



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

Risk
Management
Agency

TO: All Northeast Approved Insurance Providers

FROM: Scott Lucas /s/ *Scott Lucas*
Director

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SUBJECT: Crop Year 2015 Regional Underwriting Guidelines for Category C Actual Production History (APH) Crops in the Raleigh RO Region

BACKGROUND:

The 2015 FCIC 18010 Crop Insurance Handbook (CIH) authorizes the Risk Management agency (RMA) Regional Offices (ROs) to issue underwriting procedures for Category C crops that modify procedure for high variability of yields and to provide additional underwriting procedure for regional exceptions.

Paragraph 1562D and E of the CIH provides procedure and formulas designed to identify alternate bearing and downward yield trending for Category C crop yields. In order to expedite the approved actual production history (APH) yield process and decrease the number of requests for RO determined yields and extension deadlines, the Raleigh RO issues these guidelines.

Effective for the 2015 crop year, these RO Underwriting Guidelines are in effect for Apples, Blueberries, Cranberries, Grapes, 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.

NOTE: Peaches, historically part of these Underwriting Guidelines, are now addressed through Bulletin No.: MGR-14-014, and are not included in these guidelines.

ACTION

A. High Variability Requests

As a result of severe weather related events in 2007, 2011 and 2012, the Approved Insurance Provider (AIP) may approve the yield for alternate bearing and for downward yield trending after removing yields for 2007, 2011, and 2012. Determined yield requests are not required to be submitted to the Raleigh RO if high yield variability is **not** evident after these approved crop years are removed from the AIP's analysis. For example, a five

year data base (apples) would only include 2014, 2013, and 2010, and a ten year APH database (blueberries, cranberries, grapes, and pears) would only include 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2006, and 2005 in the AIP's test for high variability of actual yields.

B. PAIR Requirements

In addition to the requirement for Perennial Crop Pre-Acceptance Inspection Report (PAIR) outlined in CIH Paragraph 1538, a new PAIR is required for Category C crops that exhibit a downward yield trend for the most recent three years of actual yields (2014, 2013, and 2010) within a database.

C. Deadline Extensions

In lieu of Paragraph 1540 of the 2015 CIH (which requires a written request for an extension of the PAIR deadline), the AIP is not required to submit a written request for an extension of the PAIR deadline. These guidelines extend the deadline for receipt of the PAIRs in the Raleigh RO to 60 calendar days after the Production Report Date (PRD).

Table 1 below identifies the applicable extended submission deadline for each crop. These extended submission dates only apply to PAIRs required for RO determined yield requests.

Table 1. Extended RMA RO Yield Determination Deadlines:

Crop	PRD	Extended Deadline
Apples	1/15	3/16
Blueberries	1/15	3/16
Cranberries	1/15	3/16
Grapes	1/15	3/16
Pears	1/15	3/16

Please contact the Raleigh Regional Office if you have any additional questions.