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RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY MEDIA ADVISORY

Raegan Weber (202) 720-6200

USDA TO HOLD CROP INSURANCE PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, May 03, 2004 – USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) will hold a pre-proposal conference on May 7, addressing farmers' insurance coverage problems associated with multiple years of crop losses.

The meeting, to be held in RMA's Kansas City office, will be kicked off by Congressman Jerry Moran (Kan.), Chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management. The event will also feature remarks by RMA Administrator Ross J. Davidson, Jr., manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC).

Following these presentations, RMA will host an orientation for organizations, people and companies interested in submitting proposals to address the impacts on insurance guarantees caused by multi-year declining yields. The orientation will also include a discussion of the contracting process. Interested parties wishing to participate in the orientation should contact Tim Hoffmann or Steve Vollrath at (816) 926-7387.

For further information, media representatives should contact Raegan Weber at 202-720-6200.

WHAT: Media availability on addressing farmers' insurance coverage problems

associated with multiple years of crop losses.

WHO: Chairman Jerry Moran (Kan.) and RMA Administrator Ross J. Davidson, Jr., manager of

the FCIC

WHEN: Friday, May 7, 2004 at 8:50 a.m. Opening remarks begin promptly at 9 a.m.

Please hold all questions until the media availability at 9:45 a.m.

HOW: Reporters may attend or call into the media availability.

USDA, BEACON BUILDING

6501 BEACON DRIVE, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Room G28B; Enter through the South door, present government photo ID

(driver's license) and ask the guard for Velerie Eddleman.

***The Following Information is NOT for Publication – To participate on Friday reporters can call Raegan Weber at (202) 720-6200 by Thursday, May 6, at 4 p.m. ***