

For: State and County Offices

Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), in partnership with NRCS, will be conducting an assessment of the environmental benefits and effects of the conservation programs associated with the 2002 Farm Bill. This project is referred to as the CEAP and is being conducted for the 3rd year.

In 2005, NASS will conduct interviews to gather field level land management information and practices from farm operators who make decisions on cropland selected from the NRCS Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) points. There were 11,382 points selected for the 2005 CEAP survey.

To ensure that the correct respondent is contacted NASS is requesting name and address information from FSA. The requested information includes operator name, address, telephone numbers, Social Security number (SSN) or Employer ID Number (EIN), CLU number (if available), tract number, farm number, and CRP information if the selected location is enrolled in CRP.

NRCS and NASS recognize the burden of contacting FSA County Offices to obtain this information given the current workload and staffing situations; therefore, they have collaborated with the National FSA Office to develop alternative means of obtaining the required information. The 3 agencies have agreed upon an electronic process that utilizes currently available GIS data.

The majority of the county level information will be obtained through the electronic process; however, there are 2 situations where a visit to FSA County Offices may be required by NASS field enumerators. County Office visits will have to be made:

- in States and counties that do not have CLU information available yet
- for a limited number of NRI points that have been adjusted and are not available for electronic data capture.

Disposal Date	Distribution
January 1, 2006	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

1 Overview (Continued)

B Purpose

This notice:

- provides a list of the States that will be involved in CEAP for 2005
- informs State Offices of the time schedule for the automated CEAP process
- explains effects of adjusted NRI CEAP points
- gives an overview of the GIS enabled process that will be run in the State Office
- provides an example of the form that NASS enumerators will use.

2 CEAP Process

A CEAP States

The table in Exhibit 1 lists the States involved in CEAP for 2005. The CEAP process will be completed in most States according to subparagraphs 2 B and 2 D; however, field enumeration will be required in some States according to subparagraph 2 C.

If your State is listed in:

- Exhibit 1, column 1, follow subparagraphs 2 B and D **only**
- Exhibit 1, columns 2 or 3, follow subparagraphs 2 B, C, and D
- Exhibit 1, column 4, follow subparagraphs 2 C and D **only**
- none of the columns in Exhibit 1, this notice does not apply.

B Automated CEAP Process

This subparagraph applies to States listed in Exhibit 1, columns 1, 2, and 3.

To minimize FSA County Office visits by NASS field enumerators, the FSA GIS Specialist/Coordinator will work with NRCS State GIS specialists to use CLU and CEAP point files to extract farm numbers for all counties with digitized CLU's. Both certified and non-certified CLU's will be used.

A CEAP overlay tool will be used to obtain basic farm and CRP contract information. The tool will export the farm and tract numbers to a spreadsheet that will be sent to KC-ADC by the State FSA Specialist/Coordinator. KC-ADC will add the farm operator name and address to the spreadsheet before the data is sent to NASS.

2 CEAP Process (Continued)

B Automated CEAP Process

NRCS is in the process of preparing the CEAP NRI point shape files normalized to FSA Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) zones for this year's CEAP study. The point shape files will be sent to NRCS's State Resource Inventory Coordinator who will contact the FSA State GIS Specialist/Coordinator. NRCS has requested their State GIS Specialists to work with FSA State GIS Specialist/Coordinator on this effort.

A spreadsheet that lists, by State, the counties that have CLU's available and at least one CEAP NRI point will be posted on the FSA GIS site at <http://fsagis.usda.gov/fsagis>.

C Process for Non-CLU Counties CEAP NRI Points

This subparagraph applies to States listed in Exhibit 1, columns 2, 3, and 4.

Note: This subparagraph does **not** apply to States listed in Exhibit 1, column 1.

From mid-April through the end of May, NASS field enumerators will be visiting County Offices that do not have digitized CLU's. The NASS field enumerators will bring:

- name and address information sheet (Exhibit 2)
- county roadmap
- NRI sample sites
- aerial image that shows the selected point location.

County Offices shall assist in the project by locating the farm related to the NRI sample site and providing the information requested to NASS field enumerators. County Offices may need to use the county roadmap and aerial image provided by NASS field enumerators to locate the farm.

A spreadsheet that lists, by State, the counties that have do not have CLU's available but have at least 1 CEAP NRI point will be posted on the FSA GIS site at <http://fsagis.usda.gov/fsagis>.

D Process for Adjusted CEAP NRI Points

This subparagraph applies to all States listed in Exhibit 1.

During the first year of the survey, it was discovered, after the fall data collection period, that some of the NRI points plotted on the aerial images did not fall in the expected field. During the second year of the survey, NRCS reviewed each aerial image and manually adjusted the point on the image. Enumerators then identified the correct operator at the FSA office during the Name and Address collection phase. This minimized the loss of surveys resulting from wrongly identified operators and eliminates a potential re-visit to the FSA county office.

2 CEAP Process (Continued)

D Process for Adjusted CEAP NRI Points (Continued)

NRCS is in the final stages of reviewing the aerial images and making adjustments where necessary. Adjusted points are not available in the automated CEAP process; therefore, any Name and Address information provided by FSA based upon the shapefiles will not reflect any of the adjusted point locations. NRI points that have been adjusted will require a visit by the NASS field enumerators to the county FSA office to make sure the correct operator is identified.

3 CEAP Tool

A Schedule for CEAP Tool Deployment

Following is the schedule for CEAP tool deployment.

Date	Item
March 25	FSA sent NASS a list of counties that do not have digitized CLU's. NASS will use this list to plan which FSA County Offices need to be visited to obtain operator and CRP information. FSA County Offices that have CLU's digitized after March 25 will be treated as though they don't have CLU's.
April 14 – 22	FSA GIS specialists/coordinators from States involved in CEAP shall ensure they have access to copies of CLU's at the State Office. Two spreadsheets that list, by State, the counties that have at least 1 CEAP NRI point will be posted on the FSA GIS site at http://fsagis.usda.gov/fsagis . States are only required to have a copy of the CLU at the State Office for counties that are listed in the spreadsheet titled "CEAP Tool Counties". Applicable NRCS State Offices will ensure they have point files for CEAP survey points. The FSA State GIS specialist/coordinator from involved States run CEAP tool and export data to spreadsheets.
April 15 - May 31	NASS visits FSA County Offices for data collection in non-CLU counties and counties with adjusted NRI points.
April 18 or before	FSA GIS specialists/coordinators from applicable States send farm number spreadsheets to KC-ADC.
By May 2	KC-ADC completes the spreadsheet and sends to NASS.

B Obtaining CEAP Overlay Tool

The CEAP overlay tool is posted on the FSA GIS site at <http://fsagis.usda.gov/fsagis>. State GIS specialists/coordinators will be notified by e-mail when the tool is posted.

3 CEAP Tool (Continued)

C Copying CLU to State Office Server

In order to have access to CLU's from county servers, the GIS specialist must be part of the State Geodata Administrator (SGA) group on that server. If the GIS specialist/coordinator is **not** part of that group, contact the State GeoData Team to determine who at the State Office is part of the SGA group. The GIS specialist/coordinator must work with that person to access the CLU's.

D Sending Spreadsheet to KC-ADC and National FSA Office

The spreadsheet produced by the CEAP Tool shall be sent to all of the following:

- **Rebecka.Gaskill@kcc.usda.gov**
- **Sharon.Lovell@kcc.usda.gov**
- **Alison.Groenwoldt@usda.gov**
- **Carol.Ernst@usda.gov.**

4 County and State Office Action

A State Office Action

Applicable FSA State GIS Specialist/Coordinator shall:

- ensure that CLU's for counties using the CEAP tool are loaded on the State Office server

Note: County Offices that are using the CEAP tool can be found listed in the spreadsheet titled "CEAP Tool Counties" posted on the FSA GIS site at <http://fsagis.usda.gov/fsagis>.

- work with NRCS GIS specialists to run the CEAP tool
- send the spreadsheet produced by the CEAP tool to all of the following:

- **Rebecka.Gaskill@kcc.usda.gov**
- **Sharon.Lovell@kcc.usda.gov**
- **Alison.Groenwoldt@usda.gov**
- **Carol.Ernst@usda.gov.**

B County Office Action

Applicable FSA County Offices shall assist NASS enumerators to complete Exhibit 2, including:

- the farm, tract, and CLU/field number corresponding to the CEAP survey point
- the operator name, address, telephone numbers, and SSN or EIN
- CRP information, if the selected location is enrolled in CRP.

State Involved in CEAP for 2005

The following is a list of States involved in the CEAP process for 2005.

Name and Address Data Collection State Breakout by Process, based upon CLU availability CEAP 2005			
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
CLU States (Complete CLU Counties) No Field Enumeration	Partial CLU States (Incomplete CLU Counties) Limited Field Enumeration	Partial CLU States (Incomplete CLU Counties) High Field Enumeration	Non-CLU States (No CLU Counties) Field Enumeration Only
AZ	CO	GA	AL
CA	IA	IN	AR
DE	LA		
ID	NM		
IL	NY		
KS	PA		
KY	TN		
MD	TX		
MI	WI		
MN			
MS			
MO			
MT			
NE			
NC			
NJ			
ND			
OH			
OK			
OR			
SC			
SD			
UT			
VA			
WA			
WY			

CONSERVATION EFFECTS ASSESSMENT PROJECT FOR 2005
NAME/ADDRESS INFORMATION SHEET

STATE:	CRP FIELD INDICATOR:
COUNTY:	STATE/COUNTY FIPS:
PSU ID:	POINT NUMBER:
UTM METERS:	2003 CROP:
	Legal Description:

To assist us in obtaining the correct operator for this field location, we need to collect the following information.

* If the field associated with this point is determined to be enrolled in the CRP or CREP program as part of a "General" or "Continuous" CRP sign-up, then CRP sign-up number and CRP Contract number must be entered.

CURRENT OPERATOR INFORMATION:	_____ UNKNOWN OPERATOR (Farm Operator for selected field not in FSA records) (Enter "1" if FSA office could not locate in their records)
ADJ Point: _____	
CLU (if available): _____	
FSA FARM ID NUMBER: _____	TELEPHONE NUMBER: (____) ____-_____
FSA TRACT ID NUMBER: _____	TELEPHONE NUMBER: (____) ____-_____
OPERATION NAME: _____	SSN: _____
OPERATOR NAME: _____	EIN: _____
ADDRESS: _____	CRP SIGN UP NUMBER*: _____
ADDRESS: _____	CRP CONTRACT NUMBER*: _____
CITY: _____	CRP SIGN UP NUMBER*: _____
STATE: _____ ZIPCODE: _____	CRP CONTRACT NUMBER*: _____

_____ NOT IN CRP PROGRAM
(Farm Operator has no acreage in this field signed up in CRP programs)

Enumerator Name: _____ Enumerator ID: _____

Date Completed: _____

NOTES:

