

MGR-20-007: COVID-19 Relief - Deferral of Interest Charges on Crop Insurance Premiums

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Date

March 27, 2020

To

All Approved Insurance Providers

All Risk Management Agency Field Offices

All Other Interested Parties

From

Martin R. Barbre, Administrator /s/ Martin R. Barbre

Subject

COVID-19 Relief - Deferral of Interest Charges on Crop Insurance Premiums

Background

Many state and local governments have issued “stay at home” orders in response to the COVID-19. Concerns have been expressed about the requirement to pay crop insurance premiums timely to avoid accrual of interest.

Section 24 of the Common Crop Insurance Policy, Basic Provision (BP) states that interest will accrue starting the first day of the month, following issuance of the notice of premium due by the Approved Insurance Provider (AIP), provided that a minimum of 30 days has passed from the premium billing date.

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) recognizes the challenges the crop insurance industry and America’s farmers and ranchers face and will provide flexibility that supports the health and safety of all parties, while also ensuring the Federal crop insurance program continues to serve as a vital risk management tool.

Action

AIPs are authorized to provide additional time for policyholders to make payment of premium and administrative fees. Interest accrual on premium payments and administrative fees, as noted above, will be waived to the earliest of an additional 60 days of the scheduled payment due date or the termination date on policies with premium billing dates between March 1, 2020, and April 30, 2020. AIPs will begin to accrue interest after this additional period for unpaid premium and administrative fees. AIPs should promptly notify potentially affected policyholders of said relief.

To assist the AIPs and provide relief from the requirements of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA) that all uncollected premium be paid to the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), RMA will also defer collection of any unpaid producer premium and administrative fees, and waive all associated interest from AIPs accordingly beginning with the April monthly accounting reports.

AIPs are also authorized to provide additional time for policyholders to make payment for Written Payment Agreements due between March 1, 2020, and April 30, 2020. Payments may be extended up to 60 days of the scheduled payment due date and considered a timely payment. Such extension of time will not be considered a modification of the Written Payment Agreement and the AIP may waive any additional interest for the payment during this 60-day period.

DISPOSAL DATE:

December 31, 2020