November 26, 2008

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM:  PM-08-061

TO:       All Approved Insurance Providers
          All Risk Management Agency Field Offices
          All Other Interested Parties

FROM:     Tim B. Witt /s/Rodger M. Matthews, for
          Deputy Administrator

SUBJECT:   Pilot Biotech Yield Endorsement (BYE)

BACKGROUND:

On September 12, 2007, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) Board of Directors (Board) approved the Pilot Biotech Yield Endorsement (BYE) beginning with the 2008 crop year and terminating at the end of the 2011 crop year unless it was cancelled or extended by FCIC.

On August 14, 2008, the FCIC Board conditionally approved additional seed technologies and states for a premium rate reduction under section 523(d) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act) for producers who plant certain qualifying hybrids beginning with the 2009 crop year. The Board’s approval was conditioned upon the development of a single unified biotechnology endorsement. On August 27, 2008, all Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) that offered the Pilot BYE for 2008 were notified that a single unified biotechnology endorsement would replace the Pilot BYE beginning with the 2009 crop year. In addition, AIPs were advised not to provide the BYE to producers for the 2009 crop year.

ACTION:

The Pilot BYE, all related materials and the associated premium rate reductions are no longer effective. The Pilot Biotechnology Endorsement (BE) replaces the Pilot BYE for the 2009 through 2011 crop years, reflects all States, practices and triple stack technologies eligible under the Pilot BE and will be available on the RMA website by close of business today at the following link:  www.rma.usda.gov/pilots/2009pilot.html
The Pilot BE related materials will be released upon completion.

DISPOSAL DATE:

This informational memorandum expires December 31, 2008.