

## Don't Wait to Turn in Your Claim

Many producers across the country are facing record-breaking wet conditions as we start the summer months with little relief in sight. There are many concerns about not only prevented plant, but also the yields of planted acres. ProAg takes aggressive steps to expedite all claims. Agents and insureds can assist in this effort by making sure losses are reported as soon as damage has occurred during the summer months. This will allow your ProAg adjuster to visit with you about all the options available even if the crop will be harvested.

Turning in a claim early will also allow the ProAg Compliance Department to get a jump on any reviews that may be required by the USDA Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Standard Reinsurance Agreement. An example of this would be the review that is required for any indemnity that is over \$200,000. These reviews require the production history to be verified by the ProAg compliance department. For the first year in which a crop is insured, all years of records used to support the APH will need to be reviewed to ensure the records are complete and were reported and certified as required by FCIC procedure. For example, if a producer has five years of actual production history, all five years will need to be verified. For continuous eligible crop insurance contracts, up to three years of prior records may need to be verified. Agents should collect these records from policyholders and scan them into the ProAgWorks<sup>®</sup> system or contact your regional compliance supervisor for further assistance.

For those concerned about the yields of their planted acreage due to the anticipated higher commodity prices, a small production yield loss on several units of a planted crop can lead to a large loss when the units are added together. This is something that should be a discussion between the agent and policyholder at the time the notice of loss is submitted and again when the adjuster contacts the insured to begin the record collection process. As a reminder, prevented plant claims are paid off the projected price, not the harvest price, on revenue-based policies.

## **Reminders when considering a loss**

- 1. A notice of loss must be submitted, and consent obtained prior to the crop being put to another use or destroyed.
- 2. Only a ProAg adjuster can authorize an insured to leave strips.
- 3. A notice of loss must be submitted 72 hours after discovery of a loss and no later than 15 days after the end of the insurance period (45 days after the latest date the harvest price is released for revenue policies).
- 4. Simply reporting prevented plant (PP) on the acreage report is not a sufficient notice of a potential claim. A notice of loss for PP should be filed within 72 hours of the end of the Late Plant Period (as applicable).
- 5. The insured is to continue to care for the crop just as they would normally.

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