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Crop Insurance Deadline Nears in California

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Producers Need to Sign Up for Whole-Farm Revenue Protection Soon

DAVIS, Calif., Feb. 6, 2015 — USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds California producers that the final date to apply for the new Whole-Farm Revenue Protection insurance policy is February 28, 2015. Whole-Farm Revenue Protection is available for the 2015 crop year in Butte, Fresno, Kern, Mendocino, Monterey, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Sonoma, Tulare, Yolo, Yuba, and Ventura counties.

The policy allows producers to insure between 50 to 85 percent of their whole-farm revenue and makes crop insurance more affordable for producers, including fruit and vegetable growers and organic farmers and ranchers. It allows these growers to insure a variety of crops at once instead of one commodity at a time. That gives them the option of embracing more crop diversity and helps support the production of a wider variety of foods.

This policy is tailored for any farm with up to \$8.5 million in insured revenue, including farms with specialty or organic commodities (both crops and livestock), or those marketing to local, regional, farm-identity preserved, specialty, or direct markets. With California's strong and diverse agricultural community, this program could be an essential risk management tool in helping specialty and organic growers mitigate revenue losses.

The new policy will also provide a whole-farm premium subsidy to farms with two or more commodities as long as minimum diversification requirements are met, which means purchasing crop insurance will be more affordable for producers. Whole-Farm Revenue Protection can be purchased in conjunction with individual crop policies as long as those policies are at a buy-up coverage level.

More information, including availability of the product, can be found on RMA's website at RMA's <u>Whole-Farm website</u>. 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 at the RMA <u>Agent Locator</u>. Producers can use the RMA <u>Cost Estimator</u> to get a premium amount estimate of their insurance needs online.

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