

**For:** State and County Offices

**Cropland Comparison Flag**

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



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 provides that the Secretary shall require producers on a farm to submit annual acreage reports with respect to all cropland on the farm.

To ensure that all cropland has been reported, starting with the 2002 acreage reporting software, reported cropland acres are compared to cropland acres on the farm file and the cropland comparison flag is set to “Y” or “N”. The County Office had the capability of manually changing the flag.

In 2005, the software was revised to apply a variance. If the farm is within the variance the flag is set to “Y”. If the farm is not within the variance the flag is set to “N”. County Offices are unable to manually change the flag.

Some counties are using certified GIS acres for reporting. According to 3-CM, for farms that have a current contract on file, the System 36 cannot be updated with certified GIS acreage until the next fiscal year. If the certified GIS acres are being used for reporting and the certified GIS acres are less than the System 36 cropland acres, a difference between the reported cropland and the farm cropland will likely occur resulting in the cropland comparison flag being set to “N”. If the flag is set to “N”, DCP, loan and LDP payments cannot be generated.

**B Purpose**

This notice informs State and County Offices of the action to take when certified GIS acres are used for reporting and are less than the System 36 cropland acres.

<b>Disposal Date</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
October 1, 2005	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

## Notice CP-590

### 2 Action

#### A County Office Action

The County Office shall do the following.

- Report on FSA-578, the difference between the certified GIS acres and System 36 cropland acres as crop code 0101, fallow. This will result in the certified GIS acres matching the System 36 cropland acres on the farm and the cropland comparison flag being set to Y”

**Note:** The difference should only be reported as fallow when the System 36 cropland acres are greater than the certified GIS acres and farm records cannot be updated until the next fiscal year.

- Enter the following notation by the field on FSA-578 where the fallow is reported and have the producer initial and date the entry:

“The difference between the official GIS acres and the system 36 cropland is being reported as fallow in order for cropland to balance.”

- Update farms records with the certified GIS acres according to 3-CM, paragraph 29.