

IDAHO POTATO PULSE



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY
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New Options for Corn Growers and Multi-Peril Crop Insurance Program March 15 Sales Closing Date Nears

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, February 7, 2011 ---- **USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA)** reminds Pacific Northwest producers of the March 15 deadline to obtain or make changes to their 2011 crop year spring Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) coverage.

Corn growers have new revenue and yield protection plan options when selecting coverage under the improved Common Crop Insurance, Basic and Corn Crop Provisions. Both the Revenue and Yield Protection plans will use regional market exchanges to develop the projected price used to establish the insurance guarantee and premium for the crop and the harvest price used to value production to count under the Revenue Protection Plans. This pricing method is new to policies converting from the Actual Production History plan to the Yield Protection plan. Additionally, producers of organic corn will have an adjusted projected price election reflective of their commodity's value for the first time. RMA will announce the organic projected price no later than March 5.

Producers are reminded of the **March 15 sales closing date** which applies to most spring seeded MPCI crops and for NEW applications under the **Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite)** insurance program (in Idaho, Oregon and Washington).

RMA would like to remind producers of the important link between Federal crop insurance and Farm Service Agency (FSA) Disaster Assistance programs. To maintain eligibility for FSA's disaster programs, producers must obtain a policy or plan of insurance of at least catastrophic (CAT) level coverage if available. For those crops that are non-insurable, coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program must also be timely obtained. Producers are encouraged to visit with their local FSA office to ensure they are in compliance with the new linkage requirements. If there is no coverage in a county for a specific crop under the traditional MPCI program; producers may ask a crop insurance agent whether they would be eligible for coverage under a written agreement.

Federal crop insurance program policies are sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance companies and agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers throughout the United States or on the RMA Web site at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>