



News for Immediate Release

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Hot, Dry Weather a Reminder to Report Crop Damage Promptly

Harrisburg – Effects of hot, dry weather are being felt on farms across the state, and Agriculture Secretary George Greig today reminded Pennsylvania farmers to report crop damage to their crop insurance agent and local Farm Service Agency office within 72 hours of discovery.

“There are growing concerns over the effects of hot, dry weather on crops and early signs of drought stress,” said Agriculture Secretary George Greig. “Help ensure you get the most out of your crop insurance policy by reporting damage to your crop insurance agent immediately.”

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection last week declared a drought watch in 15 western Pennsylvania counties. A drought watch declaration is the first and least severe level of the state’s three drought classifications.

Crop damage or loss reporting for insurance policies on most crops requires that written notice be given to your crop insurance agent:

- Within 72 hours of discovery of damage or loss;
- 15 days before harvest begins; and
- Within 15 days after harvesting is completed but not later than Oct. 20 for corn harvested as silage and Dec. 10 for grain corn and soybeans.

A pre-harvest appraisal is required for most direct marketed crops. Do not destroy evidence of damage until a loss adjuster evaluates it. If a loss adjuster is not able to view your damage in a timely manner, you may request permission from your insurance agent to leave sample rows so harvesting is not delayed.

Greig also reminded producers to file timely notices with their county Farm Service Agency office to take advantage of potential federal disaster benefits.

Last year insured Pennsylvania producers recovered nearly \$65 million from losses.

For more information or to learn if your operation is eligible for crop insurance policies, call 717-705-9511 or visit www.agriculture.state.pa.us and search “crop insurance.”

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