



Risk Management Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Basics of Crop Insurance

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

What is the RMA?

A government agency that regulates **Federal crop insurance** and promotes risk management education for farmers.

RMA is committed to increasing the availability and effectiveness of Federal crop insurance to help you recover from weather, economic, and other disasters.



Why purchase crop insurance? Drought Example

Farmer usually earns \$100,000 each year from sweet corn.

Drought occurs, and farmer is only able to harvest and sell \$25,000 of sweet corn.

With Crop Insurance

Farmer pays ~\$2,500 for 75% coverage of their usual revenue.

Farmer receives insurance payment of \$50,000.

Farmer's total farm revenue is \$75,000.

Without Crop Insurance

Farmer's total farm revenue is \$25,000.

Farmer cover costs by working another job.

Farmer considers stopping farming.



How do you purchase crop insurance?

Step 1.

Use RMA's Agent Locator tool to find a crop insurance agent near you.

rma.usda.gov/Information-Tools/Agent-Locator

Alternatively, find an agent through your network. Consider asking other farmers to recommend an agent.

Step 2.

Work with your crop insurance agent to learn more about the policy, quote the price, and purchase.

Locate an Insurance Agent

www.rma.usda.gov/Information-Tools/Agent-Locator

The screenshot shows the USDA Risk Management Agency website. At the top left is the USDA logo and the text "United States Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency". To the right is a navigation menu with links: Home, About RMA, Find an Agent, News, Careers, Contact Us, and En Español. Below the navigation is a search bar with a "Search" button. A dark blue horizontal menu contains several categories: Policy & Procedure, RMA Local, Commodities, Tools, and Topics. A red arrow points to the "Tools" menu item. Below this menu is a grid of tool icons and their names. The "Agent Locator" tool is highlighted with a red box and a red arrow. At the bottom of the page are four buttons: "Get Connected >", "Find Resources >", "Learn More >", and "Get Started >".

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Risk Management Agency

Home About RMA Find an Agent News Careers Contact Us En Español

Policy & Procedure RMA Local Commodities Tools Topics

Summary of Business
Agent Locator
Actuarial Info Browser
RMA Map Viewer
Cost Estimator

Actuarial Information Browser
Agent Locator
AIP Companies
Associated Agencies and Partners
Cause of Loss

Cost Estimator
County Programs
Crop Indemnity Maps
Crop Weather
FTP File Access

Livestock and Dairy Participation
Livestock Reports (LRP and LGM)
Nursery Software (EPLPPS)
Other Sites
PRF Rainfall

Price Discovery Reporting
Reinsurance Reports
RMA Information Reporting System
RMA Map Viewer
Summary of Business Reports

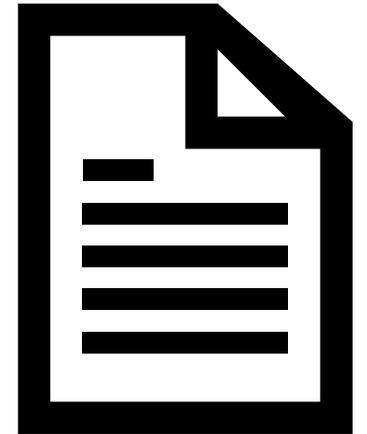
Find training opportunities.

Get Connected > Find Resources > Learn More > Get Started >



What will you need to participate?

- **Records, records, records!**
 - Records needed depend on the type of insurance policy.
 - Coverage is often based on actual yields or revenue.
 - Records provide proof of your yields and revenues.
- **Speak to a crop insurance agent to determine exactly what you will need.**



Deadlines

- **Every type of policy has its own Sales Closing Date.**
 - Sales Closing Date = The last day that you can apply to purchase a new policy or make changes to an existing policy each year.
- **Sales Closing Date is generally a few months prior to the growing season.**
- **If you can, try to start the process a year before you want a policy to go into effect.**
- **Examples:**
 - A corn policy in Aitkin County, MN has Sales Closing Date of Mar. 15th
 - A grape policy for Alameda County, CA has Sales Closing Date of Jan. 31st

Crop Insurance Tips

- **Find a crop insurance agent you like.**
 - Prices are the same no matter which agent you work with.
 - Trust and respect are important.
- **Speak to your crop insurance agent early and often.**
 - Takes time to prepare records and documentation so start early.
 - They will need to know all about your farm operation and goals.
- **Be prepared.**
 - Keep good records for your farm.
 - Visit your [USDA Service Center](#) to report your acreage.

Helpful resources as you get started

- **Know your rights!** Read the **Policyholder Bill of Rights.**

rma.usda.gov/en/Topics/Policyholder-Bill-of-Rights

- **Learn more.** Read the **Beginners Guide to Crop Insurance.**

rma.usda.gov/en/Topics/Beginners-Guide-to-Crop-Insurance

Thanks for listening!

**Consider purchasing
crop insurance for your
operation.**



Crop Insurance

Beginning/Veteran Farmer and Rancher Benefits

What benefits are available?

- Exemption from administrative fees for catastrophic and additional coverage policies.
- Reduced cost for additional coverage policies through an additional 10 percentage points of the premium subsidy.
- Use of another person's production history for the specific acreage transferred to the BFR or VFR if they were previously involved in decision making or physical activities on any farm that produced a crop or livestock.
- An increase in the substitute Yield Adjustment.

How long do benefits last?

- Up to 5 years. As long as you still qualify as a beginning/veteran farmer.
- Or you cancel your application.

Crop Insurance Beginning/Veteran Farmer and Rancher Benefits

Who is a Beginning Farmer/Rancher?

Someone who has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 5 crop years.

You may be able to exclude some years:

- If you were under 18 years old
- If you were enrolled in post-secondary studies
- If you were active duty in the military

Who is a Veteran Farmer?

A veteran who has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 5 years, or first obtained veteran.

Whole-Farm Revenue Protection

And Micro Farm

What is Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP)?

- It's a crop insurance policy that helps protect your revenue when there are losses.
- Available nationwide for farms with up to \$17 million in revenue
 - Farms with \$350,000 or less in revenue are eligible for the Micro Farm policy
 - Micro Farm is a simplified version of WFRP
- Several years of Schedule F tax forms are required to purchase a policy as they establish your past revenue
- Contact a crop insurance agent to learn more!

Whole-Farm Revenue Protection

And Micro Farm

- **Not all crop insurance agents feel qualified selling WFRP.**
- **A database is available listing the agents who actively want to sell these policies to growers.**
- **WFRP/Micro Farm Agent database can be found using either of these links.**

rma.usda.gov/Information-Tools/Agent-Locator

rma.usda.gov/Topics/Specialty-Crops