



**Date:** August 27, 2008  
**To:** All ProAg Agents  
**From:** ProAg National Operations  
**Re:** BYE for 2009 Crop Year

On August 14, 2008, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) Board of Directors (Board) approved four submissions that impact the Biotech Yield Endorsement (BYE). On August 18, 2008, RMA issued a program announcement which provides information about the Board's action, including that the Board's approval is conditional upon all submitter's cooperation with RMA to develop a single unified biotechnology endorsement and work out associated details.

Accordingly, RMA and the applicable submitters are working on the development of a single unified biotechnology endorsement and associated procedures that, if approved, will replace the BYE used for 2008. Because of the potential replacement of the BYE beginning with the 2009 crop year, RMA has updated its website to indicate the endorsement is being revamped for the 2009 crop year and further details are forthcoming.

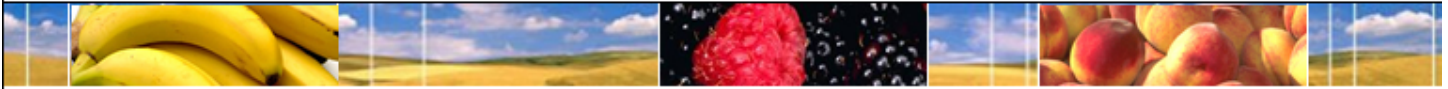
For those insureds considering BYE for the 2009 crop year, **ProAg is advising each agent not to provide the Biotech Yield Endorsement used for the 2008 crop year.** In addition, be aware that the procedures used for the 2008 BYE will not be the same for the 2009 crop year.

ProAg realizes that you want to have the 2009 crop year endorsement and procedures in a timely manner. RMA and the submitters are working together to develop the information needed, and ProAg will provide such information as soon as it is available.

RMA's program announcement is found on the second page, and is available at [www.rma.usda.gov/news/2008/08/fcicbiotech.html](http://www.rma.usda.gov/news/2008/08/fcicbiotech.html).

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## **Program Announcement**

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### **FCIC BOARD EXTENDS BIOTECHNOLOGY PILOT COVERAGE AREAS AND QUALIFYING HYBRIDS**

WASHINGTON, Aug 18, 2008 - USDA's Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Board of Directors, at its Aug 14, 2008 meeting, approved additional seed technologies and states for a premium rate reduction for producers who plant certain qualifying corn hybrids. The Board's approval is conditioned upon the submitters' cooperation with Risk Management Agency (RMA) to develop a single unified biotechnology endorsement and work out associated details.

The biotechnology endorsement pilot program applies to approved corn seed hybrids containing specific biotech traits that enhance protection against above-ground lepidopteron pests (such as moths and their larvae) and below-ground corn rootworm damage, and confer tolerance to certain herbicides.

Under the resolutions approved by the FCIC Board, the following seed technologies and states will be eligible for coverage beginning with the 2009 crop year:

- Monsanto YieldGard® Plus with Roundup Ready® Corn 2, YieldGard® VT Triple, and YieldGard® VT Triple PRO hybrids for non-irrigated corn for grain in Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Kansas, and Nebraska, in addition to the original pilot states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota, submitted by the Western Agricultural Insurance Company, working with the Monsanto Company. In addition, irrigated corn for grain acreage planted to the qualifying Monsanto hybrids would be eligible for coverage in Kansas and Nebraska.
- Pioneer and Dow AgroSciences Herculex® Xtra and Herculex® Xtra RR2® hybrids for non-irrigated corn for grain in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, submitted by Stonington Insurance Company and Agro National, LLC, in conjunction with Dow AgroSciences, LLC, and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
- Syngenta Agrisure® CB and RW stacked and Agrisure® 3000GT hybrids for non-irrigated corn for grain in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, submitted by John Deere Risk Protection, Inc, in conjunction with Syngenta Seeds, Inc.

The pilot program is an endorsement to the Coarse Grains Crop Provisions, the Crop Revenue Coverage Corn Provisions, and the Revenue Assurance Corn Provisions. Insured producers will be required to purchase a buy-up level of coverage and plant at least 75 percent of their insured corn acres in a unit to a qualifying corn hybrid. RMA will release the biotechnology endorsement and related materials upon completion later this fall, and will include revisions for failure to comply that were viewed by some as too onerous.

Last Modified: 08/19/2008

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