BULLETIN 2008-3

TO: All Property and Casualty Insurance Companies Writing Crop Hail Insurance in North Dakota

FROM: Adam W. Hamm, Commissioner

DATE: November 14, 2008

SUBJECT: Marketing of Crop Hail Insurance in North Dakota 2009

SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

This bulletin pertains to all insurance companies seeking to market policies for the coverage of crop hail insurance in the State of North Dakota for the 2009 season. Crop hail insurance includes policies providing crop hail coverage, companion hail coverages and supplemental crop products not subsidized by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

FILING DEADLINE

All new or revised crop hail, companion hail, and supplemental crop product rate filings for use in 2009 are due no later than February 1, 2009 (postmarked).

All new product (policy and form) filings, as well as revisions to existing products intended for use in 2009, are due no later than February 1, 2009 (postmarked).

The Department encourages companies to file in advance of the deadline if they are able. This will avoid potential delays and expedite the process.

FILING PROCEDURES

The North Dakota Insurance Department will review crop form and rate filings according to the criteria set forth in this bulletin. Companies may file form and rate/rule filings as one filing or may file them separately, the department will accept them in either format.
Filing Fee- Retaliatory Only

North Dakota does not require a filing fee for form and rate filings. However, if a company is domiciled in a state that requires filing fees of North Dakota companies, we do retaliate by requiring those companies pay the same fee when filing in North Dakota.

Use of Filing Transmittal Forms

A general filing transmittal form is required on all non-SERFF filings. Companies may use either the North Dakota Policy, Form, and Rate Filing Transmittal Form – ND1000 – SFN 51679 (11/03) or the National Association of Insurance Commissioner’s (NAIC) Uniform Filing Transmittal Form – Property and Casualty Transmittal Document PD TD-1. Do not send both.

The forms can be downloaded from the following websites:

ND1000   www.nd.gov/eforms/Doc/SFN51679.pdf

PC TD-1   www.naic.org/documents/industry_rates_pc_trans.%20doc.doc

In addition to the general filing transmittal form, Crop Insurance Rate Filing - NDPC200 – SFN51682 (12/2004) is required with all rate filings and can be downloaded from this website:


Any company who needs assistance in preparing either of these forms can call Mike Andring at (701) 328-4937.

Electronic Filings Accepted Via SERFF

The Department accepts electronic filings for all lines of business, including Crop Hail via the State Electronic Rate and Form Filing system (SERFF). You may contact SERFF at the following site if you are interested in making filings electronically rather than in hard copy:  www.serff.org

When using the SERFF system, a separate transmittal form is not required as the system captures all the information in the process of creating a filing. If, however, you are making a rate filing, you will still need to include the state specific form: Crop Insurance Rate Filing – NDPC200 – SFN51682 (12/200) referenced above.

Form Filing

Forms once filed by a company need not be refiled. Companies who are filing new forms, form changes, and new product forms must adhere to the following steps:
1. Companies proposing to use National Crop Insurance Services (NCIS) forms may file by reference, indicating by memorandum a list of forms they will use (to include name, form number, and edition date).

2. Companies proposing to use independent policy forms must file a copy of each form along with a memorandum explaining the policy form.

3. Companies proposing to use a deviated or modified NCIS form must file a copy of the form along with the memorandum explaining the change and how it affects the coverage and the rate.

Rate Filing


Biennial filing of company rates – Under the NCIS biennial filing procedures, companies filed rates for the 2008 season. Companies who are not changing their rates for the 2009 season do not need to make a rate filing. However, if a company intends to use the 2008 filed rates without change, the Department requests submission of a letter stating the intent.

Rates for independent supplemental MPCI products – Independent supplemental MPCI/Federal Crop product rates filed prior to the date of this bulletin need not be refiled unless they are being revised. Companies wishing to file revised rates for these products may do so subject to the filing deadline.

Use of NCIS Final Average Loss Costs – NCIS Final Average Loss Costs (FALCs) are recognized by the industry and the Department as the most reliable (true historical) estimate of claim costs over time. Companies seeking to file deviations or modifications to NCIS FALCs or to file independent rates must support any such requests with credible and actuarially sound data.

Rate filings based on NCIS FALCs must include the following:

1. Crop Insurance Rate Filing - NDPC200 cover page – Adoption of Advisory Organization Loss Costs. Only one cover page is necessary to summarize the overall filing impact.

2. The company’s three-year pure loss experience and expenses. The use of the most recent year’s experience is optional.

Use Crop Insurance Rate Filing - NDPC200, Page 4, Historical Expense Exhibit.
3. The company's proposed loss cost multiplier for each product and/or tier of loss costs, including the development and support for the multiplier. Separate multipliers may be filed based upon product (i.e., crop hail versus companion hail), marketing type (i.e., agent, direct marketing, internet marketing), rating tiers (i.e., loss cost ranges, loss cost modification, production expense, fixed expenses).

Use Crop Insurance Rate Filing - NDPC200, Page 2, Development of Loss Cost Multiplier if the filing does not include fixed expense components. Use one page for each separate loss cost multiplier you are filing.

Use Crop Insurance Rate Filing - NDPC200, Page 3, Development of Loss Cost Multiplier with Fixed Expense Component if the filing includes a fixed expense component. Use one page for each separate loss cost multiplier you are filing.

4. Crop Insurance Rate Filing - NDPC200, Page 5, Summary of Loss Cost Multipliers. Use appropriate number of forms needed to summarize all loss cost multipliers.

5. A cover letter and actuarial memorandum detailing the rationale for your request.

6. A copy of the proposed rates.

Rate filings not based upon NCIS FALCs must include the following:

1. Crop Insurance Rate Filing Form NDPC 200. Pages 1, 2, and 3 may not be appropriate for an independently filed rating program; however, to the extent possible, please use them. Pages 4 and 5 should be submitted.

2. A cover letter and actuarial memorandum detailing the rationale for your request.

3. A copy of the proposed rates and rules.

Rounding rules - Each company is required to file the rounding procedures/rule that it uses in its ratemaking process.

DISCOUNTS PERMITTED

Cash Discounts

The Insurance Department recognizes cash discounts offered for receipt of premium before July 1 or for payment in full with application for new policies written after July 1,
provided the discount does not exceed 5%. The Department will consider payment plans (cash discount/surcharge) that deviate from the traditional July 1 cut-off date. Any payment plan that deviates from the traditional July 1 cut-off date must be properly documented and supported.

The cash discount will be allowed on policy changes after the cut-off date, if the original policy was paid on a cash discount basis and payment is received with the change.

The purchaser of a crop hail insurance policy is entitled to a cash discount in the event the company provides one, therefore, applications for crop hail insurance based upon filings providing the cash discount shall include notice to the purchaser specifically waiving his or her option to elect a cash discount in the event the purchaser declines to pay the premium by the cut-off date.

If the purchaser has been properly informed, waives the cash discount, and does not make full payment at the time of application, the agent can take advantage of the cash discount by submitting full payment with the application to the company. The agent and the purchaser would, however, be in violation of the rebate statute if the agent were to subsequently pass on a cash discount to the purchaser in an agency billing.

**Direct/Internet Marketing**

The Department will consider a request for a direct marketing or internet type expense reduction. The reduction must be filed and justified in the same manner as any other loss cost multiplier request.

**DISCOUNTS NOT PERMITTED**

The following discounts are not permitted: total limit of liability, total premium volume, MPCI (federal crop) package, claims free history, and tie ins with other lines of insurance (i.e., farmowners, autos, etc.).

**COMPANION HAIL PRODUCTS**

Endorsement 2002-NCIS 653 is intended to be used in conjunction with the crop hail policy form to provide optional and supplemental coverage to the underlying MPCI or FCIC policy. Since the marketing of this form as a stand-alone policy is contrary to its intended usage, such marketing will not be permitted. This prohibition extends to other non-standard companion hail type policies as well.

**MARKETING IN ADVANCE OF RATE CHANGE FILING APPROVAL**

The company can market previously approved contracts prior to the new season rates being approved by the Department, if they provide the purchaser with appropriate disclosures indicating that the rates that will be applied to the contract will be those approved for this season, not the prior season and provide a procedure by which the
purchaser can cancel the contract without penalty AFTER notification of the approved rate.

CONTINUOUS POLICY

Some companies market contracts which are termed “Continuous Policies”. The policy generally provides automatic coverage at last year’s levels to new crops early in the season but require confirmation by a certain date and the creation of a new policy, in order to continue the coverage. Since a continuous policy provides for an automatic renewal of the contract, companies intending to nonrenew an account must take steps to see that all criteria set forth in the contract and in statute are followed, making sure the policyholder receives sufficient advance notice of termination.

DIVIDENDS

N.D. Admin. Code § 45-05-02-03 permits dividends but prohibits the use of dividends in the marketing of crop hail insurance.

PREVIOUS BULLETINS

Effective November 14, 2008, this bulletin supersedes the following Department bulletin:

Bulletin 2007-5

The following forms are attached to this bulletin:


Page 1 – Adoption of Advisory Organization Loss Cost
Page 2 – Development of Loss Cost Multiplier
Page 3 – Development of Loss Cost Multiplier With Fixed Expense Component
Page 4 – Historical Expense Exhibit
Page 5 – Summary of Loss Cost Multipliers

AWH/njb
Attachment
Adoption of Advisory Organization Loss Costs

Date:

1. Insurer Name

2. Advisory Organization:

3. Advisory Organization Reference Filing Number:

4. The above insurer hereby declares that it is a member, subscriber or service purchaser of the named advisory organization for this line of insurance. The insurer hereby files to be deemed to have independently submitted as its own filing the loss costs in the captioned Reference Filing.

The insurer's rates will be the combination of the prospective loss costs, the loss cost multipliers, and if utilized, the fixed expense component specified in the attachments.

5. A. Rate Change due to Advisory Organization's revised Loss Costs: %
   
   B. Rate Change due to Insurer's revised Loss Cost Multipliers: %
   
   C. Total Rate Change: %
   
   D. Proposed Effective date of Rate Change:

6. Cash Discount: %

7. Indicate below which of the supplemental pages of form NDPC200 are included with this filing.

   A. Page 2 - Development of Loss Cost Multiplier is required for each separate tier or product. Use this form if not filing a fixed expense component. If filing multiple tiers or products, use one form (page 2) for each tier or product filed.

   B. Page 3 - Development of Loss Cost Multiplier with Fixed Expense Component is required for each separate tier or product. Use in place of page 2 if filing a fixed expense component. If filing multiple tiers or products, use one form (page 3) for each tier or product filed.

   C. Page 4 - Historical Expense Exhibit

   D. Page 5 - Summary of Loss Cost Multipliers
Development of Loss Cost Multiplier

1. Description of Crop Insurance Product for which this page applies (Product type, Market Type, rate tier, etc.)

2. Loss Cost Modification
   A. The insurer hereby files to adopt the prospective loss costs in the captioned reference filing
   CHECK ONE
      [ ] Without Modification.
      [ ] With the following modification. Cite the nature and percent of modification, and attach supporting data and/or rationale for the modification.

3. Development of Expected Loss Ratio
   Attach 3 year insurer expense history and any other additional supporting information.
   This filing will not be considered unless the completed expense history form is attached.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Total Regular Commissions:</th>
<th>Previous</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B. Other Acquisition Expense:</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
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<td>(including Contingent Commissions)</td>
<td>%</td>
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<td>C. General Expense:</td>
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<td>D. Loss Adjustment Expense:</td>
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<td>%</td>
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<td>E. Taxes, Licenses &amp; Fees:</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
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<td>F. Underwriting Profit:</td>
<td>%</td>
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<td>G. Other (Explain):</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
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<td>H. Total:</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4. Expected Loss Ratio: $ELR = 100\% - 3H$

5. Company Formula Loss Cost Multiplier
   $= \frac{\text{Proposed } 2B}{\text{Proposed } #4}$

6. Total Rate level change for the coverages to which this page applies

Example: If your company's loss cost modification is -10%, a factor $(1.00 - 0.10) = 0.90$ should be used.

Example: If your company's loss cost modification is +15%, a factor $(1.00 + 0.15) = 1.15$ should be used.
Development of Loss Cost Multiplier with Fixed Expense Component

1. Description of Crop Insurance Product for which this page applies (Product type, Market type, rate tier, etc.)

2. Loss Cost Modification
   A. The insurer hereby files to adopt the prospective loss costs in the captioned reference filing
      CHECK ONE
      ______ Without Modification.
      ______ With the following modification. Cite the nature and percent of modification, and attach supporting data and/or rationale for the modification.

   B. Loss Cost Modification Expressed as a Factor (see examples below)
      Current Modifier       Proposed Modifier

3. Development of Expected Loss Ratio
   Attach 3 year insurer expense history and any other additional supporting information. This filing will not be considered unless the completed expense history form is attached.

   A. Total Regular Commissions:          Overall    Variable    Fixed
   B. Other Acquisition Expense:
      (Including Contingent Commissions)
   C. General Expense:
   D. Loss Adjusting Expense:
   E. Taxes, Licenses & Fees:
   F. Underwriting Profit:
   G. Other (Explain)
   H. Total

4A. Expected Loss Ratio: ELR = 100% - Overall 3H

4B. Variable Expected Loss Ratio = 100% - Variable 3H

5. Formula Expense Constant: [(1.00 / 4A) - (1.00 / 4B)] x Average Underlying Loss Cost

6. Formula Variable Loss Cost Multiplier: (2B / 4B)

7. Total Rate level change for the coverages to which this page applies %

Example 1 If your company’s loss cost modification is -10%, a factor (1.00 - .10) = .90 should be used.

Example 2 If your company’s loss cost modification is +15%, a factor (1.00 + .15) = 1.15 should be used.
## Historical Expense Exhibit

### Insurer Name:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Countrywide</th>
<th>North Dakota</th>
<th>3 Year Historical Avg % of Premium</th>
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<td>Crop Hail Premiums</td>
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<td>Actual Losses</td>
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<td>Other Expense (Explain)</td>
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* Includes premium from Crop Hail and Companion Hail policies.

** Does not include any Loss Adjustment Expense
Summary of Loss Cost Multipliers

Insurer Name:

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<tr>
<th>Rate/Loss Cost Tier</th>
<th>Regular Commission Level</th>
<th>Expense Ratio</th>
<th>Fixed Expense Component</th>
<th>Profit Load</th>
<th>Loss Cost Modification Factor</th>
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