



For more information contact:

Don Faison
Managing Director, Agriculture Department
Markel Insurance Company
dfaison@markelcorp.com
804-965-1613

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Markel Acquires Agri-Risk Services, Inc.

Richmond, VA, October 9, 2009 – Markel Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Markel Corporation, announced today that it has acquired the assets, including property and casualty insurance renewal rights, of Agri-Risk Services, Inc., a leading equine retail specialty agency in Overland Park, Kansas.

The staff of Agri-Risk will be joining Markel and will become part of Markel Specialty's Agriculture Division. The Agri-Risk team will continue to be led by Dr. Lance Allen D.V.M., C.I.C. and Barbara Kirby, both long term respected leaders in the equine insurance marketplace.

The acquisition of the business of Agri-Risk Services and its experienced staff, combined with Markel Specialty's Agriculture Team, builds on both companies' strong existing relationships in the equine community and the continued desire to expand the Markel brand in the equine insurance market.

ABOUT MARKEL INSURANCE COMPANY

A subsidiary of Markel Corporation, Markel Insurance Company underwrites commercial lines coverage for a variety of niche markets including horse and farm programs; a wide range of non-profit social service agencies; camps; child care centers; youth recreation centers; private schools, museums and historic homes; and dance, gymnastics, and martial arts schools. The company also underwrites special risk accident and health insurance. Markel Risk Solutions offers unique individual account solutions for commercial lines producers.

Visit Markel Insurance Company on the web at www.markelinsurance.com.