

For: State and County Offices

**New GIS Attribute, “Cropland Indicator 3-CM”**

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

In January 2013, MIDAS Release 1.0 will deploy 2013 farm records that will interface with the current GIS CLU layer and attribute tables. Before go-live of Release 1.0, 2013 farm record data will be converted to MIDAS from the web application Farm Records System (FRS). Farmland and cropland acreage in MIDAS will be recalculated using the CLU acres in GIS and cropland status based on a new “Cropland Indicator 3-CM” attribute established in CLU.

The current land classification codes stored in the GIS attribute table were established in agreement with NRCS and RD. The codes were derived from USGS land classification standards and do **not** reflect some FSA program needs. Because the current land classification codes are used by multiple Agencies, FSA has identified the need to create the new “Cropland Indicator 3-CM” attribute specifically to meet FSA program needs.

**B Purpose**

This notice provides State and County Offices guidance on using the “Cropland Indicator 3-CM” attribute.

**2 CLU Attributes**

**A Land Classification Codes**

The existing CLU land classification code is a 2-character code that denotes the current primary classification of land unit type as defined by 8-CM, as follows:

- |                          |                  |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| “01”, Urban              | “02”, Cropland   | “03”, Rangeland              |
| “04”, Forest             | “05”, Water Body | “06”, Mined Land             |
| “07”, Barren             | “08”, Tundra     | “09”, Perennial Snow and Ice |
| “10”, Other Agriculture. |                  |                              |

<b>Disposal Date</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
February 1, 2013	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices
11-9-12	

**2 CLU Attributes (Continued)**

**A Land Classification Codes (Continued)**

A survey completed by FSA GIS specialists identified differences in how land classification codes have been used to designate FSA cropland status. Some States have been using land classification codes **other** than “02”, Cropland, for land that meets the FSA cropland definition in 3-CM, subparagraph 25 B. For example, land that meets the FSA 3-CM cropland definition in some cases has been classified as code “04”, Forest, when the land is planted to trees (1- or 2-row shelterbelt planting, orchard, etc.).

**B “Cropland Indicator 3-CM” Attribute**

The new GIS CLU “Cropland Indicator 3-CM” attribute will be used to indicate whether or not CLU meets the definition of FSA cropland as defined in 3-CM, subparagraph 25 B. CLU’s that meet the FSA definition of “Cropland” **must** have the “Cropland Indicator 3-CM” status set to “Y” and all other CLU’s **must** have the status set to “N”.

The new attribute will be used to calculate the number of cropland acres on a tract by totaling the cropland acreage for all fields in the tract with “Cropland Indicator 3-CM” status set to “Y”. The tract cropland acreage will be aggregated to the farm cropland in MIDAS Farm Records. In addition, the new attribute will be pulled into and automatically displayed in MIDAS Acreage Reporting from MIDAS Farm Records to indicate if CLU being reported on is considered cropland according to 3-CM. This replaces the need for the user to manually select the cropland designation (Y/N) in the MIDAS Acreage Report.

**C Initial Population of “Cropland Indicator 3-CM” Attribute Data Field**

On creation of the new GIS CLU “Cropland Indicator 3-CM” attribute, all existing CLU’s in the current GIS database containing the attribute of land classification code “02”, Cropland, will automatically be set to “Y”. All other land classification codes will automatically be set to “N”. Users will need to correct the “Cropland Indicator 3-CM” value for CLU’s that do not have the cropland status accurately set by the initial population process. Guidelines, including reports for reviewing and updating the “Cropland Indicator 3-CM” attribute of CLU’s, are forthcoming.

**D Difference Between “DCP Cropland” and “Cropland”**

“DCP Cropland” is a separate data field from “Cropland” in FRS. “DCP Cropland” consists of all land that meets the 3-CM definition of “Cropland” plus additional land that no longer meets the 3-CM definition of “Cropland”. By definition, the additional land included in “DCP Cropland” is land that met the definition of “Cropland”:

- at the time it was enrolled in the Production Flexibility Contract (PFC) and the land is currently being used for an agricultural or related activity
- on or after April 4, 1996, and the land continues to be devoted to an agricultural or related activity.

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### 2 CLU Attributes (Continued)

#### D Difference Between “DCP Cropland” and “Cropland” (Continued)

Farms containing this additional land are identifiable in FRS. Whenever the number of “DCP Cropland” acres is greater than the number of “Cropland” acres on the farm in FRS, the “DCP Cropland” for the farm contains additional land that no longer meets FSA’s definition of “Cropland”.

Because this additional land no longer meets the definition of “Cropland”, the acreage must be included in CLU with the “Cropland Indicator 3-CM” attribute set to “N”. These additional acres may or may not be identifiable as a separate CLU in GIS. However, if the additional acres are part of a larger CLU containing other land and are not specifically identifiable, the balance of CLU must also be land that does not meet the 3-CM definition of “Cropland”. These additional acres shall not be included as part of CLU that also contains land meeting the definition of “Cropland”.

In MIDAS, the number of acres of this additional land that no longer meets the definition of “Cropland” in 3-CM will be maintained in a separate data field called “Ag Related Activity”. When data is migrated from FRS to MIDAS Farm Records, this data field will initially be populated with the difference between the “DCP Cropland” and “Cropland” data fields from FRS. In MIDAS, “DCP Cropland” will be calculated as the sum of “Cropland” (all CLU’s with the “Cropland Indicator 3-CM” attribute set to “Y”) plus “Ag Related Activity”.

### 3 Action

#### A State Office Action

State Office GIS Specialists will be provided reports that will identify potentially incorrect “Cropland Indicator 3-CM” attributes and instructions for correcting errors.

State Offices shall ensure that County Offices follow instructions and use the reports to review and update the “Cropland Indicator 3-CM” attribute for CLU’s, as necessary. Incorrect “Cropland Indicator 3-CM” will impact total farmland and cropland in MIDAS Farm Records.

Direct any questions to Daniel Culli by either of the following:

- e-mail to [daniel.culli@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:daniel.culli@wdc.usda.gov)
- telephone at 202-690-1942.

#### B County Office Action

County Offices shall use forthcoming instructions provided by State Offices to reconcile the “Cropland Indicator 3-CM” attribute for CLU’s, as necessary, to ensure that FSA cropland is coded according to 3-CM, subparagraph 25 B.