

For: State and County Offices

Continuous Acreage Reporting and Accepting CIMS Data for Late-Filed Acreage Reports

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

Acreage reporting is a necessary requirement for all producers to participate and/or receive FSA program services and benefits. The crop information reported on acreage reports must be accurately reported and maintained to determine program and payment eligibility for most, if not all, FSA programs. This data is used to support budget and cost outlays for program budget formulation purposes, market forecasting and for several other significant program decisions. This data is also shared with several other FSA agencies for program purposes.

Recently a task force was developed and challenged with improving the acreage reporting process to ease the burden on field staff and producers. National acreage reporting training was conducted in March to provide field staff policy changes to streamline and improve the acreage reporting process.

B Purpose

This notice advises State and County Offices that:

- new provisions are being added for continuous acreage reporting for perennial forage crops and CRP
- CIMS data can be used for accepting a late-filed acreage report
- a future 2-CP amendment will be provided with information concerning software and other topics discussed at national training.

Disposal Date	Distribution
December 1, 2016	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

2 Continuous Acreage Reporting for Perennial Crops

A Certify Acreage

To streamline the acreage reporting process, a method to certify selected **perennial** crops on a continuous basis was developed as a pilot program starting in 2016. This process was developed to reduce:

- producer visits to the County Office
- CARS network congestion.

Continuous certification allows a producer to report the certified acreage so it will roll forward annually and does not require additional action on the part of the producer or FSA in subsequent years unless a change to the acreage report occurs.

B Continuous Certification Process

The continuous certification process for perennial crops requires an initial certification on a FSA-578. The producer may select the continuous certification option at any time after the crop is certified.

The following table provides information on operator and producer enrollment into continuous certification.

IF the continuous certification option is selected by...	THEN the continuous certification is applicable to...
the operator	all fields on the farm for the specific crop/crop type/intended use.
any producer sharing in the crop	field(s) in which the producer has a share for the specific crop/crop type/intended use.

If the continuous certification option is selected before the applicable final reporting date in the subsequent year, the acreage report is considered timely filed for the current year and will remain in effect in perpetuity until any change is reported to FSA.

Example 1: Operator Smith reports Grass/NAG/GZ for 2017 by the applicable final reporting date and selects the continuous certification option. For 2017 and subsequent years, operator Smith's FSA-578 for Grass/NAG/GZ is considered certified and no additional action is required by operator Smith or FSA until a change occurs.

2 Continuous Acreage Reporting for Perennial Crops (Continued)

B Continuous Certification Process (Continued)

Example 2: Operator Smith reports Grass/NAG/GZ for 2017 by the applicable final reporting date and does not select the continuous certification option. Operator Smith returns to the office 3 weeks after the final reporting date and selects the continuous certification option. For 2018 and subsequent years, operator Smith's FSA-578 for Grass/NAG/GZ is considered certified and no additional action is required by operator Smith or FSA until a change occurs.

Example 3: Operator Smith reports Grass/NAG/GZ for 2017 by the applicable final reporting date, but does not select the continuous certification option. In 2018, operator Smith comes to the office after the final acreage reporting date and wants to select the continuous certification option. For 2018, the Grass/NAG/GZ is considered late-filed and operator Smith must file a 2018 FSA-578 prior to submitting a FSA-578C to select the continuous certification option.

Crops reported under continuous certification are subject to the same compliance spot checks as other FSA-578's.

C Selecting Continuous Certification

Producers may select continuous certification for perennial forage crops using FSA-578C (see Exhibit 2). The producers enrolling in continuous certification must have a share of the perennial crop.

Enrollment will be at the farm level by crop, crop type, and intended use.

Note: The continuous certification process does not prevent any producer from filing an annual acreage report.

2 Continuous Acreage Reporting for Perennial Crops (Continued)

D Terminating Continuous Certification

The producer can terminate continuous certification for the farm at any time by crop, crop type, and intended use.

Note: This will terminate continuous certification for all fields of the crop, crop type, and intended use for the farm.

The continuous certification will automatically be terminated if any of the following changes occur:

- changes in farm records, including producer changes
- changes in CARS
- determined acres are different than reported
- acreage report is revised
- enrolled crop is no longer certified
- crop, crop type, and intended use is no longer an eligible perennial crop
- changes in the CLU greater than 1 acre for the field with continuous certification
- farm reconstitution.

Note: Deleting one field of the enrolled crop, crop type, and intended use will not terminate the continuous certification.

Example 1: Operator A timely reports 5 fields of native grass (NAG) for grazing on the 2017 FSA-578 for FSN 10 and selects the continuous certification option. Operator A loses the grazing lease on FSN 10 for the 2018 crop year. The continuous certification on FSN 10 is terminated because the producer no longer has an interest in the crop.

Example 2: Producer A reports NAG for grazing on the 2017 FSA-578 for FSN 50 and elects to participate in the continuous certification option on this particular crop as reported. The NAG for grazing on FSN 50 is reported by Producer A on field 1. Producer A also reports brome grass for forage on field 2 of FSN 50 and chooses not to participate in the continuous certification on FSN 50 for that crop. The County Office reduces 1.3 acres from a CLU (field 2) on FSN 50 due to construction of a home on the farm. The continuous certification is not terminated on FSN 50, because the CLU change was on field 2 and the crop certified on field 2 is not enrolled in continuous certification.

2 Continuous Acreage Reporting for Perennial Crops (Continued)

D Terminating Continuous Certification (Continued)

Example 3: Producer A reports 5 fields of common bermuda grass (BCM) for grazing on the 2017 FSA-578 for FSN 100 and elects to participate in the continuous certification option. At the same time, Producer A also reported 2 fields (field 1 and 2) of BCM for forage and does not include these two fields in the continuous acreage certification enrollment. The producer informs the County Office prior to the 2018 final ARD for perennial grass that the intended use for fields 1 and 2 will be grazing for 2018 instead of forage. The continuous certification is not terminated because none of the fields with an existing continuous certification was revised. Field 1 and 2 will automatically be added to the continuous certification election and the producer does not need another FSA-578C completed.

Example 4: Producer A reports 10 fields of BCM for grazing on the 2017 FSA-578 for FSN 1 and elects to participate in the continuous certification option. The producer informs the County Office prior to the 2018 final ARD for perennial grass that the intended use will be forage instead of grazing for 2018 for 2 of the fields on this farm. The continuous certification is terminated and the producer must complete another FSA-578C if they want to select continuous certification for the eligible crops that are reported in 2018.

3 Continuous Acreage Reporting for CRP

A CRP Acreage Data

The continuous certification process for CRP requires an initial certification on FSA-578. The one-time CRP certification uses the end date field to allow the certified acreage data to roll forward annually. The CRP acreage data is considered certified until the producer notifies the County Office of any change to the certification on file, the CRP contract expires, or the CRP contract is terminated. Continuous certification applies to all CRP acreage data beginning with CRP acreage reports filed for the 2016 crop.

Note: The continuous certification process does not prevent any producer from filing an annual acreage report.

4 Accepting CIMS Data for Late-Filed Acreage Report

A Accepting Late-Filed FSA-578

RMA data may be used to accept a late-filed FSA-578 as timely filed if the crop information is reported timely to RMA.

The crop reported to RMA must match the crop and crop type reported to FSA.

Notes: RMA data must be CIMS data and not crop insurance agent records. Crop insurance data in CIMS is considered reported timely to RMA. Attach a copy of CIMS data to late filed FSA-578.

The acreage reported to RMA and FSA may differ for legitimate reasons, such as double crop, subsequent crop, and prevented planting provisions.

B Measurement Service Fees

The following table provides guidance on refunding measurement service fees when CIMS data is available.

IF a producer late-files and pays a measurement service fee, CIMS data is available and FSA...	THEN the fee...
has performed the measurement service	will not be refunded.
has not performed the measurement service	will be refunded.

C Examples

The following are examples for accepting CIMS data.

Example 1: Producer timely reports 100 acres of corn and 100 acres of soybeans to RMA and files an acreage report with FSA after the ARD reporting showing 100 acres of corn/YEL/GR and 100 acres of soybeans/COM/GR. FSA will accept the producer's acreage report as timely filed based on CIMS data.

Example 2: Producer reports 200 acres of corn to RMA and files an acreage report with FSA after the ARD reporting showing 100 acres of corn/YEL/GR and 100 acres of soybeans/COM/GR. Since the soybean acreage report is not supported by CIMS data, late-file provisions will apply to the soybeans. FSA will accept corn as timely filed based on CIMS data.

4 Accepting CIMS Data for Late-Filed Acreage Report, (Continued)

C Examples (Continued)

Example 3: Producer reports 200 acres of corn to RMA and files an acreage report with FSA after the ARD reporting showing 215 acres of corn/YEL/GR. Since the acreage report is supported by CIMS data, FSA will accept corn as timely filed.

Example 4: Producer reports 215 acres of corn to RMA and files an acreage report with FSA after the ARD reporting showing 200 acres of corn/YEL/GR. Since the acreage report is supported by CIMS data, FSA will accept corn as timely filed.

Example 5: Producer reports 200 acres of corn to RMA and files an acreage report with FSA after the ARD reporting showing 200 acres of corn/YEL/GR and 15 acres of fallow. Since the fallow is not reported by the ARD, late-file provisions will apply to the fallow acreage. FSA will accept corn as timely filed based on CIMS data.

5 Action

A SED Action

SED's shall ensure that:

- County Offices are immediately informed of the contents of this notice
- policy changes and/or procedure in this notice are adequately publicized.

B County Office Action

County Offices shall review the contents of this notice and publicize by all available means.

List of Perennial Crops

Crop Name	Crop Code	Crop Abbr	Type Name	Type Code	Intended Use	Land Use
Grass	0102	GRASS	Alkalai	ALK	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Altai Wild Rye	AWR	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			American Mamegrass	AME	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			American Vetch	AMV	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Arctared Fescue	FAC	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Argentine Bahia	ARG	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Bahia	BHI	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Barbed Wire	BRB	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Basin Wild Rye	BAS	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Bearded Fescue	FSB	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Beardless Wildrye	BER	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Big Blue	BBL	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Big Bluestem	BLB	FG, GZ, LS, PR, SD, SO	
			Blue Bunch Wheat	WBB	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Blue Grama	GBU	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Blue Panic	BPG	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Blue Wild Rye	BWR	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Bluegrass, Alpine	BAL	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Bluejoint	BLJ	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Bluejoint Reedgrass	BJR	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Bosioski Wild Rye	BOS	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Bottlebrush Squirreltail	BSB	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Buffalo	BUF	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Buffel	BFF	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			California (Para)	CAL	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			California Brome	CFB	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			California Oat	COG	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Canadian Bluegrass	CBG	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Canadian Milkvetch	CMV	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Canadian Wild Ryegrass	RCW	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	

List of Perennial Crops (Continued)

Crop Name	Crop Code	Crop Abbr	Type Name	Type Code	Intended Use	Land Use
Grass (Continued)	0102	GRASS	Canary	CAN	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Canby	CBY	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Carex (Wildlife Cover)	CAR	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Centipede	CEN	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Coastal Bermuda	BCS	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Colonial Bentgrass	BGC	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Common Bermuda	BCM	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Creeping Bentgrass	BCR	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Crested Wheat	WCR	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Dallis	DAL	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Deertongue	DER	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Dichondra	DCH	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Eastern Grama	EAS	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Fescue, Chewing	FCH	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Fescue, Hard	FSH	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Fescue, Meadow	FME	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Fescue, Red	FRE	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Fescue, Rough	FRO	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Fescue, Tall	FTA	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Galleta	GAL	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Garrison Creeping Fxtl	CFG	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Gordo Bluestem	BLG	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Gramma, Blue Hachita	GBH	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Gramma, Blue Lovington	GBL	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Gramma, Hairy	GHA	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Gramma, Side Oats	GSO	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Green Needle	GNE	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Green Panic	GPG	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Green Sprangle Top	GST	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Guinea	GUI	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Hilo	HIL	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Hybrid Bermuda	BGH	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Idaho Fescue	IDA	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Illinois Bundle Flower	ILL	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Indian	ING	FG, GZ, LS, PR, SD, SO	
			Indian Ricegrass	IRG	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	

List of Perennial Crops (Continued)

Crop Name	Crop Code	Crop Abbr	Type Name	Type Code	Intended Use	Land Use
Grass (Continued)	0102	GRASS	Intermediate Ryegrass	RIN	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Intermediate Wheat	WIN	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Johnson	JOH	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Jose Tall Wheatgrass	JOS	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Junegrass	JUN	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Kalms Brome	BRK	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Kentucky 31 Fescue	KEN	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Kentucky Bluegrass	BLK	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Kikuyu	KIK	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Kleberg Bluestem	KLB	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Klein	KLE	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Leriope	LER	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Limpo Grass	LMP	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Little Bluestem	BLL	FG, GZ, LS, PR, SD, SO	
			Magnar	MAG	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Mason Sandhill Lovegrass	LMS	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Matua	MAT	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Meadow Foxtail	MFG	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Medio Bluestem	BLM	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Miscanthus	MIS	FG, GZ, LS, PR, SD, SO	
			Mountain Brome	BRM	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Mutton	MUT	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Napier	NAP	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Native	NAG	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Needle And Thread	NAT	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Newhy Hybrid Wheatgrass	NEW	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Norcoast Tufted Hairgrass	HNC	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Nortran Tufted Hairgrass	HNT	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Old World Bluestem	BOW	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Orchard	ORG	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Other Bent	BGO	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Other Brome	BRO	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Other Creeping Foxtail	CFO	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Pampas	PAM	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Pangola	PAN	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Perennial Ryegrass	RPE	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Pitcher Sage	PIT	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Plains Blue Stems	PBL	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Plains Bristle	PLB	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Polar Brome	BRP	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Prairie	PRA	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	

List of Perennial Crops (Continued)

Crop Name	Crop Code	Crop Abbr	Type Name	Type Code	Intended Use	Land Use
Grass (Continued)	0102	GRASS	Prairie Cordgrass	PRC	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Prairie Dropseed	PRD	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Prarie Sandreed	PRS	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Pubescent Wheat	WPU	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Redtop	RDT	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Reed Canary	RCA	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Regar Brome	BRR	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Rhodes	RHO	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			River Oats	RIV	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Riverbank Wildrye	RVB	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Roemers Fescue	FSR	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Rough Bluegrass	BLH	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Ruff Fairway Crstd Wht Grs	WRF	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Rugby Bluegrass	BLR	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Russian Wild Ryegrass	RRW	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Sainfoin	SAI	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Saint Augustine	STA	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Sand Bluestem	BLS	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Sand Dropseed	SDR	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Sand Lovegrass	LSA	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Sandberg Bluegrass	SDB	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Secar Bluebunch	SEC	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Siberian Wheat	WSI	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Silky Wildrye	SIL	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Slender Hair	SLE	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Slender Wild Rye	SWR	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Small Burnett	SMB	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Smooth Brome	SMO	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Smut	SMT	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Soft Stem Blurush	SSB	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Spike Muhley	SPI	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Stargrass	STR	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Switch	SWI	FG, GZ, LS, PR, SD, SO	
			Thick Spike Wheatgrass	TSW	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Timothy	TIM	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Trailhead Basin	TRL	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Trailhead Basin Wild Rye	TBW	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	

List of Perennial Crops (Continued)

Crop Name	Crop Code	Crop Abbr	Type Name	Type Code	Intended Use	Land Use
Grass (Continued)	0102	GRASS	Tufted Hairgrass	THG	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Tundra Bluegrass	TBL	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Vetiver	VET	FG, GZ, LS, PR, SD, SO	
			Wainaku	WAI	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Water Foxtail	WAT	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Weeping Lovegrass	LWE	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Western Wheatgrass	WWE	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Wheat Streambank	WST	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Wheat , Slender	WSL	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Wheat , Tall	WTA	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Wheeler Bluegrass	WHB	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Wild Berganot	WBG	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Wilmon Lovegrass	WIL	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Yellow Bluestem	BLY	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Zoysia	ZOY	FG, GZ, LS, SD, SO	

List of Perennial Crops (Continued)

Crop Name	Crop Code	Crop Abbr	Type Name	Type Code	Intended Use	Land Use
Mixed Forage	0296	MIXFG	2 Or More Interseeded Grass Mix	IGS	EQ, FG, GM, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			2 Or More Legumes Interseeded	LEG	EQ, FG, GM, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Legume/Grass Mixture	LGM	EQ, FG, GM, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
			Native Grass Interseeded	NSG	EQ, FG, GM, GZ, LS, SD, SO	
Miscellaneous Perennials						
Birdsfoot Trefoil	0355	BIFFO			FG, GZ, SD	
Chicory/Racicchio	0511	CHICO	Common	COM	FG, GZ	
			Common	COM	FH, RS, SD	F
			Root	ROT	PR	
			Witloof	WIT	FG, GZ	
			Witloof	WIT	FH, RS, SD	F
Kochia (Prostrata)	2002	KOCHI			FG, GZ, SD	
Lespedeza	0273	LESPD			FG, GM, GZ, SD	
Perennial Peanuts	9033	PRNPT			FG, GZ	

This form is available electronically.

(See Page 2 for Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Statements)

[illegible]

FSA-578C, Continuous Report of Acreage (Continued)

FSA-578C (05-16-16)

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NOTE: *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a – as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is 7 CFR Part 718, 7 CFR Part 1410, the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714 et seq.), and the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-79). The information will be used to determine producer eligibility to enroll/unenroll acres in the continuous acreage reporting option for perennial crops. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for USDA/FSA-2, Farm Records File (Automated). Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of producer ineligibility to enroll/unenroll acres in the continuous acreage reporting option for perennial crops.*

This information collection is exempted from the Paperwork Reduction Act as specified in the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-79, Title I, Subtitle F, Administration).

The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided.
RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.

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