

For: State and County Offices

Under Reported Cropland on FSA-578

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Updating Cropland Acres

A Background

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 provided that for producers to be eligible for certain program benefits, all cropland on the farm requesting benefits must be reported on FSA-578.

To ensure that this requirement was met, an automated cropland comparison file was created to keep track of any discrepancies between total cropland and reported cropland acres.

It has been brought to our attention that in cases where there is a change in cropland acreage on a farm after certification, the cropland comparison flag does **not** recognize the new cropland acreage. In some cases this results in the cropland comparison flag being set to “N” indicating that all cropland on a farm has not been reported. If the flag is set to “N”, payments cannot be processed for the farm. In other cases this results in the cropland comparison flag being set to “Y” indicating that all cropland on a farm has been reported, which allows payments to be issued.

B Purpose

This notice advises State and County Offices of the steps that must be taken to update cropland acres in the compliance file to properly set the comparison flag when cropland acreage on a farm has changed after FSA-578 has been filed.

Disposal Date	Distribution
March 1, 2006	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

Notice CP-596

1 Updating Cropland Acres (Continued)

C County Office Action

County Offices shall ensure that the cropland comparison file is retrieving the revised cropland acres and setting the cropland comparison flag correctly. If the cropland on a farm has been revised after FSA-578 has been filed, the County Office shall complete the steps in the following table to ensure that the correct cropland on the farm is being used when setting the cropland comparison flag.

Step	Action
1	Access FSA-578 by taking option 1, "Load", on Screen MEA0101.
2	Select "E" to end load on Screen MEAEL101.
3	Run the "Under Reported Status Report" according to 2-CP, paragraph 297 to verify that all cropland has been reported and cropland comparison flag is set correctly.