Risk Management Programs for Beekeepers
2021 Crop Year

Beekeepers have a number of options available to help manage risk.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Provides coverage for</th>
<th>Coverage available from</th>
<th>Deadline to sign up</th>
<th>Reporting losses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apiculture Crop Insurance (API)</td>
<td>Honey, pollen collection, Beeswax, Breeding stock</td>
<td>Private crop insurance agent licensed to sell in your state</td>
<td>Enroll by November 15</td>
<td>Payments sent automatically, triggered by low precipitation (no reporting required)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whole Farm Revenue Protection Insurance (WFRP)</td>
<td>Loss of revenue</td>
<td>Private crop insurance agent licensed to sell in your state</td>
<td>Enroll by March 15 (Nov. 20 for late tax year filers)</td>
<td>Report loss within 72 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP)</td>
<td>Colony, hive and feed losses</td>
<td>Farm Service Agency (FSA)</td>
<td>After disaster, apply by November 1</td>
<td>Report colony losses within 30 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)</td>
<td>Reduced honey yield</td>
<td>Farm Service Agency (FSA)</td>
<td>Enroll by March 15</td>
<td>Report loss within 15 days</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **Cost reduction**: To make crop insurance more affordable, the federal government pays for a portion of your premium costs. These subsidies cover up to 59% of your premium.

- **Benefits for beginning farmers**: API, WFRP and NAP offer reduced premiums and reduced or waived registration fees.
APICULTURE CROP INSURANCE (API)

This program is administered by the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) to provide risk coverage for honey, pollen collection, wax and breeding stock. Dry weather conditions can limit your bees' productivity and this insurance covers lack of precipitation. The program uses rainfall data to determine when low precipitation in your area triggers indemnity payments (trigger index).

You may select coverage level from 70 to 90 percent. This “coverage level” refers to the percentage below the average rainfall in your location that will trigger a payment. You also select a productivity factor that represents your operation’s productive capacity. You do not have to insure all of your colonies.

When rainfall levels fall below the trigger index in the covered grid area, insured beekeepers receive a payment. While this may not match what full production would have provided, it may help compensate you for your losses. Here’s how it works:

How Rainfall is Measured and Index Interval

RMA uses the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center (NOAA CPC) data to track rainfall levels in a grid system, with each grid approximately 17 x 17 square miles.

Acres to be insured are located in one or more grids. Rainfall in the insurance year is compared to the 50-year precipitation average for each grid. When the rainfall during the two-month insured period falls below the 50-year average for that grid, the producer may receive an indemnity payment.

The index interval represents a two-month period to be insured. The producer selects a minimum of two 2-month intervals to be insured.

For more information

- University of Vermont Ag Risk Education Program Website: [http://go.uvm.edu/ag-risk](http://go.uvm.edu/ag-risk)
- USDA RMA web site at [https://www.rma.usda.gov/](https://www.rma.usda.gov/) or contact a crop insurance agent.
- USDA FSA web site [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/) or contact your local FSA office.

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