



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

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Farm Production  
and Conservation

Risk  
Management  
Agency

4405 Bland Road  
Suite 160  
Raleigh, NC 27609

**INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All Northeast Approved Insurance Providers Writing in the States of Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia

**FROM:** Alexander Sereno /s/  
Director, Raleigh Regional Office

**SUBJECT:** Crop Year 2025 Regional Underwriting Guidelines for Category C Actual Production History (APH) Crops in the Raleigh Region

**BACKGROUND:**

The 2025 FCIC 18010 Crop Insurance Handbook (CIH) authorizes the Risk Management Agency (RMA) Regional Offices to issue underwriting procedures for Category C crops that modify procedure and to provide additional underwriting procedure for regional exceptions.

Paragraph 1863 APH Database Tests for High Variability of Actual Yields of the CIH provides procedure and formulas designed to identify alternate bearing and downward yield trending for Category C crop yields. Events that caused widespread damage to Category C perennial crops are listed in the chart below:

<b>Crop Year</b>	<b>Event(s)</b>	<b>Applicable States</b>
2016	Freeze, Significant Drought	CT, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV
2017	Damaging Freeze	NC
2020	Freeze/Frost, Excess Moisture	CT, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV
2021	Freeze/Frost, Damaging Hail	NC
2023	Damaging Freeze, Excess Moisture, Flooding	CT, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, VT

This damage may inadvertently identify certain Category C perennial crops for high variability adjustments. To expedite the approved Actual Production History (APH) yield process and decrease the number of requests for Regional Office determined yields, the Raleigh Regional Office issues these guidelines.

Paragraph 2202 of the CIH outlines issuance and use of RO Underwriting Guidelines (UG). Paragraph 2205B Category C Crops provides RO Determined Yield request requirements. Paragraph 2233A provides additional guidance for High Variability Determined Yields.

Effective for the 2025 crop year, these Regional Office UG are in effect for Apples, Blueberries, Cranberries, Grapes, Peaches, and Pears in the states of Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

## **ACTION**

### **A. High Variability Requests**

For blocks or units meeting the criteria for high variability of actual yields in CIH Paragraph 1863 APH Database Tests for High Variability of Actual Yields, the Approved Insurance Provider (AIP) may approve the yield using the standard Category C APH procedure without adjustment of the approved APH yield by the formula if the AIP verifies the high variability is due to severe weather related events in 2016, 2020, and/or 2023 for all states listed above, resulting in lower yields which inappropriately trigger an alternate bearing adjustment or downward trending adjustment. Additionally, the AIP may approve the procedure as stated above if the AIP verifies high variability is due to severe weather-related events in 2017 and/or 2021 in North Carolina, resulting in lower yields which inappropriately trigger an alternate bearing adjustment or downward trending adjustment.

For all databases meeting the above stated criteria resulting in no adjustment, Special Case Indicator “D” should be submitted. If applicable, Yield Substitution (YA) and Quality Loss Option (QL) is authorized; however, Yield Exclusion (YE) and CUP procedure are not applicable for any database identified for high variability of actual yields.

For additional guidance on Special Case Yield Indicators, YA or YE applicability, or Yield Limitation Flags, refer to Exhibit A. Exhibit A is consistent with the 2025 CIH, Exhibit 22, and Appendix III.

### **B. High Variability Request Documentation Guidance**

For insureds submitting RO Determined Yield requests, additional documentation should be provided for any indemnified years not excluded by this guide to prove that weather related events occurred that resulted in lower yields which inappropriately triggered an alternate bearing adjustment or downward trending adjustment. This documentation

should contain specific information about the weather event including the location and date of the event and specific conditions that led to crop damage. This information should come from a third-party source, such as Cooperative Extension, the news, or other published weather data sources.

Please contact the Raleigh Regional Office at [RSONC@usda.gov](mailto:RSONC@usda.gov) if you have any additional questions.

**DISPOSAL DATE**

August 31, 2025

**Exhibit A, RO Determined Yield Type, Yield Limitation Flag and Rate Yield Chart**

Not RO Determined Yields but Special Case Yield Indicators						
	Applicable Crop	Other Explanation	Special Case Yield Indicator	Rate Yield	YA/QL/YE	Yield Limitation Flag (applies whether RO UG or RO DY)
High Variability Yield Adjustment (AB/DT)	Category C	<i>Alternate Bearing</i>	AF (AIP adjusted per CIH)	Equal Approved Yield	No	Refer to Appendix III for YLF
	Category C	<i>Downward Trending</i>	DF (AIP adjusted per CIH)	Equal Approved Yield	No	Refer to Appendix III for YLF
	Category C	<i>Downward Trending &amp; Alternate Bearing</i>	F (AIP Adjusted by Formula in RO UG)	<b>Dependent upon authorization</b>	<b>If authorized by the RO UG.</b>	Refer to Appendix III for YLF
	Category C	<i>Downward Trending &amp; Alternate Bearing</i>	D (Met AB or DT CIH test, but waived modification by CIH formula and adjusted by RO UG)		<b>If authorized by the RO UG.</b>	Refer to Appendix III for YLF

**Approved RO Determined Yield:** The yield determined by the Regional Office, according to their procedures, based upon documentation submitted by the producer through the AIP, used to determine the guarantee.

**Yield Descriptor:** The applicable yield descriptor as provided in CIH Exhibit 15W, the RO Determined Yield, or RO UG.

**Yield Indicator:** The applicable yield indicators and special case indicators as provided by CIH Exhibit 15V, the RO Determined Yield or RO UG.

**YC & Floors:** Are not authorized for RO Determined Yield requests or Underwriting Guidelines.

If YA is applied by the RO through the RO Determined Yield or through RO UG then the AIP must send the YA option code on the acreage record through PASS. If YA was elected on a non-contiguous rated crop, then the surcharge flag on the acreage record must also be set to establish the .05 multiplicative rate. The yield record will not include the YA option codes. See AD for crops with the surcharge.