



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Risk
Management
Agency

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REGIONAL INSURABILITY ADVISORY

January 5, 2012

TO: All Approved Insurance Providers Operating in Texas, Oklahoma, or
New Mexico
All Other Interested Parties

FROM: Debra Bouziden, Director

SUBJECT: Regional advisory on the insurability for grain purposes of Willow Creek
wheat, a recently introduced variety of wheat being grown in Oklahoma.

ISSUE:

The Oklahoma City Regional Office has received inquiries regarding the insurability for grain, under the Small Grains Crop Provisions, a wheat variety known as “Willow Creek”.

Background:

This variety of wheat was developed by Montana State University for forage production in the Montana and Wyoming areas. It is a late maturing variety and produces a plant height greater than the commonly grown wheat for grain varieties in this region. Because of the potential to produce more forage than commonly grown wheat for grain varieties, it is now being grown in Oklahoma.

Research performed at Montana State University on this variety has determined that it not a suitable grain producing crop as exhibited by the following excerpts from the Journal of Plant Registrations, Vol. 3, No.2, May 2009.

“Grain yield and milling and baking characteristics of this cultivar are poor.”

“Willow Creek is suitable for forage production in Montana and Wyoming under rainfed or irrigated conditions. Willow Creek should not be planted with the intent of a dual-purpose hay or grain crop.”

Numerous articles and information regarding “Willow Creek” wheat can be found on the internet by searching for topics such as: “Willow Creek wheat”.



The Risk Management Agency Administers
And Oversees All Programs Authorized Under
The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

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Insured Crop Requirements

Section 8 (b) (1) of the Common Crop Policy (11--BR) states the following concerning a variety that is not generally recognized for the area:

(b) A crop which will NOT be insured will include, but will not be limited to, any crop:

(1) That is not grown on planted acreage (except for the purposes of prevented planting coverage), *or that is a type, class or variety not generally recognized for the area.*

Section 6 of the Small Grain Crop Provisions (11-0011) state at paragraph (a);

The crop insured will be each small grain you elect to insure, that is grown in the county on insurable acreage, *and for which premium rates are provided by the actuarial documents.*

ACTION:

Based on the information cited above Willow Creek does not meet the insurability requirements of the Small Grains Crop Provisions to be an insurable variety of wheat for grain purposes in Oklahoma, Texas or New Mexico.

RMA approved policies and related procedures relative to this variety or similar varieties of forage wheat, as discussed above, must be followed as they apply to their particular situations.

DISPOSAL DATE:

December 31, 2012