

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

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New Crop Insurance Programs Available for Pacific Northwest Growers

with Sales Closing Dates fast approaching

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, February 28, 2006 — USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds Pacific Northwest and Alaska producers that the March 15, 2006 final sales closing date for 2006 Spring-seeded Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MCPI) (excluding wheat and canola in counties with Fall and Spring planted types, and cabbage and onions which have a February 1 sales closing date) and Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite) for new applications is fast approaching.

Producers are also advised of two new insurance plans now available for Corn Grain and Silage producers (in select areas). **Group Risk Plan (GRP)** and **Group Risk Income Protection (GRIP)** are insurance plans using county yield averages to establish insurance guarantees for individual producer. This differs from the more traditional plans that use the individual producer's yields to establish Federal crop insurance guarantees. For crop year 2006, GRP and GRIP are available for **Corn Grain and Silage** in Canyon and Twin Falls Counties Idaho; Malheur County Oregon; and Grant and Yakima Counties Washington.

Producers are also advised of the following individual crop program expansions throughout the region:

Dry Beans

- Garbanzo beans (a.k.a. Chickpeas) in Lewis County, Idaho
- 1 Irrigated commercial types and non-irrigated Garbanzos in Lincoln County, Washington

Corn

- Grain and silage in Clallam County, Washington (both irrigated and non-irrigated)
- 1 Grain and silage in Bannock and Power Counties, Idaho (irrigated only)

Dry Peas and Lentils

- Dryland lentils in rated areas of Walla Walla County, Washington and Umatilla County, Oregon
- 1 Austrian winter peas, along with lentils, smooth green and yellows, and contract seed peas in Lincoln County, Washington

Insured growers have an opportunity to make important changes to their coverage. Current insureds and new purchasers of crop insurance must make all decisions on crop insurance coverage, including which crops to insure and which level of coverage to obtain, prior to the sales closing date.

Producers should contact a local MPCPI agent to learn additional program details. If there are no actuarial documents filed (in your county) for your crop under the traditional MPCPI program, please ask your agent whether you would be eligible for coverage under a written agreement (not available for pilots). A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers throughout the U.S. or at the website address:

<http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>

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