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Agriculture

Farm and Foreign  
Agricultural  
Services

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Management  
Agency

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**BULLETIN NO.: MGR-11-011**

**TO:** All Approved Insurance Providers  
All Risk Management Agency Field Offices  
All Other Interested Parties

**FROM:** William J. Murphy /s/ *William J. Murphy* 7/26/2011  
Administrator

**SUBJECT:** One Sample Strategy for Aflatoxin Testing in Texas

**BACKGROUND:**

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has been notified by the Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC) that they will implement a new program in Texas for Aflatoxin testing that is referred to as "One Sample Strategy (OSS)." Participation by grain elevators will be on a voluntary basis and they must meet specific guidelines to be considered in the program.

The OTSC will administer the OSS program within the State of Texas and provide training and certification for personnel from each participating Texas elevator who performs sampling and testing. The sampling and testing process will be monitored on a weekly basis by the OTSC.

The OTSC began implementation of the program in July 2011. Certified sampling and testing personnel wear special identification badges and clothing identifying them as OTSC official samplers and testers. Certificates issued by the OTSC will be posted at the participating grain elevator facility indicating that it is an OTSC-approved OSS Aflatoxin testing facility. Participating elevator personnel will be certified yearly by the OTSC. Certified personnel may be decertified if the OTSC determines they are not meeting the prescribed standards.

The program requires use of Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS)-approved test kits that validate up to 100 parts per billion (ppb) for Aflatoxin, along with FGIS approved sample grinding equipment.



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

**ACTION:**

For the 2011 crop year, AIPs may consider OTSC-approved Texas grain elevator facilities to be approved laboratories for corn Aflatoxin testing for crop insurance purposes.

AIPs are reminded that production that is to be stored on the farm must be tested prior to on-farm storage. AIPs may submit samples of corn that is to be stored on the farm to OTSC-approved testing facilities for Aflatoxin testing. For corn with Aflatoxin that is initially stored on the farm and later delivered to an elevator for purchase or commercial storage, AIPs must use for claim settlement the Aflatoxin test result taken prior to the corn entering on-farm storage; no other Aflatoxin test result will be considered. The elevators may charge policyholders for the Aflatoxin tests and test certificates.

The OTSC will provide a list of participating elevator facilities that are certified to test for Aflatoxin on their website for verification purposes at the following address:

<http://otscweb.tamu.edu/Risk/OneSample/SampleAbout.aspx>

This list will be updated weekly. If an elevator is decertified by the OTSC, Aflatoxin tests conducted by that elevator after the date of decertification must not be used for Federal crop insurance purposes.

The OTSC will provide official test certificates of analysis documenting the level of Aflatoxin which will be completed by the participating elevator and provided to the insured. AIPs using these test results for claims settlement must obtain a copy of this official test certificate for the claim file.

AIPs may continue to use other approved private, State, or university laboratories for Aflatoxin testing in lieu of any elevators operating under the OTSC'OSS program.

To ensure program integrity, RMA will annually reauthorize the use of the OSS program for crop insurance purposes.

**DISPOSAL DATE:**

December 31, 2011