and provisions in the CIH, BP, and Rice CP except for the differences indicated in this handbook and DRE.
- (4) If a conflict exists between the language of the CISH and the CIH, the language of this handbook will control. If a conflict exists between the language of this handbook and the BP, Rice CP, and/or DRE; the BP, Rice CP, and/or DRE, as applicable, will control.

B. Source of Authority

The DRE is a product approved by the FCIC Board of Directors under Section 508(h) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act. This handbook, in conjunction with other applicable handbooks, provides the FCIC approved procedures for administering the program.

C. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

The USDA prohibits discrimination against its customers. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides that “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” Therefore, programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance must operate in a non-discriminatory manner. Also, a recipient of RMA funding may not retaliate against any person because they opposed an unlawful practice or policy, or made charges, testified, or participated in a complaint under Title VI.

C. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Continued)

It is the AIPs’ responsibility to ensure that standards, procedures, methods, and instructions, as authorized by FCIC in the sale and service of crop insurance contracts, are implemented in a manner compliant with Title VI. Information regarding Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the program discrimination complaint process is available on the USDA public website at www.usda.gov/oascr. For more information on the RMA Non-Discrimination Statement, see the DSSH.

D. Related Handbooks

The following table identifies handbooks that shall be used in conjunction with this handbook.

Handbook	Relation/Purpose
CIH	This handbook provides the official FCIC-approved underwriting standards for policies administered by AIPs for the General Administrative Regulations, CCIP BP, and ARPI BP.
DSSH	This handbook provides the official FCIC-approved form standards for use in the sale and service of any eligible Federal crop insurance policy; required statements and disclosures; and the standards for submission and review of non-reinsured supplemental policies in accordance with the SRA.
GSH	This handbook provides the official FCIC-approved standards for policies administered by AIPs under the General Administrative Regulations, CCIP BP, including the CAT Endorsement; the ARPI BP; the STAX Plan of Insurance; the Rainfall Index Plans; and the WFRP Pilot Policy.
LAM	This handbook provides the official FCIC-approved general loss adjustment standards for all levels of insurance provided under FCIC unless a publication specifies that none or only specified parts of this handbook apply.
DR LASH	This handbook provides specific loss adjustment procedures for DR.

(1) Terms, abbreviations, and definitions general (not crop specific) are identified in the GSH and LAM.

(2) Terms, abbreviations, and definitions specific to DR are listed in [Exhibits 1](#) and [2](#), herein.

E. Duration

The DRE became available beginning with the 2013 crop year and is authorized until terminated by FCIC.

F. AIP Option to Offer

Because this is a product approved under Section 508(h) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, AIPs are not required to offer the DRE to insureds. Accordingly, each AIP must determine whether they will offer the DRE in the designated approved areas. AIPs that elect to offer the program must offer it to all eligible producers in the approved areas and must administer the DRE according to the procedures in this handbook.

1 General Information (Continued)

G. Approved Area

The DRE is available where premium rates and other actuarial materials are included in the [AD](#) for the county.

H. Applying for the DRE

AIPs shall use the standard application for the DRE.

2 Responsibilities

A. AIP

AIPs must use standards, procedures, methods, and instructions as authorized by FCIC in the sale and service of crop insurance contracts. Each AIP is responsible for using FCIC-approved procedure. AIPs should report any program issues or concerns to the Product Administration and Standards Division of the RMA.

B. Insured

To be eligible for the DRE, insureds must elect the DRE on the application or policy change form and comply with all terms and conditions of the BP, Rice CP, and the DRE.

C. Agent/AIP

See [Exhibit 4](#) for a list of responsibilities at the time of damage or loss.

3-10 (Reserved)

PART 2: DOWNED RICE ENDORSEMENT

11 Background Information

- (1) The DRE became available beginning with the 2013 crop year for states and counties listed in the AD. DR is rice which falls over due to wind or rain such that the rice is flattened or leaning and requires harvesting in such a way that it leaves a stubble height of eight inches or less unless a different height is allowed in the SP. The DRE does not affect CIH and insurance determinations related to coverage and insurability of the underlying rice crop insured under the Rice CP.
- (2) DRE coverage is based on the additional harvest expense required to harvest DR. The expense amount varies by state and is specified in the AD. The BP and Rice CP provide the underlying policy structure and are applicable except where the DRE differs, in which cases the DRE applies.
- (3) The DRE is elected at the time of application or by the SCD for rice using standard application procedures. An option code contained on the AD is used to indicate the insured's coverage election.
- (4) The percentage of the projected price elected for the applicable plan of insurance coverage under the Rice CP will apply to DRE premium and indemnity calculations.
- (5) Standard acreage reporting procedures apply except the insured must submit maps or aerial photos that clearly identify the unit and individual fields within each unit shown on the acreage report.
- (6) Insureds must have a 100 percent share for the DRE without regard to the share arrangement of the underlying rice policy.
- (7) Notices of damage or loss, loss adjustment, and DR payments are determined on an individual unit basis following loss adjustment procedures contained in the DR LASH.
- (8) The unit arrangement elected by insureds under the DRE may be different than the unit arrangement elected under the Rice CP.
 - (a) Insureds may elect only basic or optional units under the DRE unless the SP authorizes enterprise or whole-farm units.
 - (b) Optional units by irrigated and non-irrigated practices do not apply.
- (9) Coverage under the DRE will attach when the rice crop is planted. Prevented planted acreage in not insurable under the DRE.

12 Availability

The DRE will be offered in the following states and counties in which the rice insurance program is available:

State	County
Arkansas	All rice counties listed in the AD
Illinois	All rice counties listed in the AD
Louisiana	All rice counties listed in the AD
Mississippi	All rice counties listed in the AD
Missouri	All rice counties listed in the AD
Tennessee	All rice counties listed in the AD
Texas	All rice counties listed in the AD

13 General Requirements

A. Insured's Eligibility

Insureds must:

- (1) be in an eligible county for DRE;
- (2) be insured under the BP and Rice CP (for either yield or revenue protection plans as elected by the insured under the Rice CP);
- (3) elect additional coverage (not available for CAT); and
- (4) incur 100 percent of the actual costs of harvesting the insured DR acreage for the DRE unit.

B. Eligible Acreage

All insurable planted rice acreage of all insurable types in the county where the DRE is offered as specified in the AD.

C. Election

Coverage must be elected on the application or policy change form on or before the applicable SCD for rice in the eligible county.

D. Continuous Option

The DRE is continuous and will remain in effect unless:

- (1) cancelled in writing by the insured on or before the applicable cancellation date for the effective crop year; or
- (2) the DRE is terminated by the FCIC.

13 General Requirements (Continued)

E. Cancellation

Cancellation or termination of the rice policy automatically cancels or terminates the DRE.

F. Transfer

If the rice policy is transferred to a different AIP, the DRE is cancelled and must be elected by the insured with the new AIP on or before the applicable SCD for rice.

G. Other Program Dates

All other program dates (e.g., contract change, billing, insurance period, etc.) contained in the Rice CP apply to the DRE.

14 Acreage Reporting Guidelines

A. Acreage Reporting

- (1) DRE insured acreage is reported by the acreage reporting date for rice in the applicable county AD;
- (2) DRE acreage for the unit is reported to RMA separately on the acreage report and designated by the option code "DC" contained in the AD;
- (3) The unit arrangement elected by the insured under the DRE may be different from the unit arrangement elected under the Rice CP; and

Example: The insured has elected an EU on their underlying rice policy and OUs on the DRE. The agent must submit the DRE insured planted acreage on the acreage report separately with the option code of "DC" on the AD and with OUs.

Underlying Rice Policy

Unit #:	Share	Acres	DRE Share	Option Code
0001-0001 EU	100 percent	150	N/A	N/A
0001-0002 EU	100 percent	60	N/A	N/A
0002-0000 EU	50 percent	80	N/A	N/A
0003-0000 EU	60 percent	220	N/A	N/A

DRE

Unit #:	Share	Acres	DRE Share	Option Code
0001-0001 OU	N/A	150	100 percent	DC
0001-0002 OU	N/A	60	100 percent	DC
0002-0000 BU	N/A	80	100 percent	DC
0003-0000 BU	N/A	220	100 percent	DC

14 Acreage Reporting Guidelines (Continued)

A. Acreage Reporting (Continued)

- (4) The insured must provide a map(s) or other acceptable media which locates the insured acreage for each insured rice unit (including individual fields in the unit) in the county.

B. DRE Share

- (1) Must be 100 percent.
- (2) Only one DRE is allowed for the policy and is applied on a unit basis. If the insured is not responsible (or does not assume responsibility) for 100 percent of the harvest cost for the downed rice acreage on the unit, (e.g., harvest costs are shared with another person), the unit is not eligible for DRE coverage and a DR payment and the AIP must revise the acreage report in accordance with procedures in the CIH.

15 Premium Determination

- (1) The additional premium amount for this coverage will be determined by multiplying the number of insured planted acres of rice by the harvest expense amount (per acre) by the premium rate for the DRE contained in the **AD** and by the insured's percentage of the projected price; and
- (2) The insured must pay the additional premium by the due date contained in the **BP** or the consequences in section 2 of the **BP** will apply.

Example: The insured has one unit with 100 planted acres of rice. The harvest expense amount (per acre) is \$67.00. The premium rate is 12 percent. The insured's percentage of the projected price is 100 percent. The insured's premium is calculated as follows:

Total Premium = 100 acres of rice × 12% premium rate × \$67.00 harvest expense amount × 100% of the projected price = \$804

Producer Paid Premium = (\$804 × (1 – 0.38 Subsidy Factor)) = \$498

16 Written Agreements

Written agreements applicable under the BP and Rice CP are applicable to the DRE. Written agreements that alter the provisions of the DRE are not authorized.

17-20 (Reserved)

PART 3: DOWNED RICE ENDORSEMENT PAYMENT RULES

21 General Information

DR payments will not be made on any DR acreage:

- (1) harvested prior to meeting the notice requirements contained in the DRE;
- (2) that does not meet the eligibility requirements of the DRE; **or**
- (3) that is not harvested.

Note: DR payments are made in addition to any other indemnities or payments made under the Rice CP.

22 Qualifications for a DR Payment

To qualify for a DR payment, the DR acreage must:

- (1) be eligible acreage;
- (2) be greater than the DR deductible (see [Exhibit 2](#)) for the unit; and
- (3) qualify as harvested DR.

23-30 (Reserved)

PART 4: DOWNED RICE ENDORSEMENT PAYMENT CALCULATIONS

31 General Information

- (1) The DR payment is the result of multiplying the payable DR acres times the harvest expense amount (per acre) times the insured's percentage of the projected price.
- (2) The applicable harvest expense amount (per acre) is contained in the **AD**.

32 Payment Calculations

The amount of the DR payment is determined as follows based on the provisions contained in the DRE:

- (1) Multiply the insured planted acreage in the unit by 10 percent (determines the maximum deductible for the unit);
- (2) Multiply the insured planted acreage in the unit by 50 percent;
- (3) If the acres of harvested DR in the unit is less than or equal to the result of (1) above, no DR payment will be made;
- (4) If the acres of harvested DR in the unit are greater than the result of (1) above, determine the payable DR acres as follows:
 - (a) If the acres of harvested DR in the unit are more than the result of (1) above but less than the result of (2) above, the payable DR acres are determined by subtracting the result of (1) above from the acres of harvested DR and multiplying the result by 1.25; or
 - (b) If the acres of harvested DR in the unit are equal to or greater than the result of (2) above, the payable DR acres is equal to actual acres of harvested DR; and
- (5) Multiply the applicable result of (4)(i) or (ii) above by the harvest expense amount (per acre) and by the insured's percentage of projected price.

Example: The insured has one unit with 100 eligible acres of rice. Damaging winds resulted in a total of 45 acres of harvested DR. The harvest expense amount (per acre) is \$67.00. The insured's percentage of the projected price is 100 **percent**.

Steps:

- (1) 100 eligible acres of rice × 10 percent = 10 acres;
- (2) 100 eligible acres of **rice** × 50 percent = 50 acres;
- (3) 45 harvested DR acres is greater than step (1). Go to step (4);
- (4) 45 harvested DR acres is less than step (2); then 45 acres – 10 acres = 35 acres;
- (5) 35 acres × 1.25 = 43.8 payable DR acres;
- (6) DR payment = \$2,935 (43.8 payable DR acres × \$67.00 harvest expense amount × 100 **percent** of the insured's projected price).

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 Acronyms and Abbreviations

The following table contains RMA-approved acronyms used in this handbook that are specific to this program/crop. Other acronyms that are not listed here can be found in the GSH.

Approved Acronym/Abbreviation	Term
CISH	Crop Insurance Standards Handbook
DR	Downed Rice
DRE	Downed Rice Endorsement

Downed Rice: Rice that falls over due to wind or rain such that the rice is flattened or leaning and requiring the rice to be harvested in such a way that it leaves a stubble height of eight inches or less unless a different height is allowed in the Special Provisions.

Downed Rice Deductible: The amount of downed rice acreage that must be harvested before any payment will be made under this Endorsement. The deductible is initially equal to 10 percent of the insured acreage in the unit. The downed rice deductible will decrease as the percentage of the insured acreage in the unit which qualifies as harvested downed rice increases. If the number of harvested downed rice acres is 50 percent or more of the insured acreage in the unit, the downed rice deductible will equal zero.

Eligible Acreage: All insured planted rice acreage that is located in a county where the actuarial documents provide downed rice coverage.

Flattened: Downed rice which is lying flat on the ground.

Harvest Expense Amount (per acre): The additional expense per acre to harvest downed rice as contained in the actuarial documents.

Harvested Downed Rice: Downed rice, including adjacent areas of standing rice, that is harvested in such a way that it leaves a stubble height of eight inches or less unless a different height is allowed in the Special Provisions. The acreage of harvested downed rice may include all acreage in the field or any part of the field if the normal harvesting practices would require the rice to be harvested as downed rice.

Leaning: Rice that falls over due to wind or rain to the extent that the rice stalks are bent at an angle less than 45 degrees unless otherwise allowed in the Special Provisions.

Payable Downed Rice Acres: The number of acres that qualify for a downed rice payment. Payable downed rice acres are equal to the acres of harvested downed rice minus the downed rice deductible.

A. Insured Responsibilities

- (1) Notify the agent within 24 hours of the:
 - (a) discovery of DR acreage in the unit;
 - (b) cause (wind or rain) of DR damage; and
 - (c) date of damage.

- (2) Report the estimated number of acres within the unit:
 - (a) that has been harvested;
 - (b) of unharvested DR acreage; and
 - (c) of unharvested rice that is not downed.

- (3) Include in the notice the:
 - (a) map number of the field containing the DR acreage;
 - (b) location of the DR acreage in the field (e.g., north side, southeast corner, etc.); and
 - (c) expected harvest date for all unharvested acreage.

- (4) Photographic documentation:
 - (a) If required by the AIP for any pre-harvest inspection, the insured must provide two different photographs for each separate DR location identified by the insured;
 - (b) The photographs must have been provided at the time of the pre-harvest inspection and prior to harvest of the DR acreage;
 - (c) The insured will include on the reverse side of the photograph, the map number of the unit and field, the location in the field the photograph represents, and the date of the photograph; and
 - (d) Provide additional photographs if required by the AIP after harvest.

Note: Photographic documentation may be waived if allowed by approved loss adjustment procedures. See the DR LASH for additional instruction regarding photographic documentation.

Exhibit 4 Responsibilities – At the Time of Damage or Loss (Continued)

A. Insured Responsibilities (Continued)

- (5) Additional notices. The insured must file separate notices if:
 - (a) additional unharvested acreage in the unit qualifies as DR acreage as a result prior damage; and
 - (b) a separate insured cause results in DR damage to other unharvested (previously undamaged) acreage in the unit.
- (6) Each separate additional notice will include:
 - (a) the date and cause of damage, if applicable; and
 - (b) all information specified for the initial notice.

B. Agent Responsibilities

- (1) Notify the insured that:
 - (a) a separate notice will be required if additional rice acreage is downed; and
 - (b) consent must be given by an AIP adjuster to harvest the DR acreage, put any rice acreage to other use (acreage put to other use would not be harvested and therefore would not qualify for a DR payment), or destroy downed rice stubble;
- (2) receive the notice and acreage information from the insured. The notice may be taken by phone but must be confirmed in writing; and
- (3) notify AIP within 24 hours of receipt of the DR notice(s) and provide all required unit and acreage information (including maps or aerial photos locating the unit and the fields containing the DR acreage within the unit).

C. AIP Responsibilities

- (1) Monitor the available weather data during the harvest period for rice.
- (2) Receive the Notice of Loss information (notice, acreage, **photographs**, and maps) from the agent.
- (3) Within 24 hours of receipt of the Notice of Loss, assign the notice to an adjuster for inspection and loss adjustment purposes.
- (4) Require inspections/spot-checks on any Notice of Loss:
 - (a) that is inconsistent with other Notices of Loss in the same area or county;
 - (b) when a large part of rice acreage in the unit (more than 50 percent) is reported as DR; and

C. AIP Responsibilities (Continued)

- (c) for other unusual cases.
- (5) Resolve controversial DR claims.
- (6) Process DR claims and issue DR payments.
- (7) For any rice unit on which the insured has less than 100 percent share of the underlying rice coverage, verify:
 - (a) that the named insured will incur or assume 100 percent DR harvest costs of the shared unit; or
 - (b) the name and policy information (if applicable) of another person sharing in the unit who will incur or assume 100 percent DR harvest costs for the shared unit.

Note: In the event of a DR payment on a shared unit, verify that the shared unit has no other DRE covering it, and document such verification, and retain in the insured's claim file.
