

Group Risk Plan (GRP) Insurance

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Group Risk Plan (GRP) insurance is a risk management tool to insure against widespread loss of production. This is a dramatic departure from traditional approaches to crop insurance, with less paperwork and generally less cost than the basic Actual Production History (APH) plan. The policy was developed with the idea that when an entire county's crop yield is low, most farmers in that county will also have low yields. This insurance plan is based on the expected yield in the county rather than on the individual farm yield.

GRP is intended mainly for producers whose farm yields tend to follow the county yield. It is important to note that GRP does not provide individualized protection. It is possible to have a low yield and not receive a payment under this plan. Likewise, there could be reduced yield across the county that triggers a payment to an insured who does not suffer an individual loss.

Crops Covered

GRP coverage is available for many primary crops in major production areas throughout the U.S. In Texas, GRP is available in selected counties for cotton, grain sorghum and wheat. In Kansas, GRP is available in selected counties for grain sorghum, soybeans and wheat.

Coverage Levels

A grower selects a specific dollar amount of protection per acre and one of the five coverage levels (70, 75, 80, 85 or 90 percent).

The specific dollar amount of protection per acre ranges from 60 to 100 percent of the maximum dollar amount of protection shown in the county's actuarial table. Generally, the maximum dollar amount of protection will be 150 percent of the expected county yield, valued at the market price elected under the APH plan.

The selected coverage level, times the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation's expected county yield, determines a "trigger yield." The expected county yield used for GRP is calculated using many years of county data from the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), with an adjustment for the long-term yield trend.

How GRP Works

Producers receive indemnity payments when the payment yield for the crop in a specific year is less than the "trigger yield" selected by the grower. The payment yield is the official estimated county average yield published by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). A policyholder receives an indemnity payment when, and only when, the NASS county yield is less than the trigger yield selected. FCIC will issue the payment in the calendar year following the crop year insured. Therefore, payments are not received until 6 to 9 months after harvest.

Risk Management Education



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The dollar amount of indemnity per acre is calculated using a payment factor times the selected dollar amount of protection per acre, where the payment factor is:

$$\frac{(\text{selected trigger yield} - \text{payment yield})}{\div \text{selected trigger yield}}$$

GRP Example

Assume the expected county yield is 45 bushels and the maximum dollar protection per acre is \$200. Producer A buys 90 percent coverage and selects \$160 protection per acre. Producer B buys 75 percent coverage and selects \$185 protection per acre. Both producers have 100 percent share in the crop and both plant 200 acres of the crop in the county.

The premium rates for 75 and 90 percent coverage are \$3.30 and \$6.14 per hundred dollars of protection, respectively. The maximum subsidy amount per acre is \$3.07 and the limited subsidy amount is \$2.21 per acre.

A's "trigger yield" is 40.5 bushels per acre (90 percent of 45). A's policy protection is \$32,000 (\$160 x 200 acres). The premium for A's policy is \$1,351, which is the total premium of \$1,965 (\$160 x \$6.14 x 200 acres x .01) less the federal subsidy of \$614 (200 acres x maximum subsidy of \$3.07 per acre).

B's "trigger yield" is 33.8 bushels per acre (75 percent of 45). B's policy protection is \$37,000 (\$185 x 200 acres). The premium for B's policy is \$779, which is the total premium of \$1,221 (\$185 x \$3.30 x 200 acres x .01) less the federal subsidy of \$442 (200 acres x limited subsidy of \$2.21 per acre).

Scenario 1 (likely)

Based on the NASS estimate of the county yield, FCIC announces a payment yield of 46 bushels per acre. This is above the trigger yield for both producers A and B, so no indemnity payment is made, even if they have low yields.

Scenario 2 (less likely)

FCIC issues a payment yield of 38 bushels per acre. A's payment calculation factor is 0.062 [(40.5 - 38.0) ÷ 40.5]. A's payment factor is multiplied by the policy protection and results in an indemnity payment of \$1,984 (.062 x \$32,000). B's trigger yield is below the payment yield, so no payment is made.

Scenario 3 (least likely)

FCIC issues a payment yield of 22 bushels per acre. A's payment calculation factor is 0.457 [(40.5 - 22.0) ÷ 40.5]. A's indemnity payment is \$14,624 (.457 x \$32,000). B's payment calculation

factor is 0.349 [(33.8 - 22.0) ÷ 33.8]. B's payment factor is multiplied by the policy protection and results in an indemnity payment of \$12,913 (.349 x \$37,000).

Premiums

The annual premium amount is determined by multiplying the selected dollar amount of protection per acre times the unsubsidized premium rate per hundred dollars of protection for your coverage level, times .01, less the applicable subsidy.

The limited subsidy is the premium for 65 percent coverage and 60 percent of the maximum dollar protection (65/60 GRP coverage). The subsidy for additional coverage levels is 41.7 percent of the premium, not to exceed 41.7 percent of the premium for 80/95 GRP coverage.

Group risk plan coverage options			
Level	Dollar protection	Subsidy	Fee
70%	60 to 100%	Limited	\$60
75%	60 to 100%	Limited	\$60
80%	60 to < 95%	Limited	\$60
	95 to 100%	Additional	\$20
85%	60 to < 90%	Limited	\$60
	90 to 100%	Additional	\$20
90%	60 to < 85%	Limited	\$60
	85 to 100%	Additional	\$20

GRP Features

- GRP is a simple way to manage risk because the only information required of the producer is the number of acres planted. This must be turned in by the acreage reporting date.
- GRP often provides the lowest cost protection against widespread crop losses.
- GRP requires significantly less paperwork than Multiple Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI). GRP has no field loss adjustment or claim record requirements.
- Insurable acreage is acreage planted on or before the acreage reporting date, which is beneficial because: 1) There is no special rate for high-risk ground; 2) The MPCI map of uninsurable land does not apply; and 3) Practices that are uninsurable for MPCI are insured for GRP.
- There is a wider range of coverage levels, and GRP has higher dollar coverage levels than MPCI.

- GRP reduces fraudulent claims.
- There is little or no adverse selection or moral hazard. Premium rates are based on historical county yields, not on past abuses of the crop insurance program.
- The program gives producers an additional risk management tool.
- The program may be attractive to farmers who use unusual crop rotation.
- A farmer with several crop losses in a row may have better coverage with GRP than MPCI because of the reduced program yield. However, if the losses are caused by poor management the GRP will not provide protection.
- GRP works well for large farming operations that have land widely dispersed throughout the county.

GRP Disadvantages

- Hail, flood, excessive spot rain, quality losses, local winds or tornadoes could cause lots of damage on an individual farm and yet the farmer would likely receive a small indemnity payment, or perhaps none. GRP provides almost no coverage for any peril that is site specific.
- A policyholder with a good farm yield could receive an indemnity payment, while a policyholder with an individual loss might not receive a payment.
- GRP indemnity payments are not made until the following crop year, normally 6 to 9 months after harvest.
- GRP has been misunderstood by farmers, lenders and insurance agents.
- Lenders may not accept GRP as collateral.
- GRP is not suitable for farmers whose yields do not follow the county yield.
- Farmers cannot buy a combination of GRP and MPCI, Crop Revenue Coverage (CRC) or Income Protection (IP).

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