# How to minimize problems with your insurance claim

by David Van Deynze, MCIC

*If you have to make a claim, here are some suggestions on how to make the process easier on you and the MCIC adjustor.*

## Excess Moisture Insurance (EMI) claims

EMI claims are paid based on acres too wet to seed until the June 20 deadline.

Many of the misunderstandings occur when producers have decided to delay seeding until later in the spring, even though the land was dry enough to seed earlier. If subsequent rains do not allow the producer to seed, he may not be eligible for EMI. The adjustor will inspect the land and conclude what land was too wet to seed until June 20. The adjustor will note the land seeded by other producers in the area. If it has all been seeded, the producer who decided to delay seeding will not be eligible for payment.

To register an EMI claim, file your Seeded Acreage Report, including acres too wet to seed, as close to June 20 as possible, but no later than June 22.

EMI coverage is included in the basic All Risk insurance with no additional premium, but a deductible is applied. Before March 31, producers may select the Zero Deductible Option for EMI. There is a premium, but it provides payment for all acres too wet to seed (a minimum of 10 acres).

## Stage 1 and/or Reseed claims

These are claims before the June 20th seeding deadline. Crop losses in this period may trigger a stage 1 claim and/or a reseed benefit. The stage 1 claims are limited to one-half of your coverage, and reseed benefits are 25 per cent of your coverage.

File your claim as soon as you determine that you will destroy or reseed your field. The adjustor will appraise the crop and inform you whether you are eligible for a reseed benefit. If so, you can reseed to a crop that you have selected for insurance, provided it is an insurable variety and seeded within the deadlines. To ensure that you have not limited your reseed crop options, you should select the "all crops" option when updating your production insurance contract before March 31.

Many times, a producer will indicate to an adjustor that he would like to reseed, for example, 30 acres out of a 150-acre field. At that time, the adjustor will appraise the 30 acres and inform the producer that he can reseed the 30 acres appraised.

A common mistake is that the producer will reseed the 30 acres and decide to reseed a few more acres just to make sure he has reseeded all of the damaged area. The reseed benefit will cover the acres reseeded to a maximum of the acres appraised. The benefit would not be paid on any acres over the 30 acres originally appraised. If the producer is considering reseeding more than the 30 acres, he should have the adjustor appraise as many acres that he may potentially reseed in a worst-case scenario.

After the appraisal, your agent can explain how your decision to leave the crop to harvest, reseed to the same crop, reseed to an alternate crop, or destroy the crop, will affect your claim and remaining coverage.

Your reseeding benefit and stage 1 claim are calculated on a percentage of your coverage. Selecting higher coverage increases the maximum reseed benefit and stage 1 indemnity payable.

## Stage 2UH claims

These are claims after June 21 but before harvest. When loss occurs during this period and you are considering destroying your field or putting it to an alternate use such as pasturing it or cutting it for greenfeed, contact MCIC first.

The most common mistake occurs when a producer destroys a crop or puts it to an alternate use before an adjustor's appraisal. Any potential payment will be made based on the results of that appraisal. If the acres are destroyed or put to an alternate use before an adjustor can appraise them, there will be no payable claim on those acres.

The appraisal will not only influence the amount of indemnity payable, but it will also be used to calculate your insurance coverage in future. So even if you have a good crop that you want to pasture or cut for greenfeed rather than harvest for grain, it is worth your while to call MCIC first.

## Post Harvest claims

Your Harvested Production Report for claims after harvest should be submitted as soon as possible so MCIC can determine if you are in a claim position.

This is especially important when you plan to feed some of your harvested production to livestock. In order to account for all of your harvested production and to accurately assess the quality, the adjustment must be done before any of the crop is fed.

The quality of your harvested production may have a large impact in the calculation of your claim. Some producers find that the sample submitted for the claim does not grade the same as at the elevator. To make sure the adjustor submits the most accurate sample, it is recommended to keep several samples from each load as the bin is filled. Store and label the sample so the adjustor can submit a portion for grading.

## Hail

If you have a separate hail contract with MCIC you may be entitled to spot loss hail coverage. If this is the case, after a hailstorm, inspect your crops to determine if there is damage. If so, file your claim as soon as possible, but in any event no more than three days after the storm.

Some crops must be inspected as soon as possible because the damage tends to "disappear" quickly. Others are easiest to adjust after a short time. A timely claim allows adjustors to inspect at the optimum time and complete the most accurate assessment possible.