

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Farm Service Agency  
Washington, DC 20250

**Acreage and Compliance Determinations**  
**2-CP (Revision 16)**

**Amendment 36**

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



**Amendment Transmittal**

**A Reason for Amendment**

Paragraph 27.5 has been added to provide policy for the new “accepted” flag that is has been added to CARS.

| Page Control Chart |                                    |         |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| TC                 | Text                               | Exhibit |
| 1, 2               | 2-20.5, 2-20.6 (add)<br>2-21, 2-22 |         |



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## 27 Late-Filed Report of Acreage (Continued)

### G Late-Filed Fees and Acreage Verification (Continued)

The late-filed acreage reporting fee is equal to the measurement service fee according to paragraph 928.

**Note:** FSA-409 is not required to be completed for late file acreage reports. However, the County Office must still document receipt of the late file fee and therefore may use the form for record keeping.

When a producer pays the late-file fee, the producer's reported acres are loaded just as they were reported and certified, and those reported and FSA determined acres must each be loaded into CARS.

**Note:** If CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is late filed in conjunction with a late-filed acreage report, only the late-file acreage reporting fee will be charged.

### H Considering a Late-Filed Report Timely Filed by Exception

The County Office can process a producer's late-filed acreage report and process it the same as if filed by ARD if all of the following apply:

- the producer's late filed acreage report is accompanied by a written statement explaining the reasons how or why the producer was prevented from filing the acreage report by ARD

**Note:** The reasons presented must detail circumstances that were beyond the producer's control and **cannot** include being unaware of the ARD or need to file the acreage report. Some examples of reasons COC may consider as legitimately beyond the producer's control include:

- a serious health issue prevented the producer from visiting the Service Center during normal business hours of the reporting period to file the report
- an unforeseen event (farm or automobile accident or storm that closed roads) occurred which caused the producer to be unable to visit the Service Center in the reporting period to file the report by ARD.
- COC determines, based on a review of the acreage report and accompanying written statement, that the producer was prevented from filing the acreage report by ARD because of a circumstance or circumstances beyond the producer's control.

**Note:** These situations and approvals of exceptions for reasons beyond a producer's control should be rare and must be documented. COC's are expected to use appropriate discretion in granting these exceptions. A producer claiming the producer was unaware of the requirement to report acreage or the ARD is not justification for an exception.

Producer's reported acres are loaded just as they were reported and certified and both those reported and FSA determined must be loaded. FSA will not modify the producer's reported acres to match FSA determined acres.

**\*--27.5 Exception for Late-Filed Report of Acreage****A Accepted Flag**

Beginning for 2026 and subsequent years, CARS will automatically determine if an acreage report for a crop has been timely certified by the ARD, or if not, whether the acreage report is still considered timely filed under 2-CP policy. An accepted flag for each line-item entry will indicate whether the crop was certified by the crop's ARD or, if not, whether an exception has been determined to apply and entered by the user. The exception allows the crop to be considered timely filed, or accepted, as a timely filed, certified report of acreage even though it was not timely reported by the ARD for the crop. See paragraph 218 for CARS procedure on setting the accepted flag for certified crops.

When an acreage is loaded and a certification date is entered, the accepted flag will automatically populate as follows:

- “yes” for a crop with a certification date on or before the ARD for the crop
- “no” for a crop with a certification date after the ARD for the crop.

**Important:** The accepted flag must be “yes” for all:

- cropland fields before the farm will be determined to be fully reported
- crops reported before the farm will be determined to be fully certified.

When the accepted flag populates to “no”, CARS will provide a list of exceptions that the user will have the option to select in situations where late-filed policy was followed, or other exception was applicable, and the acreage report is considered timely filed. The selection of an exception will automatically change the accepted flag to “yes”. An exception shall not be selected if not applicable. See subparagraph B for exceptions.--\*

**\*--27.5 Exception for Late-Filed Report of Acreage (Continued)****B Exception**

The following table provides a list of the available exception and an explanation of when to use them.

| <b>Exception</b>   | <b>Description</b>   |
|--|--|
| Crop was not planted by the ARD.   | Crop was reported within 15 calendar days after planting was complete according to 2-CP, subparagraph 24 D.  |
| Late-filed fee was collected.  | Producer has met the exception by filing the late-filed acreage report and paying the required late-filed fee by the subsequent year's ARD under 1 of the options in 2-CP, subparagraph 27 B or C. |
| Considered timely filed by exception according to 2-CP, subparagraph 27 H.                     | The report was filed late due to circumstances outside the producer's control.   |
| Perennial forage crop is reported with an intended use of GM, LS, or SD.                       | The ARD for this crop falls under "all other crops" that can be found in 2-CP, Exhibit 6.  |
| Farm/Producer on acreage reporting register.   | The producer has been placed on a register according to 1-CM.  |
| Producer purchased the acreage or acquired a lease for the acreage after the ARD for the crop. | Producer has 30 days to report after the land has been acquired according to 2-CP, subparagraph 24 D.  |
| ARD extended by DAFP.  | Due to extenuating circumstances, the State's ARD was extended by DAFP.  |
| Late-file fee waived by DAFP.  | Due to extenuating circumstances, the State's late-file fee was waived by DAFP.  |
| For alfalfa, triticale, and rye see 2-CP for guidance.   | These crops may have multiple ARD's.   |
| For multiple ARD crops, see 2-CP, Exhibit 6 for applicable spring ARD.                         | This crop has multiple ARD's.  |
| Considered timely filed by exception according to 2-CP, subparagraph 27 D.                     | CIMS data is being used to verify the acreage report was timely filed.   |
| Colonies were revised to enter highest number according to 2-CP, paragraph 34.5.               | The final count of colonies is required to be entered according to 2-CP, paragraph 34.5.   |

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## 28 Partial and Revised Reports

### A Partial FSA-578's

A partial FSA-578 for a farm will exist when:

- at least 1 crop has been reported
- all acreage on the farm has not been reported.

### B Revising Crop or Acres

A crop revision is deleting one crop and adding a new crop to that same acreage before or after the ARD.

An acreage revision is revising the acreage of a reported field or subfield before or after the ARD. FSA-578's may be revised for crop or acreage at any time before the ARD if the revision is reported:

- by the ARD for the crop being revised, a farm visit fee will not be assessed and field visit is optional to verify physical evidence of the change
- after the ARD for the crop being revised, a farm visit fee will be assessed and a field visit is required. RMA data shall not be accepted as verification for revising acreage information.

**Note:** The revised FSA-578 may not nullify the results of a spot check if the results of the spot check have been provided to the operator. Revisions are not permitted after the determined acres of the crop have been established.

FSA-578 cannot be revised for a crop after the subsequent year's ARD for the crop.

Even though a field visit is not required if the crop or acreage revision is made by the ARD for the crop, the COC may elect to conduct a field visit to substantiate the requested revision. A fee will **not** be assessed in this instance.

If the crop or acreage revision is made after the ARD, a field visit is required and a fee will be assessed.

**Note:** CIMS data **cannot** be used to revise an acreage report.

\*--Crops reported by the ARD cannot be revised to cover crops.--\*