



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm Production
and Conservation

Risk
Management
Agency

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INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

TO: All Approved Insurance Providers in the States of Texas and New Mexico

FROM: Jim Bellmon /s/ *Jim Bellmon*
Director, Oklahoma City Regional Office

Mariano Lerma /s/ Mariano Lerma
Director, Southern Regional Compliance Office

SUBJECT: Insurability of Hybrid Cotton Varieties

BACKGROUND:

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received several questions from stakeholders in West Texas and New Mexico regarding the insurability of hybrid cotton varieties that have characteristics of both American Upland (AUP) and Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton. RMA's Cotton and ELS Cotton crop insurance policies do not specifically account for these hybrids.

RMA has previously responded to similar inquiries that hybrid cotton varieties are being classed by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) as ELS Cotton and therefore should be insured with an ELS Cotton crop insurance policy. However, RMA has recently received information from industry representatives and agricultural experts indicating *interspecific* hybrid varieties may not be agronomically feasible to be planted during the established ELS planting window.

ACTION:

For the 2025 crop year, all cotton resulting from an interspecific cross between Upland (*Gossypium hirsutum*) and Pima (*Gossypium barbadense*) cotton parents will be insured under the AUP Cotton policy. However, producers planting a hybrid variety that they believe should be insured as ELS cotton can submit a Written Agreement request in accordance with Paragraphs 22 and 85 of the Written Agreement Handbook (WAH). Written documentation from a local agricultural expert must be provided showing evidence of optimal management practices, including a planting window that aligns with the ELS cotton planting dates, for the specific hybrid variety. RMA will evaluate the dates the hybrid variety is normally planted and harvested, where the crop will be marketed, and documentation from agricultural experts when determining if they will approve these requests.