

Topics this week:

- NCIS Welcomes New Employee
- NCIS Conducts RMA Funded Risk Management Education Project
- New Production Plan Data Reporting Format for 2012
- GAO Report Released Regarding Crop Insurance



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Another active week at NCIS. With many new and important developments taking place in our industry, we bring you a “round-up” of NCIS activities, meetings, projects and progress. A list of future events will also be included in each edition.

We welcome your comments and look forward to sharing this update with you.

NCIS Welcomes New Employee Chris Ohm

NCIS welcomes Chris Ohm to the NCIS staff as Crop Insurance Specialist in the Loss Adjustment and Insurance Products Department (LAIP). Chris has an extensive crop insurance background earned through working in the insurance community for 15 years in the MPCI, Crop Hail and Named Peril insurance programs. Chris graduated from Kansas State University. Welcome Aboard Chris!



NCIS Conducts RMA Funded Risk Management Education Project

Dr. Laurence Crane, NCIS (far left) is Project Director of a RMA funded Risk Management Education project that NCIS is conducting in cooperation with University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff, and Alcorn State University in Mississippi. The objective of this educational activity is to help African American farmers in Arkansas and Mississippi develop risk management plans for their farms. This training consisted of a series of three workshops in each state and 60 hours of individualized instruction. The last round of workshops was held this week in Pine Bluff, Arkansas and Jackson, Mississippi.



New Production Plan Data Reporting Format for 2012

Beginning with the 2012 crop year, NCIS' Crop-Hail data reporting system undergoes the most significant change since 1998 as new record formats are added for production plan policies. The additional fields for production plan policies allow full hail liability and associated losses to be included in NCIS Final Average Loss Costs (FALC). Production Plan policies represent over \$4.4 billion in liability and \$178 million in premium as of the 2011 crop year. NCIS would like to acknowledge the assistance of the companies who voluntarily submitted the revised production plan data format for 2011. Your assistance has been invaluable in ensuring the programming changes are working as intended prior to reporting this new record format for 2012.

GAO Report Released Regarding Crop Insurance

On Thursday, April 12, the GAO released a report titled *Crop Insurance: Savings Would Result from Program Changes and Greater Use of Data Mining* (<http://1.usa.gov/IR8j8T>). The released report also generated a story in the New York Times (<http://nyti.ms/lu4YOL>). NCIS developed a statement and provided it to Sara Wyant, Jerry Hagstrom, Chris Clayton, Keith Good, and Arthur Postal. All of these reporters included all or portions of our statement in the articles they wrote about the GAO report. A separate letter to the editor was written and submitted to

the New York Times for publication.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman, Frank Lucas, defended the crop insurance program saying in response “...Over and over again we have heard from our farmers about the importance of crop insurance because it forms the backbone of the safety net. **I do not support the repeated attacks on an actuarial sound risk management program that serves as a good example of a public-private partnership where producers pay for coverage.** This proposal would discourage participation in the crop insurance program and as a result endanger its integrity.” (<http://1.usa.gov/Hv1ho9>)

Future Meetings and Events Calendar

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date(s)</i>
2012 Meetings	
NCIS MPC/PPA Committee	April 17 & 18
NCIS CH/PPA Committee	April 18 & 19
Production Reporting Workgroup	April 26
NCIS TIP Committee	May 1 & 2
NCIS CH A&S Committee	May 3 & 4
FCIC Board Meeting	May 8-10
Data Mining Steering Committee	May 10
NCIS Program Development Committee	May 15 & 16
NCIS Board of Directors Meeting	June 25 & 26
Federal Crop Insurance Partnership Meeting	June 27
NCIS Fall Update Conference	July 24 & 25
FCIC Board Meeting	August 7-9
NAIC Meeting	August 11-14
FCIC Board Meeting	September 18-20
NCIS Board of Directors Meeting	September 19 & 20
FCIC Board Meeting	November 6-8
NCIS Spring Update Conference	November 7 & 8
Federal Crop Insurance Partnership Meeting	November 27 & 28
NAIC Meeting	Nov 29 – Dec 2
NCIS Board of Directors Meeting	December 13 & 14
2013 Meetings	
NCIS Claims Managers Conference	January 23 & 24
Crop Insurance Industry Annual Convention	February 10-13
Commodity Classic	Feb 28 – March 2
NCIS Fall Update Conference	July 16 & 17
NCIS Spring Update Conference	November 6 & 7