

2018 Crop Insurance Information for Vegetable and Berry Growers

If you are a vegetable or berry grower, you must consider a number of options when you make the decision to buy crop insurance to protect your valuable investment.

You now have more risk protection options, including pricing for organic producers that is aligned with the organic market and provisions to make insurance more affordable to beginning farmers, farmers with limited resources and those who have traditionally been underserved. Crop and revenue insurance programs are administered through the USDA Risk Management Agency and private-sector insurance companies licensed through USDA sell and service the policies. Disaster protection programs are administered through the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Multi Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI)

Multi Peril Crop Insurance protects the insured crop against production losses due to insurable perils such as excess precipitation, hail, drought and disease. It must be purchased prior to planting.



Whole Farm Policy

The Whole-Farm Revenue Protection program provides a risk management safety net for all commodities on the farm under one insurance policy. Farms can get WFRP with only one commodity or with multiple commodities. This insurance plan is tailored for any farm with up to \$8.5 million in insured revenue, including farms with specialty or organic commodities (both crops and livestock), or those marketing to local, regional, farm-identity preserved, specialty, or direct markets, wholesale or retail. This program also allows certified organic producers to use organic prices.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

This program can provide some assistance following a catastrophic event resulting in significant crop loss. Administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops if natural disasters result in lower yields or crop losses. NAP provides catastrophic loss (CAT) coverage based on the amount of loss that exceeds 50 percent of expected production.

Provisions for beginning farmers, traditionally underserved farmers and farmers with limited resources

Eligible beginning farmers, traditionally underserved and those with limited resources can now receive increased assistance when they participate in USDA crop insurance programs. These provisions exempt qualified farmers from paying the administrative fee for crop insurance policies. In certain instances, it provides them the ability to use the production history of farming operations in which they were previously involved with the decision making or physical activities. It also increases the premium subsidy rates for beginning farmers by 10 percentage points during their first 5 years of farming. If beginning farmers experience a poor yield due to an insurable cause of loss, they may replace the poor yield in their production history with 80 percent of the county T-Yield, which is 20 percentage points higher than non-beginning farmers receive. Eligible farmers are also eligible for a waiver of the service fee and reduced premium for NAP coverage through FSA.

Conservation Compliance

To receive premium assistance for crop insurance from the Federal Government, producers must comply with highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements. These are the same as those required for participation in FSA and NRCS programs. Producers who do not comply can still purchase crop insurance, but will no longer be eligible to receive the government-paid premium subsidy.



Where to get more information

USDA Risk Management Agency: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/>

Crop Insurance Agents must be licensed by the USDA to sell crop insurance in any state. Below is the link to find one in Vermont. There are no specific geographic territories within the state, which means you do not have to select an agent based on where they are located. Find someone you will be comfortable dealing with. Here is the link for the RMA agent locator:

<http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html>

USDA Farm Service Agency: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

For general information on resources and connections in VT

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