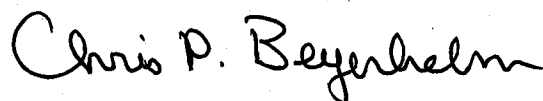


For: FSA Employees

Activity Reporting System (ARS) Program and Activity Codes Updates

Approved by: Associate Administrator for Operations and Management



1 Overview

A Background

The Office of Budget and Finance (OBF) continues to look for efficiencies and improvements to ARS to provide FSA with more accurate, useful data and offer a more user-friendly environment. To reduce and improve the quality of ARS data while also streamlining data entry and improving the quality of the information, changes are being made to decrease the number of available ARS programs and clarify some program and activity codes. These changes are being made based on feedback received from employees and the Managerial Cost Accounting (MCA) working group.

See 21-AO for guidance about using program and activity codes in ARS.

B Purpose

This notice provides OBF's approval and instructions for using the updated program and activity codes.

C Contacts

For questions about this notice, contact the BPMS Team by e-mail to **BPMSUPDATE@wdc.usda.gov**.

Disposal Date	Distribution
July 1, 2017	All FSA employees; State Offices relay to County Offices

Notice AO-1675

2 ARS Program Code Updates

A Program Codes Being Removed

The following programs are currently inactive and represent less than 0.01 percent of time coded in ARS across FSA. These codes are being inactivated after consultation with DAFP and the MCA working group. The removal of these programs from ARS will assist with streamlining data entry, simplify data entry, and improve data quality.

Note: Hours being recorded to any of these inactivated programs should now be coded to the ARS program “**Other FSA**” by State and County Office and applicable National Office employees.

Effective immediately employees shall **stop using** the following ARS program codes:

- **ACRE** – Average Crop Revenue Election Program
- **DELAP** – Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Program
- **DCP** – Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program
- **DQPP** – Durum Quality Payment Program
- **ELSCOMP** – ELS Cotton Special Competitive Provisions Program
- **Econ Adjust Assist Program** – Economic Adjustment Assistance Users/Upland Cotton Program
- **HWWIP** – Hard White Winter Wheat Incentive Program
- **MILC** – Milk Income Loss Contract Program
- **NOAUTH-P2 (ARC-PLC)** – Agricultural Risk Coverage – Price Loss Coverage Program (umbrella ARS program)

Note: The “**NOAUTH-P2 (ARC-PLC)**” program code has been replaced by more specific program codes to better capture work performed. See subparagraph C.

- **QIOP** – Quality Incentive Oil Program
- **SURE** – Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program
- **TTPP/TTAP** – Tobacco Transition Payment Program/Tobacco Transition Assessment Program.

Notice AO-1675

2 ARS Program Code Updates (Continued)

B Program Codes Being Added

The existing “NOAUTH-P2 (ARC-PLC)” program code used to track work activities associated with the **ARC-IC**, **ARC-CO**, and **PLC** programs has been replaced with two codes which will more clearly capture workload for these programs.

Effective immediately, the following program codes should be used when applicable:

- **ARC-IC** – The Agricultural Risk Coverage – Individual Coverage “**ARC-IC**” program option should be used to record all work associated with the implementation and maintenance of the “**ARC-IC**” Program
- **ARC-CO/PLC** – The Agricultural Risk Coverage – County Option (ARC-CO)/Price Loss Coverage “**ARC-CO/PLC**” program option should be used to record all work associated with the implementation and maintenance of the “**ARC-CO/PLC**” Program.

Reporting new program activities should be completed at the National, State and County Office levels of the agency. To report one of these categories employees shall select the:

- applicable program from the "Program" drop-down menu in WebTA/ARS
- activity from the “Activity” drop-down menu that best reflects the task completed.

Notice AO-1675

3 National Office Authorization (NOAUTH) Program and Activity Designation

A Removing NOAUTH From Program and Activity Descriptions

Web TA 4.2 has the ability to create and modify programs and activities in ARS and therefore the need for NOAUTH programs and activities has become obsolete. The NOAUTH designation will be removed from the description of the applicable programs and activities to simplify data entry and improve data quality.

B Modified Program Descriptions

The following program descriptions will be modified as follows:

- **“NOAUTH-P1 (NRCS Support)”** will now be **“NRCS Support”**
- **“NOAUTH-P2 (ARC-PLC)”** will now be **“ARC-PLC”**
- **“NOAUTH-P3 (MPP Dairy)”** will now be **“MPP Dairy”**
- **“NOAUTH-P4 (CTAP)”** will now be **“CTAP”**
- **“NOAUTH-P5 (Cotton Ginning Program)”** will now be **“Cotton Ginning Program”**.

C Modified Activity Descriptions

The following activity descriptions will be modified as follows:

- **“NOAUTH-A1 (Woman & Hispanic Farmer)”** will now be **“Woman & Hispanic Farmer”**
- **“NOAUTH-A2 (Farm Bill Implementation)”** will now be **“Farm Bill Implementation”**
- **“NOAUTH-A3 (Admin Serv Project)”** will now be **“Admin Serv Project”**
- **“NOAUTH-A4 (Strikeforce)”** will now be **“Strikeforce”**
- **“NOAUTH-A5 (Receipt for Service)”** will now be **“Receipt for Service”**.