

NEWS RELEASE

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NORTH DAKOTA WINTER WHEAT INSPECTIONS

BILLINGS, Mont. April 2, 2012 - The USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds North Dakota producers that any winter wheat planted in the fall of 2011 must have been reported to their crop insurance agent by the March 15th sales closing date. The request for coverage must have included the location and number of acres of fall-planted wheat. Producers who planted winter wheat last fall did so at their own risk because winter wheat is not insurable in North Dakota unless it is determined by the insuring company that an adequate stand exists in the spring. An adequate stand is defined as a population of live plants per unit of acreage that will produce at least the yield used to establish the producer's production guarantee.

With the warmest winter on record and above normal temperatures, the winter wheat is breaking dormancy. There is no requirement for the insuring company to do early inspections. The Small Grains Crop Provisions state that if the insuring company does not inspect the winter wheat, insurance will attach on the applicable spring final planting date. The fall-planted wheat will be insured as a spring type for the purpose of the production guarantee, premium, projected price, and harvest price, if applicable.

However, producers need to understand that if they have a thin or damaged stand of winter wheat they will have to make a decision whether keep it with the risk of not having crop insurance coverage on it, or to replant the acreage to a spring crop/type that is insurable in the county. It is also important to know that any acreage of fall-planted wheat that is damaged after it is accepted for insurance by the insuring company but before the spring final planting date, to the extent that growers in the area would normally not further care for the crop, must be replanted to a spring type of wheat unless it is agreed it is not practical to replant.

If fall-planted acreage is not to be insured, it must be recorded on the acreage report as uninsured fall-planted acreage.

Producers are encouraged to contact their crop insurance agent if they have any questions.

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