

# Organic Farming Crop Insurance for 2015



NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets  
**Crop Insurance and Risk Management Education**

[www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/CropInsurance.html](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/CropInsurance.html)

1-800-554-4501

# USDA Guidelines Provide Crop Insurance for Organic Farming Practices

Organic farming has become one of the fastest growing segments of U.S. Agriculture. USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) recognizes organic farming practices as good farming practices and continues to move forward in improving crop insurance coverage for organic producers and producers transitioning to organic production, so you will have viable and effective risk management options available.

# Coverage Availability

RMA currently provides coverage for:

- Certified organic acreage
- Transitional acreage (acreage on which organic farming practices are being followed that does not yet qualify to be designated as certified organic acreage)
- Buffer zone acreage

# Insurable Causes of Loss

- \* drought
- \* excess moisture
- \* freeze, hail
- \* prevented planting
- \* insect damage, disease and weeds.

Loss payments are made if recognized organic farming practices fail to provide effective control that result in a crop loss.

# Insurable Causes of Loss

Producers must keep a record of the date the insured acreage was certified and the period the certification was in effect.

Any loss due to failure to comply with the organic standards is considered an uninsured cause of loss.

# Late and Prevented Planting

These provisions provide a reduced amount of protection on acreage that is planted late or that cannot be planted by the final planting date or within the late planting period.

Late and prevented planting is not included on all crop insurance policies. Crop insurance policies will note if late and prevented planting coverage is included.

# Replant Provisions

A replant payment is allowed for a crop damaged by an insurable cause of loss to the extent that the remaining stand will not produce at least 90% of the production guarantee and it is practical to replant.

The maximum replanting payment per acre will be noted on the crop insurance policy.

# Reporting Acreage

On the date you report acreage, you must have:

- ☑ For certified organic acreage, a current organic plan and current organic certification certificate
- ☑ For transitional acreage, a certificate or written documentation from a certifying agent indicating that an organic plan is in effect.
- ☑ Records from the certifying agent showing the specific location of each field of certified organic, transitional, and buffer zone acreage maintained under organic and conventional farming practices.

# Organic Prices

Separate organic price elections, projected prices, and harvest prices are currently available for corn, soybeans, wheat, processing tomatoes, processing apples, and stone fruits.

For all other crops, the price elections, insurance amounts, projected prices, and harvest prices may be the prices RMA publishes for the crop grown using conventional means for the current crop year.

# Contract Price Option

Organic contract prices are available for additional crops, including:

Cabbage

Dry beans

Processing snap beans

Processing tomatoes

Green peas

Oats

Onions

Sweet corn

Grapes

The 5% organic rate surcharge was dropped with passage of the 2014 Farm Bill.

# Transitional Yields (T-Yields)

Beginning with the 2014 crop year, organic T-Yields are being changed to be more reflective of actual organic farming experience.

T-Yields are substitute yields you can or must use in your yield history and are a necessary component for most crop insurance products.

# Crop Insurance Subsidy

<b>Coverage Level</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>85</b>
Gov't Subsidy%	67	64	64	59	59	55	48	38
You pay%	33	36	36	41	41	45	52	62



United States Department of Agriculture



*Cover crops on a field in Black Hawk County, Iowa.*

*Photo: Lynn Betts, NRCS*

## NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines

September 2014, Version 3

### Background:

To ensure that USDA policies are coordinated and up to date with evolving cover crop practices, the administrators of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Risk Management Agency (RMA) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) organized an interagency workgroup to develop consistent, simple and flexible policy across the three agencies. National and local experts, along with multiple stakeholders, were involved in the process. Research literature, plant growth, soil hydrology models, and input from national/local experts in cover crop management provided the basis for developing cover crop termination guidelines to achieve their conservation benefits while minimizing risk of reducing yield to the following crop due to soil water use. These guidelines will be applicable to all USDA programs.

**These guidelines only apply to non-irrigated cropland, including systems that contain a fallow period. The cover crops in irrigated cropping systems should be terminated based on the crop system and the conservation purpose, but before the planted crop emerges.**

## ☑ Risk Management Check Up

# Is last year's Risk Management Plan Adequate to Manage this year's Risks?

(Increasing Input Costs, Prices & Weather Volatility)

Individual farm details available from crop insurance agents, list available at [www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html](http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html)



–. “ This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”

# How Good Is Your Risk Management Plan ?

Protection is Available for **Almost All Crops** and **Some Livestock** Production!

Crop Insurance Protection is available:

- ➡ Individual Crop Policies- available for many crops
- ➡ Producers with 3 years of production history may import policies not generally available in the area
- ➡ Whole Farm Gross Revenue Protection

Non-insured Crop Assistance Protection is available for almost all non-insured crops

Other benefit programs may also be available from FSA

**Producers can be assured of a pay day**  
(Production sales &/or USDA protection benefits)

# Additional Information can be found at:

## **USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA)**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

***[www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov)***



To find a crop insurance agent, go to:

***[www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html](http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html)*** to

use the agent/company locator tool.



**Agriculture  
and Markets**

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The alternative to having crop insurance.