PRF Decision Support Tool
Pasture, Rangeland, Forage

User Tutorial
https://prodwebn lb.rma.usda.gov/apps/prf

Questions not answered in this document? Please contact us at RMAITServ iceDesk@rma.usda.gov
Disclaimer

This information is provided for training only. Any discrepancy between the training material and the policy is not intended. The information provided in this training does not supersede policy and procedure. Any changes to the policy and procedure may make this training material obsolete. If you use this training material check to assure it is still relevant.

Purpose

Use of the Decision Support Tool is NOT required to participate in the Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) pilot program; however, the use of the Grid Locator Tool is required to participate in the PRF program. The purpose of this tool is to aid you in selecting the appropriate coverage to best manage producer risks. It is intended to provide you with additional information of how the program correlates to production risk. For example, you may know your production records for a given year. With the decision tool, you can select that year and study how the index would have responded.

*Note - The tool is for illustration purposes only. Your actual information may differ.
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Basic Steps

- **Step 1:** Select the Decision Support Tool link on the RMA page or from the menu options on the map screens.
- **Step 2:** Select a grid by placing a Pin on the map, or enter an address in the Search Bar.
- **Step 3:** Complete the appropriate information in the Decision Support Tool tab. The information you must supply includes state, county, grid ID, intended use, coverage level, productivity factor, number of insurable acres, sample year to compare, and the percent of value allocated to each index interval. There may be minimum and maximum percent of value that can be allocated to an index interval.
- **Step 4:** Once the information is selected, hit the ‘Calculate’ button. It is also important to note that if any of the Protection Information is changed, the ‘Calculate’ button must once again be activated. For example, a different sample year can be selected but the ‘Calculate’ button must be selected to refresh the results.
- **Step 5:** Once the information has been submitted, a summary of information will be returned for you to consider.
General Webpage Layout

1 – Application buttons
2 – Program Type
3 – Workflow tabs
4 - Links
General Webpage Layout Description

1 – Application buttons
   - Print Button – Creates print layout. See Print Page instructions.
   - Share Button – Creates hyperlink to share. See Share Button instructions.
   - AIB Link – Opens new Browser Tab to RMA Actuarial Information Browser.
   - Cost Estimator - Opens new Browser Tab to RMA Cost Estimator.
   - Help Button – Download training and get answers to questions.
   - Home – Opens new Browser Tab to PRF RMA homepage.

2 – Program Type – PRF (Pasture, Rangeland, and Forages)

3 – Workflow tabs – Allows users to process and gather information and be better informed for selecting the appropriate coverage in order to best manage producer risks.

4 – Footer Links – helpful hyperlinks to other RMA and government sites.
The workflow tabs allow users to process and gather information and be better informed for selecting the appropriate coverage, in order to best manage producer risks.

- **Grid Locator Map**
- **Historical Indexes**
- **Decision Support Tool**
- **Estimated Indemnities**

Clicking on the tabs from left to right allows the user to:
1. Use the map tool to find the Grid ID associated with the land to cover,
2. View the Historical Index Values associated with the Grid ID,
3. Use the Decision Support Tool to input protection coverage levels to view rates and prices,
4. Compare estimated indemnities based on historical rainfall data.
Grid Locator Map – General Layout

1 – Pin (balloon) Tools
2 – Search Bar
3 – Map text display options
4 – Map Type
5 – Pin Location
6 – Pin Information
7 – Zoom Buttons
By default, the map loads with the blue Pin Button selected. This allows you to click anywhere on the map to select a location. By clicking the Multi-Pin button, you can click on multiple locations on the map for multiple selections.
The **Search Bar** allows you to input a location to find and place a Pin on the map. The Search Bar accepts addresses, places, and Latitude/Longitude in Decimal Degrees. Please note, you cannot search by Grid ID. A 5-digit search will place a pin in the associated zip code.
The check box tools allow you to add or remove labels on the map. By clicking the associated box, you can show or hide Grid Lines, Grid Labels, County Lines, County Labels, or Pin Information. As you zoom in on the map, the labels will begin to display.
By default, the map loads in the classic “Street View” as shown above. The **Map Type** button allows you to toggle to the “Imagery” to view the map in a satellite view.
The **Pin Location** displays a balloon in an exact location you click on the map. Within the display bubble there is location information displayed, such as **Grid ID, Latitude, Longitude, County, and State**. There is also a Zoom to hyperlink that automatically zooms into the Grid.
The **Current Pin Information** displays the relevant data associated with the selected **Pin**. Additionally, it allows you to scroll through multiple pins already placed on the map to quickly select a location without clicking again on the map.
The **Zoom buttons** ( + and - ) allow you to increase or decrease the geographical area on the map.
Historical Indexes – General Layout

1 – Location Information
2 – Search By Grid ID
3 – Historical Filter
4 – Index Values
5 – Export to CSV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>54.5</td>
<td>112.5</td>
<td>176.1</td>
<td>106.1</td>
<td>73.8</td>
<td>171.7</td>
<td>146.5</td>
<td>76.4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>54.3</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>148.5</td>
<td>143.6</td>
<td>122.1</td>
<td>100.5</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td>58.5</td>
<td>110.0</td>
<td>224.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>48.2</td>
<td>82.2</td>
<td>63.6</td>
<td>80.3</td>
<td>93.5</td>
<td>89.8</td>
<td>93.4</td>
<td>121.8</td>
<td>133.9</td>
<td>50.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
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<td>87.2</td>
<td>96.0</td>
<td>140.0</td>
<td>109.5</td>
<td>58.2</td>
<td>39.7</td>
<td>80.7</td>
<td>119.1</td>
<td>98.6</td>
<td>45.7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>87.1</td>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>33.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
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<td>87.6</td>
<td>80.1</td>
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<td>79.3</td>
<td>94.9</td>
<td>76.5</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td>206.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Location Information displays the grid information selected from the Grid Locator tool. The drop-down menus for State, County, and Grid ID allow you to switch grids to view Historical Indexes based on different grids. The drop-down menus work left to right on the screen in a “tree” format. For example, if you select a new County, you will then need to also select a new Grid ID. In this case, once you select a County, the Grid ID menu will only populate with available ID’s from the selected State and County.
The Search by Grid ID functionality allows you to quickly type in a 5-digit Grid ID into the search bar to view Historical Indexes for the associated Grid. If the entered Grid ID is located in multiple counties or states, you will be given a pop-up dialog box where you must select the desired location by clicking the Select button.
The **Historical Filter** allows you to choose the date range for the Historical Values displayed in the table. When the page first loads, you will see data displayed from the current year back to 1948. The drop-down filters for **Year Range** allow you to select what years you can view and download in the table to help sort through the data. The **End** drop down year option will be at the top end range of the table, and the **Start** drop down year will be at the bottom end range of the table.
The Index Values table represents historical rainfall data by year within a two month interval. The data is displayed as a **Percent of Normal**, not by a specific measurement. For example, 100 = Normal Precipitation; 101+ = Above Normal Precipitation; 0-99 = Below Normal Precipitation for that specific period. The **Year** range can be changed by changing the Historical Filter.
The **Export to CSV** button allows you to download the data displayed in the **Index Values** table. It downloads a .CSV (comma-separated values) file so you can view the data or create graphs in a spreadsheet or database program. The .CSV file will contain data from the **Grid ID** selected in the **Location Information**, and the **Year Range** selected in the **Historical Filter**.
1 – Location Information
2 – Search By Grid ID
3 – Protection Information
4 – Protection Table
5 – Protection Information
6 – Export to CSV
There are two important notes at the bottom right of the Protection Table. The first note will indicate what year the tool is using insurance data from. The second note is an important disclaimer. By clicking on the button, you will be able to view the ‘PRF Decision Support Tool Information’ Training document. The document will have valuable information on how to use the DST, how Index Values work, and an example.
The **Location Information** displays the grid information selected from the Grid Locator tool. The drop-down menus for **State**, **County**, and **Grid ID** allow you to switch Grids to view Historical Indexes based on different Grids. The drop-down menus work left to right on the screen in a “tree” format. For example, if you select a new **County**, you will then need to also select a new **Grid ID**. In this case, once you select a **County**, the **Grid ID** menu will only populate with available **IDs** from the selected **State** and **County**.
The **Search by Grid ID** functionality allows you to quickly type in a 5-digit Grid ID into the search bar to view Historical Indexes for the associated Grid. If the entered Grid ID is located in multiple counties or states, you will be given a pop-up dialog box where you must select the desired location by clicking the **Select** button.
The Protection Information allows you to choose the criteria to data such as Rates and Indemnities in the Protection Table. You must select an option in each drop-down filter and enter a number for Insurable Interest and Insured Acres. Once you select an Intended Use and Coverage Level, the Maximum % in the Policy Information section will automatically populate. The Percent of Value column in the Protection Table must also be filled out before you can click Calculate. Click the blue Calculate button to populate the Protection Table and Policy Information with data based on your selected criteria.
The **Protection Table** represents data, such as Policy, Rates, and Pricing, based on selections you made in the **Protection Table**. The **Percent of Value** column must also be filled out before you can click **Calculate**. Click the blue **Calculate** button to populate the **Protection Table** and **Policy Information** with data based on your selected criteria.
The **Policy Information** will display valuable data that is tied to the search criteria you input in the **Protection Information** section. When the tab loads, the fields are empty. Please note, these are not editable fields. Once you click the blue **Calculate** button, the **Policy Information** is populated with data based on your selected criteria.
The **Export to CSV** button allows you to download the data displayed in the **Protection Table**. It downloads a .CSV (comma-separated values) file so you can view the data or create graphs in a spreadsheet or database program. The .CSV file will contain data from the **Grid ID** selected in the **Location Information**, and the **Year Range** selected in the **Historical Filter**.
Estimated Indemnities – General Layout

1 – Historical Filter
2 – Estimated Indemnities table
3 – Export to CSV
In order to use the Estimated Indemnities tab, a Grid ID must be selected and the DST must be filled out. You can choose a Grid ID with the Grid Locator tool, or by manually selecting in the Decision Support Tool.
The **Historical Filter** allows you to choose the date range for the Historical Values displayed in the table. When the page first loads, you will see data displayed from the current year back to 1948. The drop down filters for **Year Range** allow you to select what years you can view and download in the table to help sort through the data. The **End** drop-down year option will be at the top end range of the table, and the **Start** drop-down year will be at the bottom end range of the table.
The Estimated Indemnities table displays estimated indemnities based on data filled out on the Decision Support Tool.
The **Export to CSV** button allows you to download the data displayed in the **Estimated Indemnities** table. It downloads a .CSV (comma-separated values) file so you can view the data or create graphs in a spreadsheet or database program. The .CSV file will contain data from the **Grid ID** previously selected in the **Grid Locator** or **Decision Support Tool**.
The **Print** button allows you to print the map or data on the screen. Once clicked, the button may look like a spinning wheel while the print page loads. A print example is on the next page. Please note, functionality may differ between browsers.
Print Page – Decision Support Tool Example
By clicking the **Share Button**, a pop-up dialog box is displayed that allows you to share the link. By clicking the **Copy** button, you can then paste the created link in another application, such as an email. By clicking and following the newly created link, you will automatically be brought into the PRF tool within the previously selected grid.
End of Tutorial

Questions?

Please contact us at
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