

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION**



**POPCORN
CROP INSURANCE POLICY
(This is a continuous contract. Refer to Section 15.)**

AGREEMENT TO INSURE: We will provide the insurance described in this policy in return for the premium and your compliance with all applicable provisions.

Throughout this policy, "you" and "your" refer to the insured shown on the accepted Application and "we," "us," and "our" refer to the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. CAUSES OF LOSS.

a. The insurance provided is against unavoidable loss of production resulting from the following causes occurring within the insurance period:

- (1) adverse weather conditions;
- (2) fire;
- (3) insects;
- (4) plant disease;
- (5) wildlife;
- (6) earthquake;
- (7) volcanic eruption; or
- (8) if applicable, failure of the irrigation water supply due to an unavoidable cause occurring after the beginning of planting;

unless those causes are excepted, excluded, or limited by the actuarial table or subsection 9.e.(7).

b. We will not insure against any loss of production due to:

- (1) the neglect, mismanagement, or wrongdoing by you, any member of your household, your tenants, or employees;
- (2) the failure to follow recognized good popcorn farming practices or the grower provisions of the popcorn contract;
- (3) the impoundment of water by any governmental, public, or private dam or reservoir project;
- (4) damage resulting from frost or freeze after the date designated by the actuarial table;
- (5) the failure or breakdown of irrigation equipment or facilities;
- (6) the failure to follow recognized good popcorn irrigation practices; or
- (7) any cause not specified in subsection 1.a. as an insured loss.

2. CROP, ACREAGE, AND SHARE INSURED.

a. The crop insured will be popcorn which is planted for harvest, grown on insured acreage, and for which a guarantee and premium rate are set by the actuarial table.

b. The acreage insured for each crop year will be popcorn planted on insurable acreage as designated by the actuarial table and in which you have a share, as reported by you or as determined by us, whichever we elect.

c. The insured share is your share as landlord, owner-operator, or tenant in the insured popcorn at the time of planting. However, only for the purpose of determining the amount of indemnity, your share will not exceed your share on the earlier of:

- (1) the time of loss; or
- (2) the beginning of harvest.

d. We do not insure any acreage:

- (1) of popcorn not grown under a contract executed with a processor or excluded from the processor contract for, or during, the crop year. (The contract must be

executed and effective before you report your acreage.);

- (2) which is destroyed, it is practical to replant to popcorn, and such acreage is not replanted;
- (3) if the farming practices carried out are not in accordance with the farming practices for which the premium rates have been established;
- (4) which is irrigated and an irrigated practice is not provided by the actuarial table unless you elect to insure the acreage as nonirrigated by reporting it as insurable under section 3;
- (5) initially planted after the final planting date set by the actuarial table unless you agree, in writing, on our form to coverage reduction;
- (6) of volunteer popcorn;
- (7) planted to a type or variety of popcorn not established as adapted to the area or excluded by the actuarial table;
- (8) planted with a crop other than popcorn; or
- (9) planted for the development or production of hybrid seed or planted for experimental purposes.

e. If insurance is provided for an irrigated practice, you must report as irrigated only the acreage for which you have adequate facilities and water at the time of planting to carry out a good popcorn irrigation practice.

f. We may limit the insured acreage to any acreage limitation established under any Act of Congress, if we advise you of the limit prior to planting.

g. An instrument in the form of a "lease" under which you retain possession of the land on which the popcorn is grown and which provides for delivery of the popcorn under certain conditions and at a stipulated price will, for the purpose of this contract, be treated as a contract under which you have the share in the popcorn.

3. REPORT OF ACREAGE, SHARE, AND PRACTICE.

You must report on our form:

- a. all the acreage of popcorn planted in the county in which you have a share;
- b. the practice; and
- c. your share at the time of planting.

You must designate separately any acreage that is not insurable. You must report if you do not have a share in any popcorn planted in the county. This report must be submitted annually on or before the reporting date established by the actuarial table. All indemnities may be determined on the basis of information you submit on this report. If you do not submit this report by the reporting date, we may elect to determine, by unit, the insured acreage, share, and practice or we may deny liability on any unit. Any report submitted by you may be revised only upon our approval.

4. PRODUCTION GUARANTEES, COVERAGE LEVELS, AND PRICES FOR COMPUTING INDEMNITIES.

- a. The production guarantees, coverage levels, and prices for computing indemnities are contained in the actuarial table.
- b. Coverage level 2 will apply if you do not elect a coverage level.
- c. You may change the coverage level and price election on or before the sales closing date set by the actuarial table for submitting applications for the crop year.
- d. You must report production to us for the previous crop year prior to the sales closing date for the subsequent crop year as established by the actuarial table. If you do not provide the required production report, we will assign a yield for the crop year for which the report is not furnished. The production report or assigned yield will be used to compute your production history for the purpose of determining your guarantee for the subsequent crop year. The yield assigned by us will be 75% of the yield assigned for the purpose of determining your guarantee for the present crop year. If you have filed a claim for the previous crop year, the yield determined in adjusting your indemnity claim will be used as your production report.

5. ANNUAL PREMIUM.

- a. The annual premium is earned and payable at the time of planting. The amount is computed by multiplying the production guarantee times the price election, times the premium rate, times the insured acreage, times your share at the time of planting.
- b. Interest will accrue at the rate of one and one-fourth percent (1 1/4%) simple interest per calendar month, or any part thereof, on any unpaid premium balance starting on the first day of the month following the first premium billing date.

6. DEDUCTION FOR DEBT.

Any unpaid amount due us may be deducted from any indemnity payable to you, or from any replant payment, or from any loan or payment due you under any Act of Congress or program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture or its Agencies.

7. INSURANCE PERIOD.

Insurance attaches when the popcorn is planted and ends at the earliest of:

- a. total destruction of the popcorn;
- b. harvest;
- c. final adjustment of a loss; or
- d. December 10 of the calendar year in which the popcorn is normally harvested.

8. NOTICE OF DAMAGE OR LOSS.

- a. In case of damage or probable loss:
 - (1) You must give us written notice if:
 - (a) you want our consent to replant popcorn damaged due to any insured cause (see subsection 9.f.);
 - (b) during the period before harvest, the popcorn on any unit is damaged and you decide not to further care for it or harvest any part of it;
 - (c) you want our consent to put the acreage to another use; or
 - (d) after consent to put acreage to another use is given, additional damage occurs.
 - (2) Insured acreage may not be put to another use until we have appraised the popcorn and given written consent. We will not consent to another use until it is too late to replant. You must notify us when such acreage is replanted or put to another use.
 - (3) You must give us notice of probable loss at least 15 days before the beginning of harvest if you anticipate a loss on any unit.
 - (4) If probable loss is determined within 15 days prior to or during harvest, immediate notice must be given. A representative sample of the unharvested popcorn (at least 10 feet wide and the entire length of the field) must remain unharvested for a period of 15 days from the date of notice, unless we give you written consent to harvest the sample.

- (5) In addition to the notices required by this section, if you are going to claim an indemnity on any unit, you must give us notice not later than 10 days after the earliest of:
 - (a) total destruction of the popcorn on the unit;
 - (b) harvest of the unit; or
 - (c) December 10 of the crop year.

- b. You may not destroy or replant any of the popcorn on which a replanting payment will be claimed until we give written consent.
- c. You must obtain written consent from us before you destroy any of the popcorn which is not to be harvested.
- d. We may reject any claim for indemnity if you fail to comply with any of the requirements of this section or section 9.

9. CLAIM FOR INDEMNITY.

- a. Any claim for indemnity on a unit must be submitted to us on our form not later than 60 days after the earliest of:
 - (1) total destruction of the popcorn on the unit;
 - (2) harvest of the unit; or
 - (3) December 10 of the crop year.
- b. We will not pay any indemnity unless you:
 - (1) establish the total production of the popcorn on the unit and that any loss of production has been directly caused by one or more of the insured causes during the insurance period; and
 - (2) furnish all information we require concerning the loss.
- c. The indemnity will be determined on each unit by:
 - (1) multiplying the insured acreage by the production guarantee;
 - (2) subtracting from this result, the total production of popcorn to be counted (see subsection 9.e.);
 - (3) multiplying the remainder by the price election; and
 - (4) multiplying this result by your share.
- d. If the information reported by you under section 3 of this policy results in a lower premium than the actual premium determined to be due, the production guarantee on the unit will be computed on the information reported, but all production from insurable acreage, whether or not reported as insurable, will count against the production guarantee.
- e. The total production (in pounds) to be counted for a unit will include all harvested and appraised production.
 - (1) Mature popcorn production:
 - (a) which otherwise is not eligible for quality adjustment will be reduced .12 percent for each .1 percentage point of moisture in excess of 15.0 percent; or
 - (b) which, due to insurable causes, is not of merchantable popcorn quality and is rejected by the processor, will be adjusted by:
 - (i) dividing the value per pound of the damaged popcorn by the contract price per pound for undamaged popcorn; and
 - (ii) multiplying the result by the number of pounds of such popcorn.
 - (2) Any production from yellow or white dent corn will be counted as popcorn on a weight basis.
 - (3) Any ear production for which we cannot determine a shelling factor will be considered to have an 80 percent shelling factor.
 - (4) Appraised production to be counted will include:
 - (a) unharvested production on harvested acreage and potential production lost due to uninsured causes;
 - (b) not less than the guarantee for any acreage which is abandoned or put to another use without our prior written consent or damaged solely by an uninsured cause; and
 - (c) any appraised production on unharvested acreage.
 - (5) Any appraisal we have made on insured acreage for which we have given written consent to be put to another use will be considered production unless such acreage is:

- (a) not put to another use before harvest of popcorn becomes general in the county and reappraised by us;
 - (b) further damaged by an insured cause and reappraised by us; or
 - (c) harvested.
 - (6) The amount of production of any unharvested popcorn may be determined on the basis of field appraisals conducted after the end of the insurance period.
 - (7) If you elect to exclude hail and fire as insured causes of loss and the popcorn is damaged by hail or fire, appraisals will be made in accordance with Form FCI-78, "Request to Exclude Hail and Fire."
 - f. A replanting payment may be made on any insured popcorn replanted after we have given consent and the acreage replanted is at least the lesser of 20 acres or 20 percent of the insured acreage for the unit as determined on the final planting date.
 - (1) No replanting payment will be made on acreage:
 - (a) on which our appraisal exceeds 90 percent of the guarantee;
 - (b) initially planted prior to the date established by the actuarial table; or
 - (c) on which a replanting payment has been made during the current crop year.
 - (2) The replanting payment per acre will be your actual cost per acre for replanting, but will not exceed 150 pounds multiplied by the price election, multiplied by your share.
 - (3) If the information reported by you results in a lower premium than the actual premium determined to be due, the replanting payment will be reduced proportionately.
 - (4) The Corporation will transfer the original liability to the planted crop without reduction by the amount of the replant payment and without increase in the original premium charged for insurance coverage when the crop is replanted in accordance with the requirements of the original planting.
 - (5) If seasonal conditions dictate replanting by broadcast method, and such method differs from the requirements of the original planting, the Corporation will transfer the original liability to the replanted crop reduced by the amount of the replant payment and without increase in the original premium charged for insurance coverage.
 - g. You must not abandon any acreage to us.
 - h. Any suit against us for an indemnity must be brought in accordance with the provisions of 7 U.S.C. 1508(c). You must bring suit within 12 months of the date notice of denial of the claim is received by you.
 - i. An indemnity will not be paid unless you comply with all policy provisions.
 - j. We have a policy for paying your indemnity within 30 days of our approval of your claim, or entry of a final judgment against us. We will, in no instance, be liable for the payment of damages, attorney's fees, or other charges in connection with any claim for indemnity, whether we approve or disapprove such claim. We will, however, pay simple interest computed on the net indemnity ultimately found to be due by us or by a final judgment from and including the 61st day after the date you sign, date, and submit to us the properly completed claim for indemnity form, if the reason for our failure to timely pay is not due to your failure to provide information or other material necessary for the computation or payment of the indemnity. The interest rate will be that established by the Secretary of the Treasury under Section 12 of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (41 U.S.C. 611), and published in the FEDERAL REGISTER semiannually on or about January 1 and July 1. The interest rate to be paid on any indemnity will vary with the rate announced by the Secretary of the Treasury.
 - k. If you die, disappear, or are judicially declared incompetent, or if you are an entity other than an individual and such entity is dissolved after the crop is planted for any crop year, any indemnity will be paid to the persons determined to be beneficially entitled thereto.
 - l. If you have other fire insurance, fire damage occurs during the insurance period, and you have not elected to exclude fire insurance from this policy, we will be liable for loss due to fire only for the smaller of the amount:
 - (1) of indemnity determined pursuant to this contract without regard to any other insurance; or
 - (2) by which the loss from fire exceeds the indemnity paid or payable under such other insurance. For the purpose of this subsection, the amount of loss from fire will be the difference between the fair market value of the production on the unit before the fire and after the fire.
- 10. CONCEALMENT OR FRAUD.**
We may void the contract on all crops insured without affecting your liability for premiums or waiving any right, including the right to collect any amount due us if, at any time, you have concealed or misrepresented any material fact or committed any fraud relating to the contract. Such avoidance will be effective as of the beginning of the crop year with respect to which such act or omission occurred.
- 11. TRANSFER OF RIGHT TO INDEMNITY ON INSURED SHARE.**
If you transfer any part of your share during the crop year, you may transfer your right to an indemnity. The transfer must be on our form and approved by us. We may collect the premium from either you or your transferee or both. The transferee will have all rights and responsibilities under the contract.
- 12. ASSIGNMENT OF INDEMNITY.**
You may assign to another party your right to an indemnity for the crop year, only on our form and with our approval. The assignee will have the right to submit the loss notices and forms required by the contract.
- 13. SUBROGATION.** (Recovery of loss from a third party.)
Because you may be able to recover all or a part of your loss from someone other than us, you must do all you can to preserve any such right. If we pay you for your loss, then your right of recovery will at our option belong to us. If we recover more than we paid you plus our expenses, the excess will be paid to you.
- 14. RECORDS AND ACCESS TO FARM.**
You must keep, for 2 years after the time of loss, records of the harvesting, storage, shipment, sale, or other disposition of all of the popcorn produced on each unit including separate records showing the same information for production from any uninsured acreage. Failure to keep and maintain such records may, at our option, result in cancellation of the contract prior to the crop year to which the records apply, assignment of production to units by us, or a determination that no indemnity is due. Any person designated by us will have access to such records and the farm for purposes related to the contract.
- 15. LIFE OF CONTRACT: CANCELLATION AND TERMINATION.**
- a. This contract will be in effect for the crop year specified on the application and may not be canceled by you for such crop year. Thereafter, the contract will continue in force for each succeeding crop year unless canceled or terminated as provided in this section.
 - b. This contract may be canceled by either you or us for any succeeding crop year by giving written notice on or before the cancellation date preceding such crop year.
 - c. This contract will terminate as to any crop year if any amount due us on this or any other contract with you is not paid on or before the termination date preceding such crop year for the contract on which the amount is due. The date of payment of the amount due if deducted from:
 - (1) an indemnity, will be the date you sign the claim; or
 - (2) payment under another program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, will be the date both such other payment and setoff are approved.

- d. The cancellation and termination dates are April 15.
- e. If you die or are judicially declared incompetent, or if you are an entity other than an individual and such entity is dissolved, the contract will terminate as of the date of death, judicial declaration, or dissolution. If such event occurs after insurance attaches for any crop year, the contract will continue in force through the crop year and terminate at the end thereof. Death of a partner in a partnership will dissolve the partnership unless the partnership agreement provides otherwise. If two or more persons having a joint interest are insured jointly, death of one of the persons will dissolve the joint entity.
- f. The contract will terminate if no premium is earned for 3 consecutive years.

16. CONTRACT CHANGES.

We may change any terms and provisions of the contract from year to year. If your price election at which indemnities are computed is no longer offered, the actuarial table will provide the price election which you are deemed to have elected. All contract changes will be available at your service office by December 31 preceding the cancellation date. Acceptance of changes will be conclusively presumed in the absence of notice from you to cancel the contract.

17. MEANING OF TERMS.

For the purposes of popcorn crop insurance:

- a. **Actuarial table** means the forms and related material for the crop year approved by us which are available for public inspection in your service office, and which show the production guarantees, coverage levels, premium rates, prices for computing indemnities, practices, insurable and uninsurable acreage, and related information regarding popcorn insurance in the county.
- b. **County** means the county shown on the application and any additional land located in a local producing area bordering on the county, as shown by the actuarial table.
- c. **Crop year** means the period within which the popcorn is normally grown and is designated by the calendar year in which the popcorn is normally harvested.
- d. **Harvest** means the completion of removing the grain from the stalk either by hand or machine.
- e. **Insurable acreage** means the land classified as insurable by us and shown as such by the actuarial table.
- f. **Insured** means the person who submitted the application accepted by us.
- g. **Loss ratio** means the ratio of indemnity to premium.
- h. **Person** means an individual, partnership, association, corporation, estate, trust, or other legal entity, and wherever applicable, a State or a political subdivision or agency of a State.
- i. **Replanting** means performing the cultural practices necessary to replant insured acreage to popcorn.
- j. **Replant payment** means payment made to the insured in accordance with the provisions of subsection 9.f. of this policy which payment is subject to offset for premium owed.
- k. **Service office** means the office servicing your contract as shown on the application for insurance or such other approved office as may be selected by you or designated by us.
- l. **Tenant** means a person who rents land from another person for a share of the popcorn or a share of the proceeds therefrom.
- m. **Unit** means all insurable acreage of popcorn in the county on the date of planting for the crop year:
 - (1) in which you have a 100 percent share; or
 - (2) which is owned by one entity and operated by another entity on a share basis.

Land rented for cash, a fixed commodity payment, or any consideration other than a share in the popcorn on such land will be considered as owned by the lessee. Land which would otherwise be one unit may be divided according to applicable guidelines on file in your service office. Units will be determined when the acreage is reported. Errors in reporting units may be corrected by us to conform to applicable guidelines when adjusting a loss.

We may consider any acreage and share thereof reported by or for your spouse or child or any member of your household to be your bona fide share or the bona fide share of any other person having an interest therein.

18. DESCRIPTIVE HEADINGS.

The descriptive headings of the various policy terms and conditions are formulated for convenience only and are not intended to affect the construction or meaning of any of the provisions of the contract.

19. DETERMINATIONS.

All determinations required by the policy will be made by us. If you disagree with our determinations, you may obtain reconsideration of or appeal those determinations in accordance with the Appeal Regulations, (7 CFR Part 400-Subpart J).

20. NOTICES.

All notices required to be given by you must be in writing and received by your service office within the designated time unless otherwise provided by the notice requirement. Notices required to be given immediately may be by telephone or in person and confirmed in writing. Tie of the notice will be determined by the time of our receipt of the written notice.

21. Notwithstanding the terms of the crop insurance policy and any contract for crop insurance under the provisions of this part, coverage under the terms of such crop insurance policy will be effective subject to the availability of appropriations.