



Native Sod Guidelines for Federal Crop Insurance

June 2014

Native Sod Guidelines

The Risk Management Agency's (RMA) native sod guidelines are designed to inform producers about new rules that impact crop insurance benefits when native sod is tilled for annual crops in the upper Midwest. These guidelines apply to all counties in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. As a producer, your benefits are reduced if you till native sod acreage to grow an annual crop during the first 4 crop years you are covered by Federal crop insurance for that acreage. This reduction in benefits applies only to native sod acreage and does not extend to other acreage in your operation. Native sod acreage is acreage that has never been tilled or that you cannot prove to have been previously tilled for crop production. These guidelines apply to acreage that is greater than five acres per crop policy and for annual crops only. To prove that acreage was previously tilled, you must provide documentation to your approved insurance provider. Acceptable documentation may include, but is not limited to:

- A Farm Service Agency (FSA)-578 document showing the crop that was previously planted on the requested acreage;
- A prior crop year's FSA-578 document showing that the requested acreage is classified as cropland;
- A prior crop year's Common Land Unit (CLU) Schema (RMA provides this to approved insurance providers), presented in a map format that contains the farm number, tract number, field number, CLU classification (the cropland classification code is '2'), and calculated acres by field;
- Receipts and/or invoices from custom planters or harvesters identifying the fields that were planted or harvested;
- A Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Form CPA-026e identifying the acreage with a "No" in the Sodbust column and a "Yes" in the HEL column;

- An NRCS Form CPA-026e identifying the acreage with a "Yes" in the Sodbust column and a determination date on or before February 7, 2014; or
- Precision agriculture planting records and/or raw data for previous crop years, provided such records meet the precision farming acreage reporting requirements.

Additional guidelines exist depending on which insurance policy you have for your annual crop. Please see below for additional guidelines for your annual crop and insurance policy.

Common Crop Policy

If your crop is insured under a Common Crop Insurance Policy, your approved actual production history (APH) yield is established at 65 percent of the RMA published transitional yield or personal transitional yield, if elected. Your production reports are still required by the production reporting date, but are not used to establish your approved APH yield. No yield substitution is allowed for a year of poor yields. Your premium subsidy, excluding Catastrophic Risk Protection (CAT) coverage, is reduced by 50 percentage points.

Area Risk Protection Insurance Policies

If your crop is insured under an Area Risk Protection Insurance Policy, your protection factor is limited to 65 percent to reflect the reduction in the expected yield. Your premium subsidy, excluding CAT coverage, is reduced by 50 percentage points.

Rainfall Index - Annual Forage Policy and SCO Endorsement

If your crop is insured under a Rainfall Index - Annual Forage Policy, or if you have a Supplemental Coverage Option endorsement, your premium subsidy is reduced by 50 percentage points.

Approved Insurance Provider and Agent Responsibilities

Agents and approved insurance providers will identify and track native sod acreage (as a separate line item) on the acreage report. The line item will contain the acreage's planting date, the FSA farm number, the tract number, and the field number.

Where to Buy Crop Insurance

All multi-peril crop insurance, including CAT policies, are available from private insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA service centers and on the RMA website at: www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/agents/.

Contact Us

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