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<u>Crop Insurance Deadline Nears in South Carolina for Pasture, Rangeland,</u> and Forage and Apiculture Producers

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VALDOSTA, Ga., Oct. 31, 2022 — The USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds South Carolina forage, livestock, and honey producers that the final date to apply for crop insurance coverage for the 2023 crop year is December 1. Current policyholders who wish to make changes to their existing coverage also have until the December 1 sales closing date to do so.

Federal crop insurance is critical to the farm safety net. It helps producers and owners manage revenue risks and strengthens the rural economy. Acreage intended for grazing and haying is insurable under the Pasture, Rangeland and Forage (PRF) program, and colonies of bees are insurable under the Apiculture program. The PRF and Apiculture programs for 2023 are under the <u>Rainfall Index</u> insurance plan. Coverage is available for PRF and Apiculture in all South Carolina counties. For more information regarding coverage, producers can access RMA <u>Apiculture Grid ID</u> <u>Locator</u> and the <u>PRF Support Tool</u> online.

Growers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent soon to learn specific details for the 2023 crop year.

RMA is authorizing additional flexibilities due to coronavirus while continuing to support producers, working through Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) to deliver services, including processing policies, claims, and agreements. RMA staff are working with AIPs and other customers by phone, mail and electronically to continue supporting crop insurance coverage for producers. Farmers with crop insurance questions or needs should continue to contact their insurance agents about conducting business remotely (by telephone or email). More information can be found at <u>farmers.gov/coronavirus</u>.

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available online using 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. Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at <u>rma.usda.gov</u>.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In 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 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 <u>usda.gov</u>.

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