

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC 20250

Notice CM-780

For: State and County Offices

Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI) 2016 Spring Expansion

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

The vision of the ACRSI is to have a common framework for producer commodity reporting in support of USDA programs. This common framework will allow producers to report common data one time, and it will be shared electronically between agencies in near real time, reducing producer burden by eliminating redundant reporting of common data.

The ACRSI project is a joint effort between FSA and RMA, leveraging existing systems to further expand on data capture and sharing activities. ACRSI was deployed in various pilots beginning in the spring of 2015 with 30 counties in 2 States. The pilot continued in the fall of 2015 with all counties in 15 States. Building on the previous pilots and lessons learned, ACRSI will be expanding to all counties and all States in the spring of 2016 to further the vision and goals of this initiative.

B Purpose

This notice informs State and County Offices of the forthcoming ACRSI 2016 Spring Expansion and provides additional information about:

- reporting channels and data standards
- eligible commodities
- proposed training
- Spring expansion timeline.

Disposal Date	Distribution
February 1, 2017	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

2 ACRSI 2016 Spring Expansion

A Reporting Channels and Data Standards

Producers that report crop information to both FSA and RMA will be able to report common data one time through the reporting channel of their choice. They can report to their FSA County Office or to their Approved Insurance Provider (AIP) and data which is common to both Agencies will be shared electronically in near real-time.

Common standards have been established and implemented by FSA and RMA working groups to create a USDA common acreage report to be used by the multiple reporting channels. Some of the common standards are as follows:

- Commodity Validation Table (CVT) – created a joint agency crop table which includes crop name, crop type, intended uses, actual uses, irrigation practice, and organic practice
- Acreage Reporting Dates (ARD) – aligned crop reporting dates between RMA and FSA
- Geospatial Representation – shared FSA’s common land units (CLU’s) in or near real time
- Standard Producer Identification – consolidated RMA and FSA entity types
- Acreage/crop report data – established common crop acreage reporting data elements which can be provided by producers.

Within FSA, these data standards have been incorporated into existing policies, procedures, and software applications. No separate system entry is required for County Office users or producers.

At this time, producers must still visit both offices to validate and sign their respective acreage reports.

Note: Within FSA, ACRSI is not a separate application, it is an extension of the existing Crop Acreage Reporting System (CARS) application.

2 ACRSI 2016 Spring Expansion (Continued)

B Eligible Commodities

The following is a list of eligible crops that will be included in the ACRSI 2016 Spring Expansion.

Alfalfa	Corn	Cotton
CRP	Fallow	Grass
Oats	Peanuts	Rice
Rye	Sorghum	Soybeans
Wheat		

C Proposed Training

ACRSI 2016 Spring Expansion training will be provided to State trainer attendees during the concurrent National acreage reporting/GIS training the week of March 14 to 18, 2016. The State trainer attendees are asked to train their County Office employees by April 30, in anticipation of ACRSI related CARS software release. The ACRSI training will be conducted during the acreage reporting portion of the National training.

D Spring Expansion Timeline

The ACRSI 2016 Spring Expansion is anticipated to be available to the field in early spring. Crop reports taken before the release of the 2016 ACRSI related CARS software release will not be affected. Those reports will not be shared electronically between Agencies unless the report is accessed and revised after ACRSI is released. Current data sharing procedures via Comprehensive Information Management System (CIMS) will remain unchanged.

3 Action

A Communication

When available, State Offices shall provide County Offices with forthcoming ACRSI communication documents, which will include:

- facts sheets
- FAQ's
- talking points
- posters
- brochures.

B Contacts

State Offices shall direct questions related to the ACRSI 2016 Spring Expansion to one of the following:

- Gwen Uecker by either of the following:
 - email at **gwen.uecker@usda.gov**
 - telephone at 701-893-2209
- Janie Hudson by either of the following:
 - email at **janie.hudson@id.usda.gov**
 - telephone at 208-539-5726
- Todd Anderson by either of the following:
 - email at **todd.anderson@wdc.usda.gov**
 - telephone at 202-720-9106.

C County Office Action

County Offices shall:

- review received ACRSI communications documents to familiarize themselves with the 2016 Spring Expansion to better assist producers with questions when reporting through ACRSI
- display brochures and posters in the office.