

Bi-annual informational publication—Issue #49

**Spring 2022** 

# "CROP Talk"

## SONNENBERG AGENCY, LLC

#### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

- ENTERPRISE UNITS are now available for Beans, Dry Peas, Sunflowers and Wheat. Adding the Enterprise Unit Option can provide significant premium savings, but it does change Coverage Guarantees which do impact claim payments.
- SALES CLOSING DATE for spring crop policies is March 15th. Policy coverage level changes, new policies, cancellations are due by 3/15.
- CHECKING FOR ACCURACY is SO important! Please take a few minutes to verify the information that you receive from our office in a timely manner.

#### **POINTS TO PONDER**

- ⇒ Current and archived editions of our newsletter are available on our website @ sonnenbergagency.com. Please note: archived editions of the newsletter may contain outdated information.
- → Premiums and coverage will increase for spring crops in 2022. We anticipate at least a 20% increase in the Base Price for com which will translate to increased coverage & premium.

  → Premiums and coverage for spring for spri

We're on the web: sonnenbergagency.com

# Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) policy

This policy has been available for years, and was a refreshing introduction in the crop insurance marketplace when it was first introduced in the earlier years of the 2000's decade, but it quickly lost appeal when it did not pay as expected over a several year period. Jump ahead 20+ years and the policy is once again a viable product for risk management. Why the change?

Simply put, the government (RMA) finally heard what the producers were saying about the policy's short-comings and made corrections to address the issues. As such, the PRF policy is now a solid product and, in our opinion, worth considering if you own pasture ground, or ground that is used to produce an annual hay crop. The Sales Closing Date is December 1st — so we are now past the date for 2022 policies.

But, if this policy is of interest to you, please let us know and we will get the necessary paperwork prepared so a policy can be written for you in Fall of 2022 (for the 2023 crop year).

Here is the quick rundown of the policy improvements:

- Subsidy increased to more than 50% of premium (previously it was less than 20%);
- Billing Date is September 1st of the following year (policies written on Dec 1st 2021 will have premium due in Sept 2022);
- Increased number of Weather Reporting Stations to ensure greater accuracy of data

# Livestock (LRP) policy

In a similar vein to the PRF policy, the government has made improvements to the Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) policy. In our opinion, this policy is also once again worth a look. Here are the two most notable changes:

- Increased subsidy levels (more than 50% for certain coverage levels);
- Premium NOT due with Application (it used to be), now premium is due at the end of the selected Coverage Endorsement

This policy was created and is designed to be an alternative to trading on the Board — providing insurance against declining market prices. You choose your coverage level and the insurance period that corresponds with the time you would normally sell your cattle.

## **Prevented Planting (PP) Claims Information**

Due to the continuing drought conditions in parts of Colorado, PP Claims for spring crops are a possibility this year. Here once again is the "high level" overview of PP Claims: First: PP Claims are submitted when planting cannot reasonably occur within the stated deadlines due to excess precipitation or lack thereof. Second: PP is submitted to the company as a Notice of Loss.

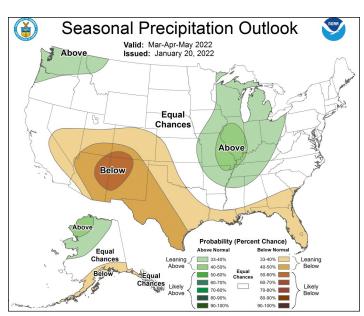
The agent can only submit a Notice of Loss after notified by the insured. The PP Notice of Loss can only be filed after the Final Plant Date — these dates vary by crop. Third: PP Payments are made to compensate the producer for pre-planting costs and documentation must be provided to prove that such costs have been incurred. Fourth: PP Claims are paid at

60% of the applicable Multi-Peril Guarantee AND the premium is still billed for the PP Units. Fifth: There is now the ability to hay or graze PP acres planted to a cover crop without affecting the PP Payment — ask us for more information. And lastly: for acreage to be eligible for a PP Payment, there must have been acres planted in one of the last four years (1 in 4).

Most of our crop insurance companies now offer online bill pay!

### **FSA Cover Crop Program Update**

It is presumed that the Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP) will be made a permanent option for those who purchase crop insurance. If you plant a cover crop, report the acreage to the FSA Office by June 15th to receive the crop insurance premium benefit of \$5/acre. Your total premium benefit (offset) is capped at the total premium owed.



# NOW INSURABLE— Grain Sorghum— Weld County

There is a commonality of frequently grown crops in Northeast and Eastern Colorado, unfortunately the crop insurance program does not always quickly recognize this and make coverage available for all crops at the same time. RMA has finally caught up and made Grain Sorghum insurable in Weld County (it is insurable in most other surrounding counties). If you have Grain Sorghum history, you can use your own production to establish coverage. If you want to insure Grain Sorghum (add by Mar 15th), but have not previously grown it, for non-irrigated the T-Yield is 23 bushels, and for irrigated the T-Yield is 37 bushels.

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