Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Crop Insurance

Is this a good Risk Management Option for Me?
Who are we?

USDA, Risk Management Agency (RMA)

- **Mission:** To promote, support, and regulate sound risk management solutions to preserve and strengthen the economic stability of America’s agricultural producers.
  - Operate and manage the Federal Crop Insurance programs.
    - For crop year 2011, RMA managed over $113 Billion worth of insurance liability.
- We merely administer the program. We do NOT sell crop insurance products. Only crop insurance agents sell.
History

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (ARPA) mandates programs to cover pasture and rangeland

- Sec 522(c)(6) states: Research and Development Priorities – The corporation shall establish as one of the highest research and development priorities of the Corporation the development of a pasture, range, and forage program.
Challenges

1. Various plant species
2. Timing of plant growth
3. Lack of individual/industry data
4. Vast range of management practices across the industry
5. Publicly announced prices not available
6. Crop continuously harvested via livestock
7. Various livestock species and segments
2012 PRF and API Pilot Areas

- Insurance Plan
- (13) Rainfall Index
- (14) Vegetation Index
Program Overview

AREA plan only

- Losses cover an area called a grid
- No individual coverage
  - Does NOT measure actual individual production
- Index – based on deviation from normal/historical
- No loss adjustments, records, etc.
- Timely payments
- Does not reward poor management practices
  - Producer cannot influence outcome/losses
Crop Types

Grazingland
- Established acreage of perennial forage
- Intended for grazing by livestock
- Acreage must be suitable for grazing

Hayland
- Established acreage of perennial forage
- Intended for haying
- Acreage must be suitable for haying
Program Overview

Not required to insure 100% of acreage

- Forage utilized in the annual grazing or hay cycle can be insured without insuring all acreage
- All acres within a property may not be productive, e.g., rocky areas, submerged areas
- Provides additional flexibility for the insured to design the coverage to their specific needs
- Because the program is an area program, there is no opportunity to ‘move’ production
  - Producer cannot affect outcome/loss
Rainfall Index Overview

Rainfall Index Program

- Area Based Plan
  - Approximately 0.25 degree grid vs. county area
- Utilizes NOAA **Climate Prediction Center** data
  - Utilizes multiple point data, not a single point system
- Deviation from Normal 1948 to present
- Single Peril vs. Multiple Peril
  - Lack of Precipitation is the only cause of loss
- Review of Historical Indices is critical
Grid Overview

- Area of insurance = 0.25° grids
Rainfall Index Overview

Index Intervals

- Multiple Intervals offered – (11 intervals)
- Crop Year divided into 11, 2-month intervals
  - 1st Interval begins with January-February
- Ability for producers to manage appropriate timing risks
  - Correlate to individual growth patterns and production seasons and practices
- The 2-month intervals provide for greater reaction to precipitation events vs. a yearly average
Rainfall Index Overview

Index Intervals

- The purpose of the program is to insure against lack of precipitation
  - Precipitation correlates to plant growth.
- Producers must select at least two 2-month intervals
  - Total annual forage production is influenced by precipitation in more than one 2-month interval; therefore, producers are required to insure in more than one interval.
Technical Description of CPC Gridded Rainfall Data

- Gridded rainfall data is pre-processed by NOAA
  - RMA does not further process or change data
- Total 6,000 reporting stations daily – minimum
  - Normally over 15000 report daily
- Only stations reporting data by the cut off are used.
- Stations reporting weekly or monthly are not used
- Cressman interpolation translates point information into gridded information
Cressman Interpolation Methodology

- Interpolation is based on the idea that things closer together in space are generally more similar than those farther apart.
- Estimates rainfall for a target grid using stations within a search radius around the grid.
  - Search radius varies regionally by season and density of the available stations/data sources.
  - NOAA currently uses 4 scans. Magnitude of scan varies with region and season in some areas.
  - Impact of an individual station/data source on the target grid’s precipitation decreases with increasing distance between the data source and the target grid.
NOAA CPC Uses Weighted Averaging Method

- Four Passes – with each successive pass, the scan radius is decreased, the weight of the closest station has higher effect on the target grid.
- 4 passes insures that distant stations influence rainfall prediction in target grid, but weighting with distance decreases the influence.
Will this work for me?

- All first order weather stations reporting to NOAA CPC by their DAILY cut off time are used IF they pass the NOAA CPC quality control steps.
- NOAA CPC does not release which stations report
- Reviewing NWS, NCDC, WFO, producer gauge results to calculate or estimate results is not appropriate and will not provide useful comparisons.
Will this work for me?

- Precipitation is interpolated to the grid and not measured within a grid.
  - You must understand that even if there is a weather station that reports daily to NOAA CPC inside your grid, the results will NOT equal that weather station
- Similar to NASS data used for area crop policies
  - Producers reporting to NASS – unknown
  - Surveys NASS eliminates in their quality control - unknown
Indemnity Overview

- The only insurable cause of loss is when the final grid index value is less than the coverage level (deductible) selected by the producer

- Indexes are based on normal/historical and deviation from normal/historical
Will this work for me?

- Focus MUST be on the Historical Indices web site
  - Have past results tracked with observed results?
  - Do production trends follow historical indices results?
Summary: Rainfall & Vegetation

- Critical that the Historical and Decision Support Tools are understood and used
  - Must spend time reviewing the historical and comparing to past production
- The basis of decision to purchase MUST be based on an analysis between the historical results as compared to a producer’s results.
- As with any area plan – results may not track 100% of the time
- Critical the appropriate Index Intervals are selected
The Rainfall and Vegetation Index plans of insurance are designed as risk management tools to insure against declines in an index in a designated area called a grid. They are primarily intended for use by producers whose crop production tends to follow the average precipitation or vegetation patterns for the grid. It is possible for you to have low crop production on the acreage that you insure and still not receive a payment under these plans. Because the program is designed for producers whose crop production tends to follow average patterns and not individual crop production, you should review the historical indices, additional tools, and information provided to determine if these programs are suitable for your risk management needs.

**Rainfall Index (RI)** - is based on weather data collected and maintained by NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center. The index reflects how much precipitation is received relative to the long-term average for a specified area and timeframe. The program divides the country into six regions due to different weather patterns, with pilots available in select counties.

- RI Basic Provisions (PDF)
- Crops covered:
  - Agriculture
  - Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF)

**Vegetation Index (VI)** - is based on the U.S. Geological Survey’s Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) data derived from satellites observing long-term changes in greenness of vegetation of the earth since 1989. The program divides the country into six regions due to different weather patterns, with pilots available in select counties.

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- **PRF Fact Sheet**
- **Frequently Asked Questions**
- **County Availability (PDF): Map | Text**
- **Basic Provisions (PDF)**
- **Policy Provisions (PDF)**
- **Insurance Standards Handbook (PDF)**
- **Training Materials**
- **Grid ID Locator: Interactive Map**
- **Grid ID Locator: Latitude/Longitude Lookup**
- **RI and VI Reports (requires Grid ID from above)**
- **Decision Support Tool**
- **Historical Indices**

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Forage Production Index - is based on NASS county level hay yield data (all hay or alfalfa hay). The index reflects how much hay is produced relative to the long-term trend for the
PRF Decision Support Tool

Please Select a Location:
- State: Kansas
- County: Allen
- Grid: 21438

Protection Information:
- Insured Crop Type: Grazingland
- Coverage Level (%): 90
- Protection Factor (%): 100
- Share (%): 100
- Insurable Acres: 600
- Sample Year: 2009

Graph:
- Type: Index Values
- Range: Start 1948, End 2009

Table:

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<th>Index Interval</th>
<th>Insured Acres per Index Interval</th>
<th>Policy Protection per Unit</th>
<th>Premium Rate per $100</th>
<th>Total Premium ($/acre)</th>
<th>Premium Subsidy ($/acre)</th>
<th>Producer Premium ($/acre)</th>
<th>Actual Index Value</th>
<th>Indemnity ($/acre)</th>
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County Base Value per Acre: $24.63
Calculate
Ex. - Information & Options
Example of Information - Chart
Example of Information - Graph
• Jan/Feb results
• Green = over 90% of normal
• Blue = 80% to 90% of normal
• Yellow = 70% to 80% of normal
• Orange = 60% to 70% of normal
• Red = 60% of normal or below
- **Feb/March results**
- Green = over 90% of normal
- Blue = 80% to 90% of normal
- Yellow = 70% to 80% of normal
- Orange = 60% to 70% of normal
- Red = 60% of normal or below

- Green = over 90% of normal
- Blue = 80% to 90% of normal
- Yellow = 70% to 80% of normal
- Orange = 60% to 70% of normal
- Red = 60% of normal or below
- **March/April results**
- Green = over 90% of normal
- Blue = 80% to 90% of normal
- Yellow = 70% to 80% of normal
- Orange = 60% to 70% of normal
- Red = 60% of normal or below
- **April/May results**
- Green = over 90% of normal
- Blue = 80% to 90% of normal
- Yellow = 70% to 80% of normal
- Orange = 60% to 70% of normal
- Red = 60% of normal or below
- **May/June results**
- Green = over 90% of normal
- Blue = 80% to 90% of normal
- Yellow = 70% to 80% of normal
- Orange = 60% to 70% of normal
- Red = 60% of normal or below
- **June/July results**
- Green = over 90% of normal
- Blue = 80% to 90% of normal
- Yellow = 70% to 80% of normal
- Orange = 60% to 70% of normal
- Red = 60% of normal or below
- **July/August results**
- Green = over 90% of normal
- Blue = 80% to 90% of normal
- Yellow = 70% to 80% of normal
- Orange = 60% to 70% of normal
- Red = 60% of normal or below
- **August/September results**
- Green = over 90% of normal
- Blue = 80% to 90% of normal
- Yellow = 70% to 80% of normal
- Orange = 60% to 70% of normal
- Red = 60% of normal or below
September/October Results
Green = over 90% of normal
Blue = 80% to 90% of normal
Yellow = 70% to 80% of normal
Orange = 60% to 70% of normal
Red = 60% of normal or below
Questions?

Email: rma.kcviri@rma.usda.gov