



Acreage Reporting

OVERVIEW

A crop acreage report is a record of crops of a crop year on a farm. The crop acreage report (FSA-578) is filed annually with the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The FSA-578 is used by producers to document all crops and intended uses, including failed acreage and acres that may have been prevented from being planted. The crop acreage report must be filed by the crop's applicable final reporting date. Acreage reports provide information necessary for:

- Eligibility for current or future U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs;
- Determining highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation compliance; and
- History purposes.

WHO CAN FILE

Any farm operator, owner or producer with a share interest in crop acreage on the farm may file an acreage report.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Acreage reporting maps are used to illustrate where crops are located on the farm and to provide information to the county office. The county FSA office can provide maps of the land you are reporting to complete prior to filing your acreage report. The following information must be included on the map:

- Farm number;
- Tract number;
- Field (common land unit)/subfield number;
- Crop;
- Intended use;
- Numbers of acres or other applicable unit of measurement;
- Approximate boundaries of the crop (if different than the common land unit);
- Planting pattern, when applicable;
- Irrigation practice;
- Planting date, when applicable; and
- Producer shares.

FINAL ACREAGE REPORT DATE (ARD)

Fall-planted and perennial crops are reported in the fall, generally around Nov. 15.

Spring-planted crops are reported in the summer, generally around July 15.

Crops must be filed by the final ARD regardless of program participation. Program application, contract or signup deadlines have no bearing on the deadline for filing an acreage report by the ARD.

Contact your local county office for the applicable ARD for the crops you wish to report.

Exception: Persons or legal entities who acquire a share interest in crop acreage after the ARD have 30 days from the date they acquire that interest to either update the crop acreage report with that interest or to report the acreage (if not already reported).

LATE-FILED REPORT OF ACREAGE

Late-filed acreage report may be filed after the ARD if the person filing the late-filed crop acreage report pays the cost of a farm visit to determine the crop acreage, type, use and practice. Physical existence or residue of the late-filed reported crop acreage for the crop must exist to enable FSA to verify and determine the crop acreage, crop type, use and practice. Because of physical existence and evidence requirements in a crop year to support verification of late-filed FSA-578s, late-filed reports of acreage are permitted after a crop's ARD up until the subsequent year's ARD for the crop.

PREVENTED PLANTED REPORT OF ACREAGE

Producers can report prevented planting when they are unable to plant the intended crop acreage by the final planting date because of a natural disaster. It is a producer's responsibility to provide proper documentation of the prevented planting. Additionally, under some programs FSA administers, prevented planting must be reported in various ways and within 15 days of when it occurred.

MEASUREMENT SERVICE

Most programs FSA administers require accurate acreage reporting. Producers who want assistance in determining crop acreage can seek an FSA measurement service. Producer-requested and paid for FSA measurement services are official and guaranteed. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing or measurement after planting is done on the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery. If an on-site visit is not required, producers are charged a reduced rate.

REPORTING COVER CROPS

Grass, legume and forbs crops that are primarily used for erosion control, soil health or water quality can also be reported with an intended use of cover only.

If a cover crop is harvested for any use other than forage or grazing and is not terminated according to policy guidelines, then that crop will no longer be considered a cover crop and the acreage report must be revised according to FSA policy for revisions. FSA program eligibility for cover crops that are hayed or grazed will be determined by each specific program administered by FSA.

REPORTING ORGANIC CROPS

Crops are not required to be reported as organic; however, when an acreage report is filed for an organic crop, the producer must provide the following to FSA:

- Current organic plan, including map of certified organic acreage, transitional acreage, and buffer strip, as applicable; and
- Organic certificate (written certificate) or documentation from a certifying agent indicating an organic plan is in effect.

For more information on organic certification, please visit <https://www.ams.usda.gov>.

CONTINUOUS CERTIFICATION

Selected crops are eligible to be reported on a continuous basis. This includes select perennial crops and acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Continuous certification allows crops to be reported once and that crop data and certification will remain in effect until a change has been made to that crop data or the CRP contract has expired.

These will meet the requirement for reporting by the applicable ARD for the crop.

SAVE TIME - MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

You can reduce the time it may take to file crop acreage reports by calling your servicing county FSA office before your visit to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you and to possibly make an appointment for your visit. For local FSA service center contact information, please visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. To find more information about acreage reporting, visit <https://www.ams.usda.gov> or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- 1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- 2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- 3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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