



**Idaho Grain Producers Association**

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October 26, 2016

Benjamin Thiel  
Director, Spokane Regional Office  
USDA Risk Management Agency  
11707 E Sprague Ave, Suite 201  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

Dear Director Thiel,

With over 600 wheat and barley farm families as members, the Idaho Grain Producers Association (IGPA) is the key policy advocacy organization working on behalf of Idaho's grain industry with local, state, and federal leaders. Considering the impact that recent diseases have had on cereal crops, directly related to the extended growing season, our growers would benefit from increased flexibility of their fall planting date as a management tool. On behalf of Idaho's grain growers, we request that the Risk Management Agency change the fall planting date in the following counties:

Bannock  
Bingham  
Blaine  
Bonneville  
Cassia  
Gooding  
Jerome  
Minidoka  
Power  
Twin Falls

All of these counties have a final planting date under the Winter Coverage Endorsement of October 15, with the exception of Bonneville County, which has a final planting date of September 30. There is overwhelming consensus that a final planting date of October 30 would be more appropriate in these counties, given changes in climate over time and disease prevalence.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions. We look forward to working with you to get these final planting dates changed.

Sincerely,

Stacey Satterlee  
Executive Director  
Idaho Grain Producers Association