

For: Cotton CMA's and LSA's

**Important Program Reminders and Software Modifications to
COPS and ACRS That Provide Revised File Transmission and Processing Schedules**

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

The 2006 crop year for cotton loans and LDP's began July 1, 2006. At the beginning of each new crop year, the Cotton Management Systems (CMS's) are modified to incorporate current year cotton policy and provide system enhancements.

B Purpose

This notice informs cotton CMA's and LSA's of the following:

- change in ACRS processing schedule
- new transaction file time/date stamp
- new file transmission number field
- important program reminders.

C Contact

State Offices shall direct questions about this notice to Julie Floriani by:

- telephone at 202-720-8374
- e-mail to **Julie.Floriani@wdc.usda.gov**.

Disposal Date	Distribution
January 1, 2007	Cotton CMA's and LSA's

Notice CMA-98

2 CMS Modifications

A Change in Processing Schedules

To successfully recover from a disaster event, it is important to have a complete file backup of all cotton systems which contain the most current system data. To ensure that a good backup is completed each day, the schedule for the system backup process has been moved to a time period:

- when there is no cotton activity occurring for either COPS or ACRS
- which will provide ample time to complete the process for all systems.

Effective July 17, 2006, the ACRS nightly batch processing started at 8 p.m. c.t. rather than 10 p.m. c.t. This provides sufficient time for processing all ACRS transactions before the backup process begins.

B Revision of File (Tape) Transmission Number Submission

Because each transmitted file must have a unique time/date stamp, modifications are being implemented on August 28, 2006, that will prevent a file transmission number from being used more than once during the same crop year. The file transmission number for rejected files cannot be reused as in the past.

To facilitate file (tape) transmission numbers larger than 999, an additional data field is being added in Field 97, Position 408, to accept a 5-digit number.

Beginning **August 28, 2006**, CMA's and LSA's:

- shall use a **new** file (tape) transmission number for each file (tape) transmitted during the file (tape) year
- may continue using Field 6, Position 28, to enter a 3-digit file (tape) number

Note: Enter spaces in Field 97, Position 408, if using this field according to 21-CN.

- shall use Field 97, Position 408, when entering a 5-digit file (tape) number.

Note: Enter spaces in Field 6, Position 28, if using this field.

Important: ACRS will accept either the existing 3-digit tape number from Field 6, Position 28 or the new 5-digit number in Field 97, Position 408. Field 6, Position 28, will become a reserved field starting in crop year 2007.

Notice CMA-98

2 CMS Modifications (Continued)

C New Transaction File Time/Date Stamp

Each week the average world price (AWP) is announced effective from Friday at 12 a.m. e.t. until the following Thursday at 11:59 p.m. e.t. AWP for loan repayments and LDP's is the rate that is in effect when the ACRS transaction file is submitted and received.

Modifications have been made that will further automate the time and date stamp for each file when it is received for processing at NITC. This time/date stamp will be used in a future software enhancement in ACRS to automate the CCC-734 process to validate AWP used for calculations.

To facilitate a smooth transition, only 1 CMA or LSA will be converted to this new time/date stamp process on each business day, with the exception of Thursdays. This transition will start on August 28, 2006, according to the following schedule.

CMA / LSA	Transition Date
Telmark	August 28, 2006
Autauga Quality	August 30, 2006
Fambro	September 5, 2006
Calcot	September 6, 2006
Staplcotn	September 8, 2006
Carolinas Cotton Growers Coop	September 11, 2006
PCCA	September 12, 2006
SWIG	September 13, 2006
Beltwide	September 15, 2006
Adams Land	September 18, 2006
US Cotton Growers Assoc.	September 19, 2006
National Quality Cotton Assoc.	September 20, 2006
CCA	September 22, 2006
Quality Cotton Coop	September 25, 2006
CoMark	September 26, 2006
Links	September 27, 2006
Richardson LSA, Inc.	September 29, 2006
Signia Cotton Cooperative	October 2, 2006
Sunmark Services, LLC	October 3, 2006
Cotton Resources, Inc.	October 4, 2006

Notice CMA-98

3 Yearly Reminders

A Important Processing Information

The following important processing information is provided as a yearly reminder.

- Transmission numbers begin with “001” or “00001” on June 1 for each crop year
- Batch sequence numbers begin with “0001” on June 1 for each transaction code for **new** crop year activity
- ACRS and COPS errors must be resolved within 15 workdays according to 21-CN, paragraph 2.