



CropTalk

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December 2003

MEMBERSHIP

NCIS OFFICE CLOSING

Thursday, December 25th, the NCIS office will be closed for Christmas. *(Dana Ford)*

MPCI UNDERWRITING

POLICY CHANGES

RMA has announced the following policy changes for the 2004 crop year. NCIS versions of these policy forms will be issued soon.

- AGR-Lite [R&D-03-044].
- Revised CRC Commodity Exchange Endorsement [R&D-03-047] & CRC Underwriting Rules [R&D-03-047.1].
- GRIP Basic Provisions and Crop Provisions for Corn & Soybeans [R&D-03-048] and a new GRIP Harvest Revenue Option Endorsement [R&D-03-049]. *(Chris Lindsay)*

PERENNIAL CROP TOLERANCE GUIDELINES

The Raleigh Regional Office (RO) issued another Informational Memorandum dated 11/10/03 with Additional 2004 Underwriting Guidelines for Blueberries. *(Chris Lindsay)*

MPCI UNDERWRITING (cont.)

IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER

Of possible interest, both under the Department of Agriculture (NCIS probably will not comment unless we receive comments from our members):

Two more Notices revising the Privacy Act systems of records were published on November 17 and December 2, 2003.

- The first would "...re-designate a USDA Office of Outreach system of records as a USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) system." If companies wish to do so, comments are due to Ronald W. Holling at FSA by December 17, 2003.
- The second revises the systems involving the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). Comments are due to Valerie N. Herberger at ARS by January 2, 2004.

Final & Interim Final Rules affecting "Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)" were published November 26, 2003. If companies wish to comment to the Interim Final Rule affecting 7 CFR Parts 3017 & 3021 under the Department of Agriculture (starting on page 66562 of the Federal Register document), comments are due to Tyson Whitney of that agency by January 26, 2004. *(Chris Lindsay)*

MPCI UNDERWRITING (cont.)

FINAL AGENCY DETERMINATIONS

RMA has issued two Final Agency Determinations (FAD's), which are "binding on all participants in the Federal crop insurance program" beginning with the 2004 crop year. For details, see the RMA website under "What's New" for December 3rd.

- FAD-023: Interpretation of Basic Provisions section 15(f)(2)(ii) regarding the "commensurate" (35%) reduction of the producer-paid premium (and prevented planting payment) for the first insured crop.
- FAD-024: Interpretation of Basic Provisions section 15(e) regarding an insured's possible choices when the first insured crop has an insurable loss, and a second crop is planted and insured on the same acreage. *(Chris Lindsay)*

TRAINING

2004 NCIS CONFERENCES

Please note the following dates for the three conferences in 2004. Bulletins containing the registration information will be out 6—8 weeks prior to each conference. Please watch the NCIS homepage for further information as it becomes available. *(Laurence Crane)*

Feb 3-4, 2004	2004 Claims Managers Conference	Overland Park Marriott, OP, KS
Jul 20-21, 2004	2005 Fall Update Conference	Overland Park Sheraton, OP, KS
Nov 9-10, 2004	2005 Spring Update Conference	Overland Park Sheraton, OP, KS

RECENT BULLETINS

The following bulletins were issued 11/01 through 11/30. If you did not receive one and feel you should have, please contact Donna Bryan so we can send you a copy and update our mailing list.

BULLETIN NO.	DATE ISSUED	SERIES*	TYPE	TITLE	DISTRIBUTION
03090	11/03/03	162	ET	2004 Small Grains Training Unit	MB, ET
03091	11/12/03	1027	ML	2003 NCIS MPCI Strawberry School—12/10-11/03—Plant City, FL	SE, SF, SKL—misc.
03092	11/18/03	2085	MRF	Processing Tomato Proposed Rule for Comment	MM
03093	11/20/03	1028	ML	NCIS MPCI Loss Adjustment Handbooks: Macadamia Nut	LM, MM
03094	11/24/03	1029	ML	MN/ND/SD R/S Committee Annual Mtg 1/6-7/04	misc
03095	11/25/03	1030	ML	CO/WY R/S Committee Annual Mtg 1/15/04	misc
03096	11/25/03	1031	ML	Northwest R/S Committee Annual Mtg 1/6/04	misc
03097	11/25/03	1032	ML	Montana R/S Committee Annual Mtg 1/8/04	misc

*HRF-Hail Rates & Forms	ML-MPCI Loss Adjust.	HL-Hail Loss Adjust.	DP-Data Processing
SRI-Stat. Report Inst.	MRF-MPCI Rates & Forms	MB-Membership	ET-Education/Training

2004 REGIONAL/STATE ANNUAL MEETINGS

R/S Committee	Meeting Date	Location	Liaison
Northwest	January 6, 2004	Post Falls, ID	Dean Strasser
Minnesota North Dakota South Dakota	January 6-7, 2004	Flandreau, SD	Mark Zarnstorff Dave Hall Mark Zarnstorff
Montana	January 8, 2004	Great Falls, MT	Dean Strasser
Colorado/Wyoming	January 15, 2004	Sterling, CO	Roger Hammer
Gulf States	January 22, 2004	Robinsonville, MS	Roger Hammer
Southwest	January 29-30, 2004	Lubbock, TX	Dave Hall
Illinois/Wisconsin	February 4, 2004	Springfield, IL	Mike O'Connor
Indiana/Ohio/Michigan	February 5, 2004	Lafayette, IN	Don Hutsell
Nebraska Iowa	February 10-11, 2004	Council Bluffs, IA	Dave Hall Don Hutsell
California/Nevada	February 17-18, 2004	Monterey, CA	Mike O'Connor
Kentucky/Tennessee	February 19, 2004	Nashville, TN	Shane Weaver
Missouri	February 24, 2004	Columbia, MO	Shane Weaver
Kansas/Oklahoma	February 26, 2004	Wichita, KS	Dean Strasser
Southeast East	March 2-3, 2004	Charleston, SC	Loretta Sobba Loretta Sobba