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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA APPROVES PISTACHIO CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM

Fresno, CA—October 17, 2011—USDA’s Risk Management Agency (USDA-RMA) announced on Friday October 14 that it will implement a multi-peril crop insurance program for pistachios in the producing states of California, Arizona and New Mexico. The program will be implemented, beginning with the 2012 crop year. Pistachios were one of the last permanent crops that did not have a USDA-backed crop insurance program.

American Pistachio Growers (APG) has worked with representatives of the USDA-RMA offices in Kansas City and Washington D.C. over the last two years advocating for implementation of such a program. Additionally, APG growers had provided RMA with historical production figures to better evaluate the alternate bearing tendencies of pistachio trees, as well as the potential production perils faced by the industry.

Thanks goes out to APG growers, USDA representatives, and various crop insurance agents who assisted greatly in bringing the lack of pistachio crop insurance to the forefront. “Without the help of many within this industry, such a program could not have been implemented” noted APG Executive Director, Richard Matoian. “With the many risks that growers face from weather related perils to pests and diseases to the potential of water shortages, many within this industry stepped up to ensure that crop insurance was available for pistachio growers.”

The program will be available in 22 counties in California, two counties in Arizona and New Mexico. This covers over 99% of the current commercial growing acreage. Growers will have until December 31, 2011 to obtain the insurance from their crop insurance agents.

American Pistachio Growers is a voluntary trade association representing members who are pistachio growers, processors and industry partners in California, Arizona and New Mexico. These states represent 100 percent of the domestic commercial pistachio production. APG pistachios are the “Official Snack” of USA Water Polo and Miss California.



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