



United States Department of Agriculture  
Risk Management Agency

September 2007

## 2008 COMMODITY INSURANCE FACT SHEET

# Blueberries

## Maine

### Crop Insured

Blueberries of the Lowbush type that have already produced at least 1,000 pounds per acre may be insurable. An inspection of the blueberry acreage will be necessary to determine insurability. The acreage must be pruned every other year to maintain coverage.

### Counties Available

Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Waldo, Washington. Blueberries in other counties may be insurable by written agreement if specific criteria are met.

### Causes of Loss

Adverse weather conditions<sup>1</sup>  
Failure of irrigation water supply<sup>2</sup>  
Fire<sup>3</sup>  
Insects<sup>4</sup>  
Plant disease<sup>4</sup>  
Insufficient chilling hours<sup>5</sup>  
Wildlife

<sup>1</sup>Natural perils including hail, frost, freeze, wind, drought, and excess moisture. <sup>2</sup>If caused by an insured peril that occurs during the insurance period. <sup>3</sup>Unless weeds and undergrowth are not controlled or pruning debris is not removed. <sup>4</sup>But not damage due to insufficient or improper application of control measures. <sup>5</sup>To effectively break dormancy.

Note: This policy does not cover loss of production due to: (1) failure to install and maintain proper drainage; (2) failure to harvest timely; (3) inability to market the fruit for any reason other than physical damage from a covered cause of loss; or (4) mechanical damage.

### Insurance Period

Insurance will attach the second growing season of a 2-year cycle following pruning (the first year being vegetative). Coverage for the 2008 crop year begins November 21, 2007, and ends the earliest of: (1) total destruction of the crop, (2) harvest of the crop, (3) final adjustment of a claim, (4) abandonment of the crop, or (5) September 15, 2008.

### Reporting Requirements

**Acreage Report**—You must report your current acreage to your crop insurance agent by the acreage report date (see Important Dates below).

**Direct Marketing**—If you intend to market any production directly to the consumer, you must notify your crop insurance agent or insurance company representative at least 15 days prior to the beginning of harvest so that a pre-harvest appraisal can be made.

### Notice of Claim

- If crop damage occurs, You must give notice within 72 hours of initial discovery of damage
- If you previously gave notice of crop damage, you must also provide notice at least 15 days prior to the beginning of harvest if you intend to claim an indemnity
- If crop will not be harvested, you must give notice within 3 days of the date harvest should have started.

**Production Report**— A report of production from the previous year is also required (see Important Dates below). This report must include any practice changes that could adversely impact yield potential and other information as required by the policy.

### Important Dates

Sales Closing .....	November 20, 2007
Production Report Due .....	January 31, 2008
Acreage Report Date.....	January 31, 2008
Premium Billing .....	September 15, 2008

## Definitions

**Average APH Yield**—Your average yield per acre based on your actual yields and usually referred to as the actual production history (APH) yield.

**Price Election**—An established price used to calculate your premium and indemnity.

**Production Guarantee**—Number of pounds guaranteed per acre determined by multiplying your average APH yield times the coverage level percentage you elect (from 50 to 75 percent).

## Coverage Levels and Premium Subsidies

Coverage level options range from 50 to 75 percent of your average yield and are subsidized as shown in the table below. As an example, an average yield of 3,000 pounds per acre will have a guarantee of 1,500 pounds per acre at the 50-percent coverage level.

Coverage Level % →	50	55	60	65	70	75
Premium Subsidy %	67	64	64	59	59	55
Your Premium Share %	33	36	36	41	41	45

Catastrophic (CAT) coverage is fixed at 50 percent of average yield and 55 percent of the price election. CAT is 100-percent subsidized with no premium costs to you except for an administrative fee of \$100, regardless of the acreage.

## Price Election

**\$.36** per pound

Price elections are posted on the RMA Web site at: <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/pricesinquiry/>

## Insurance Units

**Basic Unit:** A basic insurance unit includes all your insurable blueberry acreage in the county in which you have 100-percent share or which is owned by one person and operated by another person on a share basis.

**Optional Units:** Optional units may be established by separate farm serial numbers or by irrigated and non-irrigated acreage. Written, verifiable records of planted acreage and harvested production for each optional unit must be available for at least the previous crop year and production reports must be filed based on those records. Acreage insured under CAT coverage cannot be divided into optional units.

## Loss Example

This example is based on an average yield of 3,000 pounds per acre and 65-percent coverage level.

3,000	Pounds per acre average APH yield
<u>x .65</u>	Coverage level
1,950	Pounds per acre guarantee
<u>- 950</u>	Pounds per acre produced
1,000	Pounds per acre loss
<u>x .36</u>	Price election
\$360	Indemnity per acre
<u>- \$25</u>	Estimated producer premium
<b>\$335</b>	<b>Net indemnity per acre</b>

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