



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:** Robert Connors /s/  
Director

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**SUBJECT:** Crop Year 2016 Regional Underwriting Guidelines for Category C Actual Production History (APH) Crops in the Raleigh RO Region

**BACKGROUND:**

The 2016 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 and to provide additional underwriting procedure for regional exceptions.

Paragraph 1862 APH Database Tests for High Variability of Actual Yields of the CIH provides procedure and formulas designed to identify alternate bearing and downward yield trending for Category C crop yields. As a result of severe early freeze in 2007, damaging hail and wind in 2011, and severe weather in 2012 widespread damage to Category C perennial crops was caused. This damage may inadvertently identify certain Category C perennial crops for high variability adjustments. 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 2016 crop year, these RO Underwriting Guidelines are in effect for Apples, Blueberries, Cranberries, Grapes, Peaches, 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.

**ACTION**

**A. High Variability Requests**

For blocks or units meeting the criteria for high variability of actual yields in CIH Paragraph 1862 APH Database Tests for High Variability of Actual Yields, the Approved Insurance Provider (AIP) may approve the yield using the standard Category C APH procedure without adjustment of the approved APH yield by the formula if the AIP

verifies the high variability is due to severe weather related events in 2007, 2011, and 2012 resulting in lower yields which inappropriately trigger an alternate bearing adjustment. If applicable, yield substitution (YA) and Yield Exclusion (YE) is authorized; however, CUP procedure is not applicable for any database identified for high variability of actual yields.

**B. Deadline Extensions**

In lieu of Paragraph 1840 of the 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:*

<b>Crop</b>	<b>PRD</b>	<b>Extended Deadline</b>
Apples	1/15	3/16
Blueberries	1/15	3/16
Cranberries	1/15	3/16
Grapes	1/15	3/16
Peaches	1/15	3/16
Pears	1/15	3/16

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