



AGRISOMPO

NORTH AMERICA

Cover Crop Changes for Prevented Planting

Producers can now hay, graze, and chop cover crops any time and still receive a full prevented planting payment.



Agricultural producers with crop insurance can hay, graze, or chop cover crops for silage, haylage, or baleage at any time and still receive 100% of the prevented planting payment. Previously, cover crops could only be hayed, grazed, or chopped after November 1; otherwise the prevented planting payment was reduced by 65%.

The USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) added this flexibility as part of a broader effort to encourage producers to use cover crops, an important part of conservation and a good farming practice. Cover crops are especially important on fields prevented from planting as they help reduce soil erosion and boost soil health.

The RMA recognizes that cover crops are not planted as an agricultural commodity but for the primary purpose of conservation benefits. For the 2021 crop year and beyond, the RMA will not consider a cover crop planted following a prevented planting claim to be a second crop. But the RMA will continue to consider a cover crop harvested for grain or seed to be a second crop, and in this case the crop remains subject to a reduction in the prevented planting indemnity in accordance with the policy.

The decision allows flexibility for the 2021 crop year. This makes the change permanent for future years. It also builds on the advanced research and identified benefits of cover crops in supporting healthy soil and cropland sustainability efforts.

Additionally, this decision aligns with the 2018 Farm Bill's designation of cover crops as a good farming practice.



Changes effective July 6, 2021.



To learn more about this policy change, visit the RMA's Prevented Planting webpage.

**Contact your local
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