

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

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NEW USDA INSURANCE PROGRAM PROTECTS AGAINST FORAGE LOSSES NOVEMBER 15 SIGNUP DEADLINE NEARING

Charleston, W.Va. – West Virginia's livestock producers have a new tool to manage financial risk to their operations thanks to a new program being offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA).

The Rainfall Index Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (RPF) pilot program will be available beginning with the 2016 crop year. Signup deadline is Nov. 15, 2015.

PRF is an area-based plan of insurance that uses a rainfall index to determine losses and trigger indemnities. Payments are not based on individual rain gauges or single weather stations.

West Virginia is among 19 states that the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Board of Directors have added to the program. The board also approved a new pricing methodology that it says better reflects costs associated with precipitation shortfalls.

Currently, there are nearly 21,000 PRF policies that provide more than \$1 billion in coverage on nearly 55 million acres.

More information is available at www.rma.usda.gov/policies/pasturerangeforage. Online premium estimates can be calculated at <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator>. A list of crop insurance agents can be found at <http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#/>.

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