

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR THE  
RAINFALL INDEX PLAN  
ANNUAL FORAGE (AF) CROP PROVISIONS (24-RI-AF)  
(Released April 2023)**

The following is a brief description of the changes to the Rainfall Index Plan, Annual Forage Crop Provisions that are effective for the 2024 and succeeding crop years.

Section 1 –

- Revised the definition of crop year to reestablish the beginning and ending dates;
- Added the definition of planting period;

Section 2 –

- In 2(b) and 2(e), clarified no coverage will be available if the information specified in 2(a)(1) or 2(a)(2) is not included on the application;

Section 3 –

- In 3(a)(2), stated the acreage must be planted within the associated planting period to be insured;
- In 3(b), clarified the limitations of planting and insuring the same acreage within the same crop year;

Section 4 –

- In 4(a), stated you do not have to insure all of your annual forage acres and the total insurable acreage will be equal to the total insurable acres planted and reported in each eligible growing season;
- In 4(b), stated acreage that is planted but not reported by the acreage reporting date for that growing season is not insurable;
- In 4(c), stated acreage will not be insurable if planted in growing seasons that do not contain index intervals or corresponding values on the application;
- In 4(d), clarified the limitations of planting and insuring the same acreage within the same crop year;

Section 6 –

- Removed the Payment Calculation Factor and Indemnity Calculation language in this section and renumbered sections 7-11 accordingly;
- In 6(b)(8), clarified if the dual use option is eligible and elected, the acreage reporting requirements of the annual forage and the accompanying Common Crop Insurance Policy or similar policy must be followed;

Section 7 –

- Clarified the “in leu” language in 7(b) was 10(c)(2) of the basic provisions; and

Section 9 –

- In 9(a), clarified the beginning and end of the insurance period.



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION  
RAINFALL INDEX PLAN  
ANNUAL FORAGE (AF) CROP PROVISIONS**

**1. Definitions**

**Annual forage** - Annual plants seeded on planted acreage for forage or fodder.

**Annual forage commodity** - Any agricultural product reported under annual forage.

**Basic Provisions** - The Rainfall and Vegetation Index Plan Common Policy Basic Provisions.

**Crop** - Annual Forage.

**Crop year** - In lieu of the definition contained in section 1 of the Basic Provisions, the crop year will start with the planting period that begins on August 1 of one calendar year and ends at the completion of the growing season that begins August 1 of the subsequent calendar year. Crop year is designated by the calendar year in which the final growing season (insurance period) begins.

**Dual Use** - An annual forage commodity planted and insured under this Annual Forage policy for the intended use of grazing and could be insured under the Common Crop Insurance Policy (CCIP) for grain.

**Fodder** - Plant materials fed to domestic livestock.

**Forage** - Plants grown for haying or grazing.

**Grain/grazing** - Used as pasture for livestock to roam and feed on initially, and then later harvested for grain.

**Grazing** - Used solely as pasture for livestock to roam and feed on.

**Grazing/green chop** - Used both as green chop and as pasture for livestock to roam and feed on.

**Grazing/haying** - Used both as haying and as pasture for livestock to roam and feed on.

**Green chop** - Harvested and chopped for immediate consumption. Does not include haying, earlage, silage or grain which may be fed to livestock.

**Growing season** - A period of time designated in the Actuarial Documents during which the crop is planted.

**Harvest** - Grazing by livestock or haying, or processed as green chop, earlage, or silage as the method of removal of the insured crop.

**Haying** - Severance of the plant from its root by mechanical equipment, but does not include earlage, green chop, silage, or grain which may be fed to livestock.

**Livestock** - Domesticated animals including but not limited to, cattle, sheep, horses, swine, goats, and poultry.

**Native Sod** - Acreage that does not have a record of being tilled for the production of an annual crop on or before February 7, 2014, and on which the plant cover is composed principally of native grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs suitable for grazing and browsing. Determinations will be made with information collected and maintained by an agency of the USDA or other verifiable records that you provide and are acceptable to us.

**Percent of value** - In addition to the definition contained in section 1 of the Basic Provisions, the percent of value will be calculated by growing season.

**Planted acreage** - In addition to the definition contained in section 1 of the Basic Provisions, land on which seed is

initially spread onto the soil surface by any method and which subsequently is mechanically incorporated into the soil in a timely manner.

**Planting period** - The month or time period designated in the Actuarial Documents in which the annual forage crop acreage is planted.

**Silage** - Preserved through fermentation and used as food for livestock.

**Unit** - In lieu of the definition in the Basic Provisions:

- (1) For CAT coverage, the insured annual forage acres, growing season, share, grid ID, and county within or assigned to a grid.
- (2) For other than CAT coverage, the insured annual forage acres, growing season, index interval, share, grid ID, and county within or assigned to a grid.

**2. Application**

In lieu of section 2(c)(1) of the Basic Provisions:

- (a) For each growing season, you must include:
  - (1) For CAT coverage, crop, coverage level, productivity factor, intended use and any other material information required on the application to insure the crop.
  - (2) For other than CAT coverage, the coverage level, productivity factor, crop, index interval, percent of value and any other material information required on the application to insure the crop.
- (b) If you do not provide the information in section 2(a) (1) or (2) in these provisions for a growing season there will be no coverage for the acreage planted during that growing seasons planting period.
- (c) A percent of value must be allocated to more than one index interval for each growing season.
  - (1) When an index interval is selected, the minimum percent of value allowed in any one index interval, by growing season, is 10 percent. The maximum percent of value that can be allocated to any one index interval by growing season is specified in the Special Provisions.
  - (2) You must select the percent of value for each index interval by the sales closing date and the percent of value allocations will be applied to all applicable grid ID's in the county for the applicable growing season. For example, if you place 40 percent of value in September-October, 40 percent in November-December and 20 percent in February-March, those percentages will be applied to all insured acres and grid ids in the county for that growing season.
- (d) You may select any index interval provided in the Actuarial Documents, but you may not select index intervals that contain the same months within the same growing season for the same share arrangement. For example, if you select an index interval that contains the months of April and May, you cannot select any other index interval offered that contain either April or May for the same growing

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season.

- (e) The information required on the application must be provided for each growing season. If the information is not provided by the sales closing date for a growing season there will be no coverage for the acreage planted during that growing season's planting period.

### 3. Insured Crop

- (a) In lieu of the provisions in section 5(a) of the Basic Provisions, the insured crop will be annual forage:
  - (1) In which you have a share;
  - (2) Which is annually planted for forage or fodder during the associated planting period with the intended use including but not limited to grazing, haying, grazing/haying, grain/grazing, green chop, grazing/green chop, or silage;
  - (3) Not planted into an established grass or legume; and
  - (4) Located on insurable acreage in the county listed on the application accepted by us and as specified in the Special Provisions or Actuarial Documents.
- (b) In lieu of section 5(b)(6) of the Basic Provisions, annual forage can be planted and insured in any growing season unless prevented in the Special Provisions; however, the same acreage cannot be planted and insured in a growing season with the same index intervals in the same crop year. For example, crop acreage planted in August, growing season 1 (would include the last index interval of February-March), would not be eligible to be planted again until February, growing season 7 (March-April first index interval).

### 4. Insured and Insurable Acreage

- (a) In lieu of the provisions of section 6(a) of the Basic Provisions, you are not required to insure all of your annual forage acreage. Your total insured acres will equal your insurable acreage planted and reported for each eligible growing season; and
  - (1) Will be annual forage planted on insurable acres for each eligible growing season; and
  - (2) Will not exceed 100 percent of your insurable acreage for each eligible growing season.
- (b) Acreage planted and not reported by the acreage reporting date for the growing season will not be insurable.
- (c) Acreage planted for growing seasons where no index interval and associated values were provided on the application will not be insurable.
- (d) In lieu of section 6(d)(1) of the Basic provisions, annual forage must be planted during the growing season provided in the Actuarial Documents.
- (e) In lieu of section 6(e) of the Basic Provisions, annual forage can be planted and insured in any growing season unless prevented in the Special Provisions; however, the same acreage cannot be planted and insured in a growing season with the same index intervals in the same crop year. For example, crop acreage planted in August, growing season 1 (would include the last index interval of February-March), would not be eligible to be planted again until February, growing season 7 (March-April first index interval). In addition, the same acres cannot be

insured in more than one grid ID or county during a single growing season.

- (f) In lieu of section 6(f) of the Basic Provisions, the grid ID and county are determined based on a point of reference selected by you. Separate points of reference must be established as follows:
    - (1) A separate point of reference must be selected for non-contiguous insured acreage in a grid; and
    - (2) With respect to contiguous insured acreage, a point of reference must be selected as follows:
      - (i) If you choose to combine the contiguous insured acreage into one grid, you must establish a point of reference for the insured contiguous acreage; or
      - (ii) If you choose to separate the contiguous insured acreage into separate grids or counties, you must establish a point of reference for each selected grid. For example, the contiguous acreage is located in four grids and you choose to insure the acreage in separate grids, the acreage can be separated into two, three, or four grids and you must establish a point of reference in each grid selected.
  - (g) Sections 6(k)(4) and 6(l) of the Basic Provisions are not applicable to these crop provisions.
  - (h) In addition to Section 6 of the Basic Provisions and in accordance with 4(i) and 4(j) of these crop provisions, in the states of Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, or South Dakota, native sod acreage will:
    - (1) Receive a liability that is based on a 65 percent protection factor; and
    - (2) For additional coverage policies, receive a premium subsidy that is 50 percentage points less than would otherwise be provided on acreage not qualifying as native sod. If the premium subsidy applicable to these acres is less than 50 percent before the reduction, you will receive no premium subsidy.
  - (i) Section 4(h) of these crop provisions is not applicable to cumulative native sod acreage that is five acres or less in a grid id.
  - (j) Section 4(h) of these crop provisions is applicable during the first four crop years of planting on native sod acreage that has been tilled beginning on February 8, 2014 and ending on December 20, 2018. Section 4(f) is applicable during four cumulative crop years of insurance within the first ten crop years after initial tillage on native sod acreage tilled after December 20, 2018.
- ### 5. Amounts of Protection and Coverage Levels
- (a) In addition to section 7(a)(1) of the Basic Provisions, CAT policies will not include multiple index intervals. For CAT coverage, there is only one index interval for each grid id that includes all the months available in the county for the growing season. If CAT coverage is selected it will apply to all applicable growing seasons for the crop year.
  - (b) In lieu of section 7(a)(2) of the Basic Provisions, for additional coverage policies:
    - (1) You may select only one coverage level from 70

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percent through 90 percent for the county by growing season as provided in the Special Provisions.

- (2) You may select only one productivity factor from 60 percent through 150 percent for the county by growing season, unless prevented in the Special Provisions.

- (c) In lieu of section 7(b) of the Basic Provisions, for additional coverage policies you will have only one dollar amount of protection per acre for each county, index interval, and growing season.

### 6. Report of Acreage

- (a) In lieu of section 9(b)(2) of the Basic Provisions, for each applicable grid ID, all the insured acreage by FSA farm number, FSA tract number and FSA field number assigned to the grid ID in a county by growing season.

- (b) In lieu of section 9(b)(3) of the Basic Provisions, with respect to acreage specified in section 6(a) of these Crop Provisions, your acreage report must include for each growing season:

- (1) Your share;
- (2) Intended use;
- (3) Annual forage commodity;
- (4) Irrigated practice, when required in the Actuarial Documents;
- (5) Planting date;
- (6) Grid ID;
- (7) FSA farm , tract and field number; and
- (8) Dual Use Option if elected and allowed in Actuarial Documents. The requirements of both the Annual Forage and accompanying CCIP or similar policy must be met.

- (c) In lieu of section 9(c), the Basic Provisions, if an acreage report for the growing season is not provided by the acreage reporting date, there will be no coverage for any index interval for that applicable growing season.

### 7. Share Insured

- (a) In lieu of section 10(c)(1) of the Basic Provisions, if you lease the acreage for a portion of the growing season, you may still have a 100 percent share in the insured crop provided you received 100 percent of the benefits from the insured crop. For example, the landlord cannot insure 50 percent of the insured crop and the tenant insure 100 percent of the same insured crop on the same insured acreage during the same growing season.

- (b) In lieu of section 10(c)(2) of the Basic Provisions, under no circumstances can the total of all shares in the insured crop on the acreage exceed 100 percent for each growing season. For example, producer A leases 100 acres and insures 100 percent of the insured crop. Producer B cannot insure any percentage of the same insured crop on the same acreage during the same growing season.

### 8. Annual Premium and Administrative Fees

In accordance with section 11(a) of the Basic Provisions, the annual premium is earned and payable at the time the insured crop is reported on the acreage report.

### 9. Insurance Period and Program Dates

- (a) In lieu of section 12(a) of the Basic Provisions, the

insurance period will start with the planting period that begins on August 1 of one calendar year and will end at the completion of the growing seasons that begins August 1 of the subsequent calendar year for the insured crop:

- (b) In lieu of section 12(b) of the Basic Provisions, insurance attaches the first day of the first index interval offered following the planting period for the county and applicable growing season and continues until the last day of the month for the last index interval offered for the county and growing season, even if you do not select index intervals covering the entire growing season.

### 10. Other Insurance

In lieu of section 17 of the Basic Provisions, nothing in this section prevents you from obtaining other insurance not authorized under the Act. However, unless specifically authorized by the Act and allowed in the Special Provisions, these or any other policy provisions, you must not obtain any other crop insurance authorized under the Act on your share of the insured crop or for the same commodity on the same acreage. For example, you cannot insure corn under both a Yield Protection policy and Annual Forage policy on the same acreage in the same crop year.

- (a) If you impermissibly obtain other crop insurance authorized under the Act on your share of the annual forage commodity and you cannot demonstrate that you did not intend to have more than one policy in effect, your policy will be void and no indemnity will be due for any year in which you have more than one policy in effect

- (b) If you impermissibly obtain other crop insurance authorized under the Act on your share of the annual forage commodity and you can demonstrate that you did not intend to have more than one policy in effect, such as in the example provided in section 10(b)(3), and:

- (1) One is an additional coverage policy and the other is a CAT policy:

- (i) The additional coverage policy will apply if both policies are with the same insurance provider or if both insurance providers agree: or
- (ii) The policy with the earliest date of application will be in force if both insurance providers do not agree: or

- (2) Both are additional coverage policies or both are CAT policies, the policy with the earliest date of application will be in force and the other policy will be void, unless both policies are with:

- (i) The same insurance provider and the insurance provider agrees to retain the policy with the later date of application: or
- (ii) Different insurance providers and both insurance providers agree to retain the policy with the later date of application.

- (3) For example, an application to transfer your policy or written notification to an insurance provider that states you want to purchase or transfer insurance, and you want any other policies for the crop canceled would demonstrate

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you did not intend to have duplicate policies in effect.