

For: State and County Offices

Change in DAFP Approval for Crops Having Rows More Than 40 Inches Wide

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Procedure for Crops When Row Width Exceeds 40 Inches

A Background

Recent changes in skip and sled row regulations changed the maximum row width for cropping patterns from 64-inch to 40-inch widths to be considered solid planting. Current procedure also provides STC's the option to request from DAFP approval to deviate from this rule. See 2-CP, subparagraph 393 G and Notice CP-556.

Feedback from STC's shows the need to allow STC to review and set policy for crops in their States. Row widths may be different for crops using plastic culture planted on beds 48 inches to 60 inches and vine crops planted on row widths up to 144 inches.

B Purpose

This notice:

- delegates authority to STC's to approve exceptions to the rule for vegetable crops and other nonprogram crops, such as sugarcane, when the normal row width exceeds 60 inches

Note: 2-CP will be amended to reflect this change.

- advises State Offices that:
 - DAFP has determined that nonprogram crops, such as vegetable and vine crops, with crop row widths of 60 inches or less will be considered solid plant
 - they shall notify County Offices of crops and row widths approved for exceptions under the provisions of this notice
 - a list of all crops and row widths, STC minutes, and supporting documentation shall be submitted to DAFO for all exceptions granted under this provision.

Disposal Date	Distribution
December 1, 2003	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

Notice CP-563

1 Procedure for Crops When Row Width Exceeds 40 Inches (Continued)

C State Office Action

STC should review row widths for vegetable crops and nonprogram crops to determine whether the normal row width for crops exceeds 60 inches in the State.

If the normal planting pattern for a crop in the State exceeds 60-inch row widths for vegetable crops or nonprogram crops and STC determines that the crop should be considered a solid plant, record the determination in STC.

The following information shall be used to identify crops and justification for exceptions:

- row patterns for the crop with any skips or sled rows
- documentation that supports that yields have been traditionally calculated based on the planting pattern requested for the crops with exceptions approved
- State Extension Service recommendation on row widths or these crops
- RMA data
- NASS data.

Note: State Offices shall remind County Offices to follow 2-CP, paragraph 393 to determine net acres for crops that have skips or sled rows.