

March 15 Crop Insurance Deadline Nears

In 2002, record numbers of Pennsylvania producers purchased crop insurance as the foundation for managing their production risk exposures (table provides more details). The 14,000 policies provided protection on 27,775 farm crop units.

When the severe drought emerged last summer, these growers knew that they had protection based on their needs assessment at the time that they finalized their insurance protection decisions last spring.

It's estimated that the Pennsylvania crop insurance loss payments for 2002 will total about \$60 million compared to \$5.7 million of producer-paid premium. Pennsylv-

vania producers would have received an additional \$30 if Pennsylvania enrollment rates were equal to U.S. average.

Losses are expected to be paid on about half of the farm insurance units. Producers in 17 counties received loss payment in excess of one million dollars as of Feb. 10. They are Franklin, \$6.2 million; Lancaster, \$3.8 million; Berks, \$4.1 million; Cumberland, \$2.7 million; Adams, \$2.5 million; Blair, \$2.2 million; Huntingdon, \$2 million; Lehigh, \$2.0 million; York, \$2 million; Erie, \$1.5 million; Northampton, \$1.5 million; Perry, \$1.4 million; Lebanon, \$1.2 million; Schuylkill, \$1.6 million; Dauphin, \$1.2 million; Northumberland, \$1.2 million; and Bedford, \$1.1 million.

Most crop insurance decisions for 2003 spring crops must be finalized by March 15. This includes choosing the insurance plan, the level of coverage, and other options which vary by crop. USDA and the commonwealth of Pennsylvania will again be providing premium cost shares equal to about 75 percent of the gross premium costs.

There is always a temptation to reduce coverage when there is good spring moisture, but it is important to remember that it takes good weather all summer long to grow good crops. Insurance plans work best when producers pick the plan and amount of protection to meet their economic needs,

PA CROP INSURANCE PERFORMANCE ESTIMATES - ADJUSTED TO REFLECT GRANTS

YEAR	TOTAL POLICIES INSURED	PROTECTION IN FORCE (DOL.)	NET ACRES INSURED	TOTAL PREMIUM (DOL.)	FARMER PAID (DOL.)	LOSSES PAID (DOL.)	FARMER BENEFIT COST RATIO
94	2 629	25 777 064	201 253	2 305 893	1 641 359	1 453 872	0.89
95	10 745	72 142 405	735 058	4 760 689	1 448 607	5 215 273	3.60
96	8 500	74 754 880	594 729	5 370 601	1 891 539	2 798 147	1.48
97	7 094	76 761 707	558 883	5 146 381	1 862 749	9 558 588	5.13
98	6 056	79 459 150	519 764	5 575 978	2 300 937	5 358 682	2.33
99	7 009	111 243 105	609 738	6 873 960	2 327 906	22 528 185	9.68
00	11 622	162 163 698	940 277	11 674 668	3 931 058	6 647 498	1.69
01	12 133	186 651 461	976 887	13 965 821	3 854 986	17 584 460	4.56
02 Est	14,616	222,023,909	1,124,770	19,024,467	5,732,528	\$50 - 60 MI	INC
97-01		616,279,121	3,605,549	43,236,808	14,277,635	61,677,413	4.32
81-01		1,005,953,550	6,565,345	71,395,717	31,005,040	94,830,598	3.06

Note: State of PA paid about \$4.5 million of producer premiums and policy fees for 2000-2002

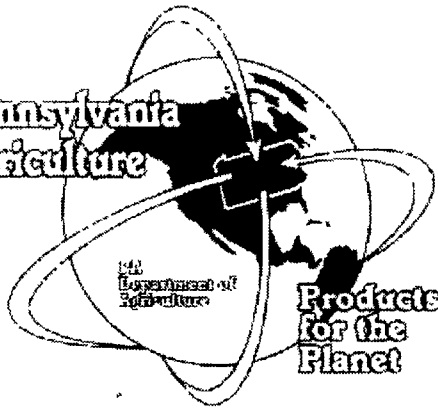
and stick with them year in and year out. Studies indicate that this approach often improves economic stability to the farming operations and can improve the inheritance of your grandchildren.

To get current quotes on insurance plans available, growers are encouraged to visit with their crop insurance agent before the March 15

deadline. A list of insurance agents is available at the FSA office or on the Internet at www.rma.usda.gov.

Information provided by Eugene Gantz, RMA, on behalf of the risk management educational partnership of PDA, PSU, and RMA/USDA.

Pennsylvania
Agriculture



Pennsylvania Crop Insurance Program

The PA Crop Insurance Assistance Program has been extended for crop year 2003. Benefits include:

FREE "CAT" Coverage

**Discounted Premiums & Fees
(Paid for "Buy-Up" Coverage)**

To receive these benefits, contact a crop insurance agent today. List available at www.rma.usda.gov

Enrollment Deadline:

March 15 - Spring Planted Crops

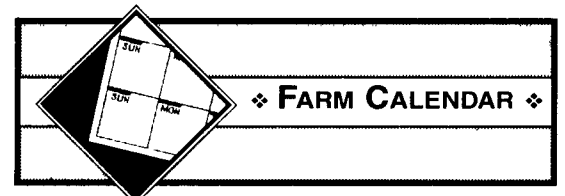
Dennis C Wolff

Dennis C Wolff
Secretary of Agriculture



Pennsylvania encourages growers to have crop insurance protection as part of their farming risk management plan. All policy fees and approximately 20 percent of net premium costs are paid for growers.

Sponsored by the PA Department of Agriculture with cost share support from RMA/USDA.



Monday, March 3

Sweet Corn Production and Marketing Short Course, York County Extension Office, County Annex Building, thru March 4, (717) 840-7408.

Thursday, March 6

Corn Silage Quality Program, Murmac Farms, Zion, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., (814) 355-4897.

Monday, March 10

Corn Production Meeting, Washington County.
Regional Corn/Soybean Day, Clark Mills United Methodist Church, Clark Mills, contact David Powler, (814) 333-7460.

Tuesday, March 11

Workshop On Insect Monitoring, Adams County extension office.
Wyoming County Crops Meeting, Dept. of Ag Building, Tunkhannock, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., (570) 836-3196.

Friday, March 14

Wayne Crop and Forage Day, Wayne County Visitors' Center, Honesdale, (253) 5970, ext. 239.

Thursday, March 20

Tri-County Ag Day, Allegheny College, Meadville, 9 a.m., (800) 982-9019, ext. 460.

Tuesday, March 25

Warren County Ag Day, 4-H Building, Warren County Fairgrounds, Pittsfield, 9:30 a.m., (814) 563-9388.

Monday, April 7

Global Positioning Systems and Mapping Training, Franklin County extension, (717) 334-6271.

Monday, April 14

Global Positioning Systems and Mapping Training, Lancaster County extension, Farm and Home Center, (717) 334-6271.

Thursday, April 17

Global Positioning Systems and Mapping Training, Lebanon County extension, (717) 334-6271.

Tuesday, August 19

Ag Progress Days thru Aug. 21, (814) 865-2081.

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