

**For:** State and County Offices

**Impact of MIDAS Farm Records Integration With GIS**

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



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

MIDAS Release 1.0 deploys 2013 Farm Records with GIS. Farm Records will be fully integrated with GIS and current systems, such as Farm Records System (FRS). Data cleanup efforts are under way according to instructions issued in multiple notices over the last few months. Concerns have been raised about the impact of the deployment on existing programs and contracts that have not been included in the initial MIDAS release.

**B Purpose**

This notice provides clarification to State and County Offices on implementation of the MIDAS Release 1.0 deployment scheduled for January 2013 and the impact on existing programs and contracts, such as CRP and DCP.

**2 Implementing MIDAS Release 1.0**

**A Impact of Integration on Farm Records**

The initial release of MIDAS will include Farm Records fully integrated with GIS.

- Some farm records will be maintained down to the field level. For example, cropland acres will be maintained at the field level and base acres will continue to be maintained at the tract level.
- GIS CLU's (fields) and associated data serve as the source for farm records, such as farmland, cropland, and HEL status.
- Existing GIS CRP table data will be incorporated into farm records at the field level. CRP data stored at the field level will include practice number, contract number, contract acres and expiration date.

<b>Disposal Date</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
February 1, 2013	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

## Notice CM-708

### 2 Implementing MIDAS Release 1.0 (Continued)

#### A Impact of Integration on Farm Records (Continued)

- Farm-related data will be aggregated from the field, to tract, and then to the farm level. For example, the cropland for each field will be aggregated to the tract level and the tract level cropland will be aggregated to the farm level.
- The CRP cropland data used for farm records will continue to come from the CRP contract files maintained in the existing system.
- Edits to farm records numerical data (farmland and cropland) are made by revising field shapes (CLU's) through GIS.

#### B Impact of MIDAS on Existing Programs and Contracts

The initial release will have minimal impact on existing program contracts. Current systems will continue to operate normally. Data collected in MIDAS will interface with current systems, such as FRS and CARS.

CRP contracts existing in the current systems will not immediately be impacted by MIDAS. Current CRP payment software will continue to operate normally. Any changes to the CRP contract acres as a result of the conversion to MIDAS CLU acres will **not** impact current or previous year's payments.

If the MIDAS CLU acres are less than the CRP contract acres, then the CRP contract acres will remain unchanged until the contract expires. Once a contract expires or is terminated, the MIDAS CLU acres shall be used for any new or re-enrolled contracts. If the difference between MIDAS CLU and CRP contract acres is because of a contract violation, then existing contract violation revision policy shall be followed. See 2-CRP. Existing CRP contract acreage will not be revised if the MIDAS CLU acres exceed the acreage enrolled under the CRP contract.

As County Offices are conducting CLU cleanup activities, some field boundary changes may be necessary. These changes may reduce the available DCP cropland that supports existing base acres; therefore, base acres on some farms may need to be reduced for FY 2013.

#### C Frequently Asked Questions

County Offices are responsible for maintaining accurate data for program and contract purposes without regard to the implementation of MIDAS. The following notices were issued to provide instructions for cleaning up CLU's and related data:

- Notice CM-698
- Notice CM-701
- Notice CRP-713.

See Exhibit 1 for Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about the impact of MIDAS.

**3 Action**

**A State Office Actions**

State Offices shall ensure County Offices are completing CLU cleanup as directed in preparation for MIDAS Release 1.0 scheduled for January 2013. In addition, State Offices shall ensure no cleanup efforts are conducted except those directed by the National Office.

State Office shall contact:

- David Taylor, CEPD, with questions about CRP practice delineation by either of the following:
  - e-mail at **david.taylor@wdc.usda.gov**
  - telephone at 202-720-6255
- Beverly Preston, CEPD, with questions about CRP policy by either of the following:
  - e-mail at **beverly.preston@wdc.usda.gov**
  - telephone at 202-720-9563
- Brent Orr, PECD, with questions about DCP by either of the following:
  - e-mail at **brent.orr@wdc.usda.gov**
  - telephone at 720-0809
- Rick Blackwood, PECD, with questions about Farm Records and Reconstitutions by either of the following:
  - e-mail at **rick.blackwood@wdc.usda.gov**
  - telephone at 202-720-5422
- Daniel Culli, PECD, with questions about GIS cleanup effort by either of the following:
  - e-mail at **daniel.culli@wdc.usda.gov**
  - telephone at 202-690-1492.

**B County Office Action**

County Offices shall:

- complete cleanup efforts according to Notices CM-698, CM-701, and CRP-713
- continue to process reconstitutions, including CCC-505, as necessary
- revise CRP contracts only if a compliance violation is discovered during the CLU cleanup process.

## Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

The following are frequently asked questions about the impact of MIDAS farm records and acreage reporting integration.

**Q1.** I'm spending all this time digitizing CRP to the practice level. How is this going to help?

**A1.** More accurate reports of CRP acreage and practice data can be provided to Congress.

Effective for program year 2012, CRP is reported at the practice level, therefore, GIS-based acreage reporting can use delineation of CRP at the practice level.

Facilitates the Acreage Reporting process for CRP, as most CRP data will automatically complete applicable portions of the acreage report.

**Example:** If the entire field is designated as CRP the system will automatically update the acreage report with the applicable practice number and acres stored in Farm Records at the field level.

**Q2.** What if the acres I digitize don't match my CRP contract acres? Will my contracts have to be revised? Will the CRP contracts get paid if the acres don't match?

**A2.** CRP is not included in the initial MIDAS release. There is no MIDAS requirement that the GIS acres contained in the CLU's identified as being enrolled in CRP match the contract acres contained in the CRP system.

CRP contracts must be revised to reflect GIS acres as used in MIDAS Farm Records when contract violation is discovered.

To account for minor acreage differences between cropland and reported cropland on the farm, existing compliance software automatically calculates a variance between total cropland on the farm and reported cropland. If the difference is within the allowable variance, the fully reported cropland indicator will be set to yes ("Y").

The sum of CLU's by individual practice may not match the individual practice acres listed on the CRP contract. It is not expected that individual practice acreage differences, such as those caused by rounding, would require a CRP contract revision. However, counties are expected to complete contract revisions if **less** overall contract acreage is found during the CLU cleanup and a CRP contract violation has occurred.

During the initial release of MIDAS, Farm Records CRP cropland will be obtained from the current CRP system and will not be aggregated from the field level.

**Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (Continued)**

**Q3.** What happens if I don't get my CLU cleanup work done or my CRP practices digitized before the release of MIDAS?

**A3.** Incorrect data will ultimately need to be corrected so future payments and processes are not impacted. For example, a farm exists in FRS, but hasn't been digitized in GIS. Before payments can be issued to the farm all fields must be digitized so cropland acres, effective DCP cropland acres, and eligible base acres can be determined.

Making corrections in the new environment may take more time and effort; therefore, completing cleanup in the MIDAS system may cause delayed service to the producer.

Delaying the cleanup may create additional work as erroneous records will need to be corrected before applications can be processed and benefits issued.

Depending on the final migration strategy it could be possible that some farm records may migrate to MIDAS with missing data.

Expected Acreage Reporting functionality related to CRP will not be fully operational.

**Q4.** What happens if the CLU cleanup work changes cropland acres or cropland status and these changes impact DCP Base Acres?

**A4.** DCP cropland will continue to be recognized into FY 2013 as presently defined in 7-CFR 718.2 and 3-CM.

Offices should continue CLU cleanup work and make applicable adjustments to FY 2013 DCP base acres.

County Offices should continue to update base acres in FY 2013 as a result of reclassifications of cropland status according to 3-CM.