

Background to APH pistachio pilot crop insurance plan evaluation and the announcement of listening sessions

Despite an uptick in interest in 2015, only roughly 15% of pistachio bearing acres were covered by the APH pistachio pilot crop insurance plan in 2014 (excluding CAT policies) (<http://www.rma.usda.gov/handbooks/24000/2014/24320.pdf>).

To assess the performance of this pilot plan and its value to pistachio producers, the RMA has commissioned an evaluation. The aim is to assess the plan's value to pistachio growers and to recommend its future status, with or without modification.

As part of this evaluation, **listening sessions will be held in Bakersfield (April 30) and Madera (May 5)**. The aim of these listening sessions is to capture the views of growers, insurance agents and insurance staff on the possible benefits and failings of this pilot program and how the policy can be improved.

The listening sessions are open to both producers and insurance staff and agents (and other interested parties). They represent an important opportunity to provide pragmatic feedback on the value of the product and possible enhancements.

Full details of the timing and venue of the listening sessions are on the next page.

Evaluation of the Pistachio Pilot Crop Insurance Plan Listening Sessions for Growers and Crop Insurance Company Staff and Agents

The **APH Pistachio** pilot crop insurance program is being evaluated. The product is available in 18 California counties, and 3 counties in Arizona and New Mexico.

The purpose of this evaluation is to determine whether the pilot program should continue as a pilot, be converted into a permanent program, or be terminated, and if continued or converted, whether any modification is required.

Agralytica of Alexandria, Virginia is implementing the evaluation on behalf of the USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA).

Agralytica staff will hold listening sessions with growers, insurance staff and other interested parties on **April 30** in Kern County and **May 5** in Madera county. The aim is to get feedback on how the pilot program has worked over the last three years and how it can be improved. This is an opportunity for producers, insurance staff and agents alike to communicate concerns and possible improvements for consideration in the development of future pistachio crop insurance policy.

The dates, venues, and timing of the listening sessions are as follows:

<p>Thursday April 30 Kern County</p>	<p>Hodel's Country Dining 5917 Knudsen Drive Bakersfield, CA 93308 Phone: (661) 399-3341</p> <p>Time: 9:00 - 11:00 am Coffee and pastries will be available from 8.45 am</p>
<p>Tuesday May 5 Madera County</p>	<p>Madera Municipal Golf Course 23200 Avenue 17 Madera, CA 93637 Phone: (559) 675-3504</p> <p>Time: 9:00 - 11:00 am Coffee and pastries will be available from 8.45 am</p>

If anyone would like an individual meeting, Agralytica staff will be available at the above locations. To arrange a time, contact Nick Young by cell at 703-981-6002 or by email at nyoung@agralytica.com. Alternatively, anyone who cannot attend can submit e-mailed comments.

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