

IS-16-003: Apiculture - User Fee Notification

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Date

October 17, 2016

To

All Approved Insurance Providers

All Risk Management Agency Field Offices

All Other Interested Parties

From

Robert Ibarra, Deputy Administrator for Insurance Services /s/ Robert Ibarra

10/17/2016

Subject

Apiculture - User Fee Notification

AgForce USA, Inc. (AgForce), the developers of the Apiculture plan of insurance advised the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) Board of Directors (Board) of their intent to maintain the Apiculture plan of insurance and charge a user fee to approved insurance providers (AIP) selling the plan. Section 522(b)(4)(C) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act) allows submitters to maintain approved 508(h) products and charge a user fee to approved insurance providers (AIP) that elect to sell the policy.

Section 522(b)(4)(D)(ii) of the Act and 7 C.F.R. 400.712(j)(4) provide that the Board will determine the reasonableness and approve the amount of user fee that is payable to the applicant by the AIP. The user fee is owed by the AIP and cannot be passed on to producers as an increase in premium or an administrative charge.

On August 18, 2019, the Board approved a user fee in the amount of \$0.035 of earned premium for policies covered under the Apiculture plan of insurance, not to exceed a total annual amount of \$250,000 in 2017. The Board will review the user fee in future years to ensure that the amount is representative of the maintenance costs for the product. The regulation provides that it is AgForce's responsibility to

collect the fees from AIPs, and any indebtedness for such fees must be resolved by AgForce and the AIP. Upon request, FCIC may provide the number of policies sold by each AIP to AgForce.

If you have any questions regarding the user fees, please contact your Reinsurance Services Account Representative.