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USDA Makes It Easier to Grow Food Next Year

News Release |
Billings, Montana
|
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Expanding Insurance Coverage for Double Cropping for 2023 to Support Food Production

Billings, Mont., Oct. 6, 2022 – With challenges related to the pandemic, supply chains, and the war in Ukraine, farmers are doing their part to feed the world. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is making that easier by simplifying the crop insurance application process and expanding double cropping coverage, enabling producers to insure two crops on the same land each year, such as soybeans following the harvest of crops like winter wheat. This is the result of active stakeholder engagement and part of a [broader effort by USDA](#) to address global food insecurity and to boost domestic production.

To increase awareness of double cropping, USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds producers that for the 2023 crop year there may be insurance options for double crop soybeans as well as grain sorghum and other crops in counties where the Following Another Crop (FAC) practice is not available.

"It's important that producers know they have insurance options for relay cropping" said Eric Bashore, RMA's Billings (Montana) Regional Office Director. "If you're looking at relay cropping in counties without coverage, please contact your crop insurance agent for details on requesting a written agreement to provide coverage."

As part of increasing the number of counties where insurance for double cropping is available, RMA held 100-plus meetings and engagements with a broad range of farm organizations and the crop insurance industry in the past few months.

For the 2023 crop year, the Billings Regional Office reminds farmers that they may be eligible to request coverage with a written agreement through their crop insurance agent to insure their relay cropping practice if there is evidence of adaptability for the practice in the area. Producers requesting coverage for the relay cropping practice for the first time have until the acreage reporting date of July 15 to submit a request to their crop insurance agent.

Information regarding the details of the expansion of these options, including maps, can be found as they become available at the [Billings Regional Office](#) webpage.

RMA has also published [frequently asked questions](#) specifically related to the expansion effort and more generally about double cropping.

More Information

RMA's expansion of double cropping is part of a [broader effort to help producers](#) boost production and address global food insecurity. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service is also improving opportunities for [nutrient management](#). This includes targeting funding, increasing program flexibilities, launching a new outreach campaign to promote nutrient management's economic benefits, and expanding partnerships to develop nutrient management plans. Meanwhile, USDA's Rural Development is now accepting proposals for its \$500 million investment in the new [Fertilizer Production Expansion Program](#).

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the [RMA Agent Locator](#). Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at rma.usda.gov.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and

producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit usda.gov.

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