#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency Washington, DC 20250 **Notice ARCPLC-16** 

For: State and County Offices

**Obtaining Missing Yield Data** 

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**Approved by:** Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs

#### 1 Overview

## A Background

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) requires use of county yields for both the ARC and PLC programs.

County yields used for ARC and PLC have been compiled by EPAS using NASS and RMA data where available.

- The PLC program uses county yields as substitutes for farm yields when any of the farm's 2008 through 2012 yields is below 75 percent of the 2008 through 2012 county average yield.
- The ARC program uses:
  - county yields to establish benchmark revenue and actual revenue in ARC-CO or ARC-IC
  - transitional yields (T-yields) to establish the benchmark revenue in ARC-CO or ARC-IC when the yield per planted acre is less than 70 percent of the T-yield.

PLC substitute yields and ARC county yields have been posted to **http://www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc**. However there are instances where yields were not available from NASS or RMA. STC's are required to establish these yields to fill in the missing county yield data.

## **B** Purpose

This notice provides policy for STC's to research and submit to the National Office the missing county yields.

Disposal Date	Distribution
February 1, 2015	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

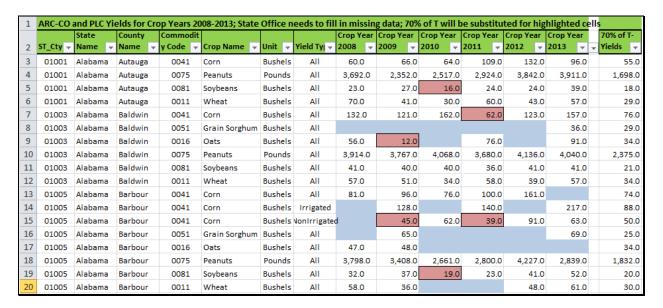
## 2 Missing Yields

# A Determining Missing Data

All available data from NASS and RMA has been compiled to compute:

- 75 percent of the average of the 2008 through 2012 county yield (substitute yields) for PLC yield updates
- county yield to account for missing year in benchmark calculations
- 70 percent of the T-yield to establish a minimum annual yield in computing benchmark yields.

Following is an example of the spreadsheet.



As shown in the spreadsheet, the corn yield for Barbour County, Alabama in crop year 2013 was not available from NASS or RMA. Data for all years is necessary to compute substitute yields and benchmark yields.

Also shown with an are situations in the benchmark calculation, when 70 percent of the T-yield would be used as a substitute yield because the county yield (actual or assigned) for the applicable year is less than 70 percent of the T-yield.

## **B** Establishing Yields for Missing Years

STC's must establish county yields for each year from 2008 through 2013, where crop yields are missing using the best available information, such as:

- yields by year from contiguous counties from the missing yield spreadsheet
- NAP yields by year that were established for the crop

# 2 Missing Yields (Continued)

## **B** Establishing Yields for Missing Years (Continued)

- in cases where STC's cannot find supporting yield data, by year, to establish a yield, STC can request the local COC to provide information/documentation at the local level that can be submitted and reviewed by STC
- State level NASS data by year
- State yield data from contiguous States by year.

**Note:** Some counties and crops have been designated as both an irrigated and nonirrigated county. For these counties, STC's are required to provide both irrigated and nonirrigated yields. For other counties and crops, yields are not broken out between irrigated and nonirrigated practices and are designated as "All" in the spreadsheet.

When completing the spreadsheet for each crop and year, the State Office **must** provide the county yield (that is 100 percent of the county yield), and place that yield in the respective crop year's column of the spreadsheet.

# C Missing T-Yields on the Yield Spreadsheet

T-yields are used as the substitute yield for low yields in the benchmark years for ARC-CO and ARC-IC. The T-yields that are listed in the spreadsheet are the weighted 2013 T-yields from RMA for crops that were insured in the applicable county in 2013. When the crop did **not** have crop insurance in the county in 2013, a NAP T-yield must be assigned for that crop in that county.

STC will first assign the 2013 NAP T-yield for the crop in that county, as applicable. For counties that have both IR and NI yield data in the missing yield spreadsheet, STC will determine a T-yield for both practices. In cases where STC did **not** determine a 2013 NAP T-yield for the crop or county, STC must follow policy in 1-NAP, paragraph 107 to establish a NAP county-expected T-yield for that crop and county.

T-yields computed according to the policy in 1-NAP and used solely in the ARC and PLC programs are **not** required to be loaded into NCT.

When completing the spreadsheet, the State Office **must** multiply the assigned county T-yield by 70 percent, and place the result (70 percent of T-yield) into the "70% of T-Yields" column of the spreadsheet.

## 2 Missing Yields (Continued)

# **D** Recording Yields for Missing Crops

A second spreadsheet will be provided for State Offices to record and submit crops by county that are missing from the missing yield spreadsheet. Using this spreadsheet is only required in cases where the crop has no yield data on the missing yield spreadsheet, but the crop was planted in 1 of the base reallocation years 2009 through 2012. State Offices will manually enter the following:

- St\_Cty code
- State name
- county name
- yield for each applicable year according to subparagraph B
- 70 percent of the T-yield according to subparagraph C.

When the crop name is selected from the drop-down list, it will automatically populate the "Commodity Code" and "Unit" columns. The yield type must be selected from the drop-down choices for that column. Once the spreadsheet has been completed, it will be retuned according to paragraph 4.

The following is an example of the missing crop spreadsheet.

ARC-CO and PLC Yields for Crop Years 2008-2013; State Office needs to fill in missing data; 70% of T will be substituted for highlighted cells														
ST_Cty	State Name	County Name	Commodity Code	Crop Name	Unit		Yield Type	Crop Year 2008	Crop Year 2009	Crop Year 2010	Crop Year 2011	Crop Year 2012	Crop Year 2013	70% of T- Yields
36-045	New York	Jefferson	0078	Sunflower seed	₩ 00	ound	Non Irrigated							
				Rice, Med (Sweet) Safflower										
				Sesame Sorghum, Dual Pu	ļ-									 
				Sorghum, Grain Soybeans										
				Sunflower seed Wheat	_									

# 3 Examples

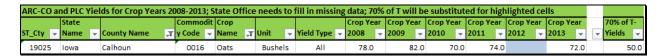
# A Example 1

The following is an example of a missing county crop yield, filled by STC, using the process in paragraph 2.

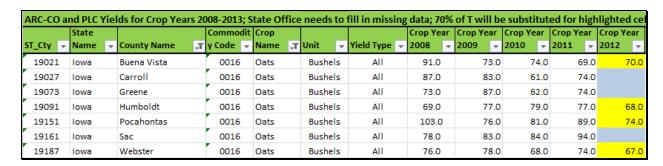
ARC-CO and PLC Yields for Crop Years 2008-2013; State Office needs to fill in missing data; 70% of T will be substituted for highlighted cells															
			Commodit				Crop Year		70% of T-						
ST_Cty	State Nami 🗸	County Nan 🟋	y Code 💆	Crop Name 🔻	Unit 🔻	Yield Ty <sub>l</sub> →	2008 🔻	2009 🔻	2010 🔻	2011 🔻	2012 🔻	2013 🔻	₩	Yields 🔻	
38089	North Dakota	Stark	0078	Sunflower Seed	Pounds	All	536.0	1,801.0	1,614.0	1,764.0	1,632.0	1,662.0		806.0	
38089	North Dakota	Stark	0011	Wheat	Bushels	All	6.0	48.0	39.0	26.0	40.0	50.0		22.0	
38091	North Dakota	Steele	0091	Barley	Bushels	All	67.0	87.0	74.0	44.0	63.0	81.0		43.0	
38091	North Dakota	Steele	0711	Canola	Pounds	All	1,448.0	2,040.0	1,786.0		1,777.0			880.0	
38091	North Dakota	Steele	0041	Corn	Bushels	All	124.0	111.0	134.0	111.0	121.0	113.0		78.0	
38091	North Dakota	Steele	0067	Dry Peas	Pounds	All			1,857.0					1,330.0	
38091	North Dakota	Steele	0031	Flaxseed	Bushels	All			15.0					13.0	
38091	North Dakota	Steele	0016	Oats	Bushels	All	77.0		71.0		88.0	70.0		46.0	
38091	North Dakota	Steele	0081	Soybeans	Bushels	All	27.0	29.0	35.0	26.0	33.0	34.0		22.0	
38091	North Dakota	Steele	0078	Sunflower Seed	Pounds	All	1,370.0	1,529.0	1,416.0	997.0	2,120.0	2,017.0		1,061.0	
38091	North Dakota	Steele	0011	Wheat	Bushels	All	54.0	54.0	57.0	32.0	54.0	66.0		36.0	
38093	North Dakota	Stutsman	0091	Barley	Bushels	All	66.0	68.0	55.0	35.0	61.0	67.0		41.0	
38093	North Dakota	Stutsman	0711	Canola	Pounds	All	1,077.0	1,493.0	1,373.0	1,294.0	1,047.0	1,455.0		818.0	
38093	North Dakota	Stutsman	0041	Corn	Bushels	All	111.0	100.0	131.0	117.0	131.0	100.0		71.0	
38093	North Dakota	Stutsman	0067	Dry Peas	Pounds	All	2,321.0	2,264.0	2,063.0	1,148.0	2,677.0	2,131.0		1,330.0	
38093	North Dakota	Stutsman	0031	Flaxseed	Bushels	All	15.0	13.0	18.0	19.0	8.0	11.0		12.0	
38093	North Dakota	Stutsman	0401	Lentils	Pounds	All	692.0		1,373.0	1,294.0					
38093	North Dakota	Stutsman	0016	Oats	Bushels	All	58.0	54.0	69.0	41.0	71.0	61.0		41.0	
38093	North Dakota	Stutsman	0081	Soybeans	Bushels	All	27.0	26.0	33.0	28.0	34.0	27.0		21.0	
38093	North Dakota	Stutsman	0078	Sunflower Seed	Pounds	All	1,116.0	1,345.0	769.0	742.0	1,823.0	1,522.0		801.0	
38093	North Dakota	Stutsman	0011	Wheat	Bushels	All	47.0	46.0	47.0	27.0	46.0	41.0		31.0	

## B Example 2

Calhoun County is missing oats for 2012.



Surrounding counties for Calhoun with 2012 oat yields.



Using the surrounding county method, Buena Vista, Humboldt, Pocahontas and Webster may be averaged to obtain the Calhoun County missing yield. (70 + 68 + 74 + 67 = 279)/4 = 69.75, rounded to 70.

The State Office will insert 70 for 2012 oat yield in Calhoun County in the spreadsheet.

# 4 Master Yield Spreadsheet

# A Delivery and Return of Master Yield Spreadsheet

ARC/PLC State Office Specialists will be e-mailed a copy of the spreadsheet for their applicable counties. Upon completion of missing county yield data, the master yield spreadsheet must be returned by e-mail to Michael Walter at **michael.walter@wdc.usda.gov**.

**Note:** States will only enter data for missing years and will not be able to make changes to any existing values displayed on the spreadsheet. Existing data was obtained from NASS and/or RMA and will not be altered.

Once the updates are completed the master yield spreadsheet will be posted on the ARC/PLC SharePoint site at the following address

https://sharepoint.fsa.usda.net/mgr/dafp/PECD/ARCPLC/SitePages/Home.aspx.

#### 5 Action

## **A County Office Action**

County Offices will contact the State Office if any crops need to have yields established for ARC or PLC.

## **B** State Office Action

State Office program specialists and chiefs will work with STC in establishing ARC and PLC program yields for the 2008 through 2013 crops years. This work will be necessary in the following crop years through 2018 when NASS or RMA data is not available.

State Office must return the master yield spreadsheet as directed in paragraph 4 no later than January 16, 2015.