



May 19, 2022

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

We appreciate the ongoing efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Administration to find ways to increase agricultural production in this time of need. On behalf of the growers in the north central region of the U.S., we want to express our support for an immediate action needed to address the challenging, and possible dire, 2022 planting season unfolding in our area.

We ask that the USDA cover the loss in indemnity coverage for the first 20 days after the final planting date for growers unable to complete plantings by the final plant date. This action will give growers some peace of mind to avoid disruptions in seed returns and planting decisions that could cause drastic reductions in the production of oilseeds and grains this year. This will be a much better alternative than attempting to extend Final Plant Dates in insurance contracts.

The northern region of the U.S., particularly North Dakota, and parts of South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Idaho, and Washington have received significant amounts of moisture or just too much moisture at planting time, which has created a dire situation for growers facing final planting dates for crop insurance. This moisture came in the form of two back-to-back extreme snowstorms in mid-April with accompanying cold weather followed by recent above normal rain. For growers in northern Idaho the overall estimate for crop not planted yet and past final planting date (Apr 30) or soon to be past FPD (May 15) is 25%, with a range of 20-80% not yet seeded depending on where the snow and rains have hit the most.

Forecasts from NOAA and from the European weather models indicate significant planting progress will not be made in the northern tier states until the first week of June. Indeed, Eric Snodgrass of agrible.com, stated in the latest U.S./Global Ag Forecast, "There are places here in the Northern Plains that in the last 30 days have received over 700% of normal amount of precipitation. I am concerned that 'it will be the month of June' before the Northern Plains and Canadian Prairies actually make significant progress on planting." (see attached map)

Action by USDA to cover the loss in indemnity coverage for the first 20 days after the final planting date can help to secure adequate supplies of cooking oils, pulse crops, and feed and cereal grains for the coming year. We urge your consideration and please let us know if we can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

U.S. Canola Association
Northern Canola Growers Association
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
Northern Pulse Growers Association