

From: [Roxanne Nelson](#)
To: [Roxanne Nelson](#)
Subject: Vine coverage/Smoke Taint/Federal assistance program for loss to vines
Date: Thursday, October 12, 2017 11:27:38 AM

There are two different items to discuss, the vines and the grapes themselves.

Grapes:

What is covered? I've attached a fact sheet that outlines the current federal crop insurance program.

- **Physical damage to the crop** - The current federal crop insurance policy does cover crop loss due to fire from a naturally occurring source such as wind or lightning. As well as from several other perils. This year it's been such items as bunch rot, wildlife and excess heat back on labor day.
- **Smoke taint** - Is smoke taint on wine grapes is a covered peril? My professional answer to the question is **maybe**? The peril of smoke taint is not specifically a named peril. However there is a provision in the loss adjustment procedures that this peril could fall under. Two claims tests have to be met,
 - 1) Elevated levels of guaiacol & 4-methylguaiacol in excess of 3ppb have to be present in a pre-harvest grape sample run by an independent lab.
 - 2) There has to be at least a 75% reduction in the value of the crop between what the original contract price or the average market price of undamaged grapes of the same or similar variety vs. what the grower will receive now for the damaged grapes.

How does it work?

- You can insure each variety you grow in the county separately, but you do have to insure all the acres grown. You can't pick and choose locations.
- We use the last 4- 10 years of your harvested tonnage to determine your yield. You are insuring a percentage of that Actual Production History (APH)
- The vines have to be at least 4 years old to be insurable.
- The deadline date to sign up for the 2018 crop year is January 31, 2018.
- The program is subsidized by the USDA.

Grapevines:

- The crop insurance policy does not cover damage to the vines themselves. There currently is not available in standard markets an additional stand-alone tree/vine insurance policy that would cover losses to the growing plants.
- There is limited vine coverage under your existing policy as Tina noted.
- If you unfortunately do sustain damage, there is a disaster program administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency. That FSA program is called TAP (Tree Assistance Program). Good news is it's free, but you have to have tree/vine mortality in excess of 20% to qualify. You also have to file a notice of loss with your County FSA office within 90 day of the loss event happening. Here is their contact info:

USDA Farm Service Agency – Solano/Napa – (707) 448-0106
Sonoma – (707) 794-1242 Ext 3

Mendocino – (707) 468-9223

Lake – (707) 468-9223

To get your business initially set up at the FSA office for crop insurance premium subsidy eligibility, and for future disaster eligibility there are 2 forms to complete and submit. I'll be happy to prepare those for you and help you get that going.

Let me know if I can be of further assistance to you or your growers.

Thanks,

Domenic Fino

Ag West Crop Insurance Services

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