

NEWS RELEASE

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Crop Insurance Update - Changes for South Dakota

Billings Mont., September 11, 2012– The Billings Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Risk Management Agency reminds producers in South Dakota that the fall sales closing date is September 30. Fall sales closing and cancellation dates are applicable for wheat (in counties with both a fall and spring sales closing date), forage production, and rye.

There are also significant changes to the Pasture Rangeland and Forage (PRF) program in South Dakota for 2013. The sales closing date for PRF has been moved to November 15, and PRF insurance will be changed from the Vegetation Index (VI) to the Rainfall Index (RI). Producers who use PRF-VI will receive a cancellation notice from their company and will have to complete a new application before the November 15, sales closing date. PRF-RI is based on historical rainfall, has different sized grids, and has different intervals from PRF-VI. Producers are reminded to review their grid information before signing up for insurance. Historical information for each grid and interval across South Dakota can be found at <http://agforceusa.com/rma/ri/prf/maps>. Please remember, producers can carry PRF coverage and also participate in the Farm Service Agency Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program.

Doug Hagel, Billings Regional Office Director, reminds producers to contact their crop insurance agent for more information on the new rules. For more information on how to find a crop insurance agent, go to <http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html> .

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