

Virtual Listening Session

Feasibility of Insuring Local Food Production

You are invited to participate in a Virtual Listening Session with Agralytica, which is working under contract for USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA).

Why? As part of the 2018 Farm Bill, Congress required RMA to solicit feedback about improved crop insurance coverage options for farmers and ranchers selling to local food markets (including but not limited to farmers markets, Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs), road-side stands, restaurants, retailers, schools, and institutions). This includes discussing how existing crop insurance programs can be improved, as well as exploring the possibility of a new crop insurance program.

The feedback we receive will help us identify potential changes and/or additions to insurance options for producers supplying local markets.

Who? The sessions are primarily for farmers and ranchers who sell to local food markets and their representatives in the federal crop insurance industry.

When? There are several sessions, which will be held from mid-August through early September. The complete list is available on the following page. The sessions for farmers and ranchers will be divided by region, commodity, and market channel. Additionally, there will be sessions specifically for approved insurance providers (AIPs).

We request that you attend the session for your appropriate group; however, if that does not work for your schedule, please feel free to join us whenever it is convenient. Our contact information is also provided at the end of this announcement in case you are unable to make the scheduled sessions but still want to provide feedback.

What is a virtual listening session? It is a method to connect and talk with you via phone and/or an internet connection. You can participate in one of two ways:

- 1) By calling into the number provided to listen or speak, OR
- 2) You may call in and participate online through videoconference (using Zoom), which allows you to view the host and some of the participants, as well as any visual material shared digitally.

Any information/feedback provided will be made anonymous prior to inclusion in any report.

The sessions will be held according to the following schedule:

Schedule for Virtual Listening Sessions

Region	Group	Date	Pacific Time	Mountain Time	Central Time	Eastern Time
WEST and MOUNTAIN						
Region 1: AZ, CA, CO, HI, NV, NM, UT	Producers	Aug 17	12 pm	1 pm		
California	Producers	Aug 18	12 pm			
Region 3, AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY	Producers	Aug 19	10 am			
West Coast - Insurance	AIPs / Adjusters / Agents	Aug 19	2 pm			
Direct: Farmers marketers / CSA operators / Road-side stands / others	Producers / agents / others	Aug 20	9 am	10 am	11 am	12 pm
Other (intermediated) direct marketers: retailers, schools, institutions, others	Producers / agents / others	Aug 20	1 pm	2 pm	3 pm	4 pm
MIDWEST / CENTRAL / SOUTH						
Region 4: IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD	Producers	Aug 24			12 pm	
Region 7: IL, IN, MI, OH, WI	Producers	Aug 25			12 pm	
Region 5: AR, LA, MS, OK, TX	Producers	Aug 26			12 pm	
Livestock	Producers / agents / others	Aug 27	10 am	11 am	12 pm	1 pm
Midwest / Central / South - Insurance	AIPs / Adjusters / Agents	Aug 27			2 pm	
Urban farms	Producers / agents / others	Aug 28	10 am	11 am	12 pm	1 pm
EAST COAST and OTHERS						
Region 6: FL, GA, AL*, KY, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV	Producers	Aug 31				12 pm
Region 2: CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT	Producers	Sep 1				12 pm
East Coast - Insurance	AIPs / Adjusters / Agents	Sep 2				12 pm
Floriculture	Producers / agents / others	Sep 3	9 am	10 am	11 am	12 pm

* Alabama moved from Region 5 to Region 6 by request.

Instructions to Participate in the Listening Session

How? You can participate via videoconference using Zoom on a computer or smartphone app, or by simply dialing from a telephone.

For those participating via Zoom, you will be given the option of using your computer (or phone app) for audio, or dialing in.

Participants will be muted by default upon entry.

Computer/app participants: Click on the link below and, if prompted, enter the passcode “local”.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87372872344?pwd=ZEZza2RBS3M0Zm9VeloxSXZXUHczdz09>

Passcode: local

Meeting ID: 873 7287 2344

Note: Before joining a Zoom meeting on a computer or mobile device, you can download the Zoom app from the [Zoom Download Center](#). Otherwise, you will be prompted to download and install Zoom when you click the join link. You can also [join a test meeting](#) to familiarize yourself with Zoom.

Telephone participants: You can mute and unmute yourself by typing “*6” (star, followed by the number 6).

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,87372872344#,,,,,0#,,746512# US (New York)

+13017158592,,87372872344#,,,,,0#,,746512# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location (if you have free long distance, any of these should work)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 873 7287 2344

Passcode: 746512

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kclzmxreEX>

Contact information

Please contact Andre Williamson, President of Agralytica, with any questions regarding the content of this invitation or to provide additional feedback regarding the feasibility of insurance coverage for local food producers. Mobile Number: 240-432-0308 OR email: awilliamson@agralytica.com. If you email, please include “Local foods insurance” as your subject line.

We will accept comments by phone or email until September 10. RMA will use the information collected by Agralytica to help determine ways to better insure growers supplying local markets. Please join one of these sessions so that your feedback can be heard.