



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services
Risk Management Agency

BULLETIN NO.: MGR-00-035

TO: All Reinsured Companies
All Risk Management Agency Field Offices

FROM: Kenneth D. Ackerman /s/ Ken Ackerman 11-22-00
Administrator

SUBJECT: Forage Production Crop Provisions and Grazing During Winter Dormancy

BACKGROUND:

The Forage Production Winter Coverage Endorsement was eliminated beginning with the 2001 crop year, and year round coverage provided by the endorsement was incorporated into the 2001 Forage Production Crop Provisions (01-033, Rev. 3-00). Section 7(b)(4) states that insurance will end on the date grazing commences on the forage crop.

Livestock producers often graze forage production acreage after the final cutting or after the forage acreage has gone into winter dormancy. To minimize damage to the forage acreage, producers usually remove all livestock prior to the forage coming out of winter dormancy.

The question has arisen as to whether or not forage production crop insurance coverage will cease if the crop is grazed while dormant.

It was not the intent of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to prohibit producers from allowing livestock to graze dormant forage acreage. The intent was to assure that insurance ends if any forage acreage is grazed during the months that forage is in the growth stage.

ACTION:

1. For the 2001 crop year only and for all counties, insurance coverage provided by the Forage Production Crop Provisions (01-033, Rev. 3-00) will continue for acreage that is grazed after it has gone into winter dormancy, which is defined as the suspension of growth and development of the alfalfa plants during fall and winter months.



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2. Producers must remove all livestock prior to the emergence of the forage from winter dormancy.
3. Beginning with the 2002 and succeeding crop years, grazing of forage production acreage during winter dormancy will be allowed only if provided in the Special Provisions.

DISPOSAL:

This bulletin is effective until the disposal date, December 31, 2001.