



United States Department of Agriculture  
Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services  
Risk Management Agency

February 11, 2004

**INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM**

**TO: ALL REINSURED COMPANIES**

**FROM: LARRY N. ATKINSON /s/ *Larry N. Atkinson*  
DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION TO THE PERENNIAL CROP UNDERWRITING  
GUIDELINES**

ISSUE:

On October 6, 2003, the Raleigh Regional Office (RO) issued an Informational Memorandum regarding perennial crop underwriting guidelines. The guidelines were designed to identify perennial crop yields that are alternate bearing, or yields that are trending downward. Many perennial growers in the Raleigh Region were impacted by severe weather related losses during the 2002 and 2003 crop years. The consequence of these losses may have inadvertently tripped established yield variance procedures in some cases.

Some producers' approved perennial crop Actual Production History (APH) yields may have been lowered as a result of natural, weather related losses unrelated to alternate bearing or downward yield trending as the underwriting guidelines intended.

ACTION:

The RO will accept, for reconsideration and issuance of a RO Determined Yields, requests for higher yields on units adjusted under the RO guidelines for reasons other than alternate bearing or downward yield trending.

The company must submit a completed RMA RO DETERMINED YIELD REQUEST with all required signatures (Attached - Exhibit 34, page 447 of the 2004 Crop Insurance Handbook). The request form must be fully completed for all applicable blanks in item numbers 1 through 9. Under item #8, the producer must explain why a higher yield is justified. Under item #9 (Submission Checklist), all applicable documents should be submitted with the request.

Any such requests must be received in the RO by March 15, 2004.

Attachment