

For: State and County Offices

2006 Compliance Spot Checks

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

In previous years, FSA used local vendors to capture imagery using 35 mm slides to assist County Offices in performing compliance activities. When local vendors were used, multiple flights were flown to capture crops grown in different growing seasons. Currently, FSA uses National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) imagery for conducting compliance activities. With NAIP, FSA has only 1 flight per year, flown at a time of year recommended by the applicable State Office. FSA does not have resources to fly NAIP imagery more than once a year. As a result, not all crops and/or crop rotations are covered by NAIP. In these cases, County Offices must rely on ground compliance to complete selected spot checks. The compliance spot check software randomly selects 10 percent of all farms that have FSA-578 on file with a minimum of 25 farms selected, plus all required producer spot checks. This could mean in some areas over 200 farm visits when NAIP imagery is not available.

In 2004 and 2005, because of heavy workloads and limited resources, County Offices were unable to complete all random spot checks when NAIP imagery was not available. Consequently, the National Office received and approved numerous requests for waivers of random compliance spot checks.

B Purpose

This notice provides guidance to County Offices to reduce the number of 2006 random and required spot checks in specific cases.

C Contact

Direct questions about this notice to Melonie Sullivan at either of the following:

- e-mail at melonie.sullivan@wdc.usda.gov
- telephone at 202-690-1003.

Disposal Date	Distribution
June 1, 2007	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

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2 2006 Compliance Spot Checks

A When Waivers Are Not Authorized

The provisions of this notice do not apply when NAIP imagery is available for 2006 compliance determinations. When NAIP is available, County Offices must:

- follow procedure in 2-CP
- spot check all farms (random and required) listed on the Farm Selection Register.

B When Waivers Are Authorized

The provisions of this notice apply for 2006 spot checks when compliance determinations cannot be performed using NAIP imagery for any of the following reasons:

- NAIP imagery is not flown for the county
- NAIP imagery is not flown for the applicable growing season for the selected crop
- NAIP imagery is of such poor quality that it cannot be used for compliance activities.

County Offices are authorized to reduce the number of 2006 spot checks to 3 percent of the random farms selected through the automated farm inspection selection (AFIS), with a minimum of 10 farms per county, plus 1 farm for each required producer who has an acreage report on file that is selected for spot check through AFIS.

Notes: This notice does **not** apply to circumstances where NAIP imagery is received past the expected delivery date or maintenance spot checks.

County Offices are required to complete maintenance spot checks according to 2-CP, paragraphs 325 and 326.

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3 State and County Office Action

A County Office Action When 2006 Compliance Determinations Cannot Be Made Using NAIP

County Offices shall run the 2006 Farm Selection Registers through AFIS according to 2-CP, Part 3, Section 3. From the register, County Offices shall manually select 3 percent of the selected farms (coded "S" for "Random") from the All Selected Farm Register for spot check, with a minimum of 10 farms per county. Additionally, County Offices shall manually select 1 farm from the 2006 Farm Selection Register for each required producer (coded "R" for "Required"). Spot checks must be completed by field visits for farms selected while there is evidence of the crop in the field.

Example: County A's 2006 Farm Selection Register pulls 221 randomly selected farms. The county has 10 producers flagged as required spot checks, but only 5 of the producers flagged as required spot check have filed FSA-578. County A must manually select 10 random farms for spot check because 3 percent of the total farms on the register do not meet the minimum of 10 farms per county. In addition, County A must also spot check 5 farms, 1 for each required producer listed on the register.

B State Office Action

State Offices shall ensure that all County Offices are aware of the contents of this notice.