

2010 Oklahoma City Regional Irrigation Assessment

In accordance with Section 6, Insurable Farming Practices, paragraph 40F, Irrigation Assessments, of the 2010 the Loss Adjustment Manual Standards Handbook (FCIC-25010), the Risk Management Agency Regional Office will assist in a clearinghouse capacity for information concerning regional irrigation assessments in order to identify areas, water districts, aquifers, reservoirs, and other water sources where inadequate irrigation water is suspected. The following is a listing of states and counties meeting the criteria as reported by the Oklahoma City Regional Office:

The following information reflects conditions as of April 30, 2010. Conditions could improve before the actual planting and acreage reporting dates in any of the areas identified in this report. Most Texas and New Mexico spring crop acreage reports occur from July 1 – July 30.

Conches Reservoir: (Quay County, New Mexico)

Background:

Last year due to the lack of any appreciable mountain snow-pack to provide runoff for the Canadian River Basin and in the absence of any winter or spring recharge, the Arch Hurley Conservancy District did not make an initial allocation for crop year 2009.

I. Current assessment:

The Conchas Reservoir will **remain** on our list of areas suspect of water shortages for the 2010 crop year. Crops for which insurance is provided within the 41,000 acre crop land district include barley, corn, cotton, grain sorghum and wheat.

Ogallala Aquifer: (Andrews, Gaines, and Yoakum Counties in Texas, and Harmon County Oklahoma)

Background:

Andrews, Gaines, and Yoakum Counties in Texas, and Harmon County Oklahoma have previously been reported as counties suspected of having inadequate irrigation water supply. Crops grown in these areas for which insurance is provided are cotton, grain sorghum, peanuts, and wheat. All of the water used for irrigation in these counties comes from the Ogallala Aquifer, one of the largest aquifer systems in the world, extending from southern South Dakota and eastern Wyoming, through Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas.

Andrews, Gaines, and Yoakum Counties are at the southern edge of this aquifer and changes in climatic conditions over geologic time have resulted in changes in erosion patterns within the aquifer itself, causing this part of the Ogallala to be cut off from its original supply of water and formation materials. The southern portion of the formation in Texas and New Mexico is now a

plateau and it is therefore, cut off from the rest of the aquifer on all sides. The saturated thickness of the aquifer in the cut-off area does vary throughout the formation and can be as shallow as 20 feet in some areas.

I. Current Assessment:

As such, adequacy of water determinations in these situations must be made on an individual, case-by-case basis. Please refer to the Irrigated Practice Guidelines in the NCIS, M-901 LAM or the FCIC –25010 (02-2010) as to adequacy of water for irrigation determinations for policyholders in these three counties that experienced water availability or delivery problems last year.

Hudspeth County Conservation and Reclamation District # Number 1 (HCCRD):
(Hudspeth County Texas)

The HCCRD is located in the bottomlands of the Rio Grande Valley and extends from the El Paso County and Hudspeth County line to Fort Quitman, Texas. The primary crop grown is cotton. The HCCRD is a “run of the river” project. There is no major storage facility available to the HCCRD so it must rely upon return flow and operational waste from the Rio Grande Project and diversion from the Rio Grande. The HCCRD holds a permit to divert 27,000 acre feet from the Rio Grande. HCCRD will remain on the watch list for the 2010 crop year.

This assessment is being provided for information purposes only. Approved insurance providers will make their own claim determinations based on the individual policyholder’s agronomic situation relative to available irrigation water. This information is not a factual determination on the part of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, the Risk Management Agency, or the Oklahoma City Regional Office.

June 18, 2010