

NEWS RELEASE

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USDA/RMA OFFER INSUREDS AN OPPORTUNITY TO INSURE CROPS FOLLOWING COVER CROPS

Springfield, Ill., January 24, 2011 – Brian D. Frieden, Director of the Springfield Regional Office of the Risk Management Agency, informs producers that the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) will offer insureds an opportunity to insure crops following cover crops in the Springfield Region by requesting a Written Agreement.

Frieden says, “The use of cover crops has increased during recent years in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. Much of the increase is attributable to cost share assistance programs such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and others provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for the benefit of reducing soil erosion and nutrient runoff.”

Generally, in the Springfield RO region, insurance is not available for corn or soybeans following another crop (i.e. cover crop) that has reached the headed or budded stage or that has been harvested in the same calendar year. If the cover crop growth is not terminated before reaching the headed or budded stage or the cover crop is harvested in the same calendar year, insurance may now be available through a Written Agreement provided certain criteria are met.

To request a Type/Practice Written Agreement to insure a crop following a cover crop, insureds should speak with their crop insurance agent. Insureds must submit a completed Request for Actuarial Change form; a completed Actual Production History (APH) form with separate databases for the “following a cover crop” practice; the location of the acreage where the practice is being used; the type of cover crop being grown; and the method of cover crop termination (if the termination has occurred at the time of the request).

If approved by RMA, the Written Agreement will specify a rate, a transitional yield (by crop) for the acreage, and that the cover crop growth must be terminated by May 15th of the current crop year. Producers may consider this offer and accept or decline coverage.

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