

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Risk Management Agency • Raleigh Regional Office • 4405 Bland Road, Suite 160

Raleigh, NC • 919-875-4880 • rsonc@rma.usda.gov • <http://rma.usda.gov/go/ronc>

Contact:
Warren Hawkins (919) 875-4880

USDA ANNOUNCES CROP INSURANCE DEADLINE FOR PENNSYLVANIA SPRING CROPS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania farmers are reminded that the final date to apply for crop insurance on most insurable spring-planted crops for this year is March 16, 2009, according to the Raleigh Regional Office, USDA Risk Management Agency. Because the sales closing date of March 15 falls on Sunday this year, the deadline will be the next business day. Current policyholders also have until March 16 to make any changes to their existing contracts. Crop insurance provides protection against losses due to natural perils such as drought, hail, wind, and excessive moisture. The March 15 sales closing date applies to Spring Barley, Cabbage, Corn, Forage Seeding, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Fresh Market Tomatoes, Grain Sorghum, Green Peas, Oats, Potatoes, Processing Beans, Processing Sweet Corn, Processing Tomatoes, Soybeans, and Tobacco. Farmers may also want to inquire about revenue plans such as Crop Revenue Coverage and Indexed Income Protection that offer protection against market price declines for crops like corn and soybeans. In addition, low-cost group plans such as the Group Risk Plan and Group Risk Income Protection are also available in many counties for corn and forage production. Producers are strongly urged to contact a local crop insurance agent as soon as possible for premium quotes and more details. For a list of crop insurance agents in your area, contact the local USDA Farm Service Agency office or log on to the Risk Management Agency web site: <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>.

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