



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Farm Production  
and Conservation

Risk  
Management  
Agency

Valdosta Regional  
Office

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**August 30, 2024**

**INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Approved Insurance Providers servicing the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina

**FROM:** Davina S. Lee /s/  
Director

**SUBJECT:** Crop Year 2025 and Subsequent Crop Years for Blueberry Wind Machine(s) Written Agreement Requests in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina

**BACKGROUND:**

The Valdosta Regional Office (RO) currently insures rabbiteye and highbush blueberry types under irrigation practices identified in the actuarial documents. Beginning crop year 2025, blueberries grown under irrigated with frost protection will include wind machines as an additional frost mitigation method. The new practice “irrigated with wind machines (IWWM)” is insurable only by a type/practice (TP) written agreement (WA).

The FCIC 25020 Written Agreement Handbook (WAH) authorizes ROs to request additional information for the evaluation of requests as appropriate. Therefore, to assist the Valdosta RO in evaluating blueberry TP WA requests, and to assist Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) in preparing them, the following guidelines standardize documentation requirements, important dates, deadlines, and procedures. This document is consistent with the requirements for blueberries found in the crop provisions as well as the requirements for WA requests found in the WAH.

This memorandum applies to crop year 2025 and subsequent crop years until modified or rescinded.

**ACTION:**

The following information must be submitted to the Valdosta RO via the Regional Office Exceptions (ROE) system when requesting a blueberry TP WA for blueberries grown under IWWM. Below are important dates and deadlines:

- (1) Documentation – In addition to the required documentation in the 2025 WAH, Part 2, Section 2: WA Submission Requirements and Part 3, para. 84: TP Type – Unrated P/T, the RO will require the following documentation:

- a. Letter from local agricultural expert regarding the number of wind machines and how many acres the machines can cover.
  - b. Maps with all requested fields clearly outlined, labeled, and location within field of each wind machine.
- (2) Wind Machines must be clearly documented on the Request for Actuarial Change form and the Producers' Pre-Acceptance Worksheet (PAW). It must also be verified by the inspector on the Pre-Acceptance Inspection Report (PAIR). At minimum, the protection description must include the number of wind machines and the location(s) (on map(s)) where they are located.
- (3) Important Dates – Requests for WA may be submitted to the RO beginning on the 10<sup>th</sup> calendar day after the applicable filing date for the crop. For new TP WA requests, the producer must request the TP WA on or before the applicable acreage reporting date (ARD). For renewal or mixed (adding new land to an existing policy, or switching AIPs) TP WA requests, the producer must request the TP WA on or before the applicable sales closing date (SCD). AIPs must submit requests to the RO no later than 15 business days after the producer signature deadline (see table below).

WA TYPE	FILING DATE +10 DAYS	PRODUCER SIGNATURE DEADLINE		DOCUMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE
		New (ARD)	Renewal (SCD)	
TP	9/10/2024	1/15/2025	11/20/2024	+15 business days

**DISPOSAL DATE:**

Until rescinded.