

For: Cotton State and County Offices

**Revised Boll Weevil Eradication Program (BWEP)
Policy and Procedure for Crop Year 2009**

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is the lead agency in providing technical support and limited Federal funds for BWEP. FSA supports BWEP by cooperating with APHIS and State cotton grower organizations in performing specific tasks, according to 1-BWEP, to detect, control, eradicate, suppress, prevent, or retard the spread of boll weevils.

1-BWEP, which provides policy and procedure for State and County Offices when assisting APHIS in conducting BWEP is outdated.

In cooperation with APHIS and the State cotton grower organizations, the National Office has streamlined and standardized applicable State and County Office BWEP roles and responsibilities for 2009 and subsequent crop years according to this notice.

Note: 1-BWEP is currently being revised and will be finalized in the near future.

B Purpose

This notice informs State and County Offices about BWEP policy and procedure for 2009 and subsequent crop years.

Important: This notice is not applicable to crop year 2008. States still conducting 2008 boll weevil activity shall continue to follow the policy and procedure provided in Notice CP-632.

Disposal Date	Distribution
October 1, 2009	State Offices; State Office relay to County Offices

Notice CP-637

2 Revised State and County Office BWEP Policy

A Authorized Tasks

Starting with crop year 2009, State and County Offices shall **only** perform the following tasks when cooperating with APHIS and/or the State cotton grower organizations in implementing BWEP:

- ensure a boll weevil memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been executed among all applicable parties which provides clear direction about sharing program data among all parties of the MOU, including personally identifiable information, as required in Notice CP-632
- accept cotton producers' final cotton acreage reporting data on FSA-578
- provide the State cotton grower organizations with the following data, **after** executing a boll weevil MOU with the applicable parties:
 - final cotton acreage reporting data as provided in paragraph 3
 - Common Land Unit (CLU) data for cotton only, as provided in paragraph 3
 - cotton producers' and landowners' contact information when a referendum is conducted in the State.

Exception: This subparagraph does not apply until crop year 2010 for the States listed in subparagraph C.

B Terminated Tasks

Starting with the 2009 crop year, State and County Offices are **not authorized** to perform the following tasks when cooperating with APHIS and/or the State cotton grower organizations in implementing BWEP:

- collect cotton producers' **intended** cotton acreage reporting data
- notify cotton producers of boll weevil assessment fees
- complete the Cotton Acreage Reporting Form provided by the State cotton grower organization
- calculate boll weevil assessment fees
- collect boll weevil assessment fees or penalties.

Exception: This subparagraph does not apply until crop year 2010 for the States listed in subparagraph C.

2 Revised State and County Office BWEP Policy (Continued)

C Exception

Currently, several State and/or County Offices are currently performing one, if not all, of the boll weevil tasks provided in subparagraph B. Therefore, to provide time to transfer the functions in subparagraph B to the State cotton grower organizations, a 1-year transition period will be provided for the following States:

- Alabama
- Florida
- Georgia
- Louisiana
- Tennessee
- South Carolina
- Virginia.

State and County Offices located in these States will continue to perform the applicable tasks listed in subparagraph B for crop year 2009. However, the tasks listed in subparagraph B will cease in all State and County Offices for crop year 2010 and subsequent crop years.

Important: The 1-year transition period does **not** apply to standardizing cotton acreage reporting data provided to State cotton grower organizations, as described in paragraph 3.

3 Standardizing Cotton Acreage Reporting Data

A Dataset

For crop year 2009 and subsequent crop years, cotton acreage reporting data provided to the State cotton grower organizations will:

- be a standard dataset (same data for all States) obtained by a query from the acreage reporting database
- include CLU attributed with farm and tract numbers that has been identified as having cotton planted on it, according to acreage reporting data.

B State and County Office Procedure

Instructions for obtaining the cotton acreage reporting dataset will be provided in a forthcoming notice.

Notice CP-637

4 Action

A State Office Action

State Offices shall:

- immediately notify County Offices of the content of this notice
- contact PECD's Special Programs Manager, Amy Mitchell, with questions or concerns about this notice by either of the following:
 - e-mail at **amy.mitchell1@wdc.usda.gov**
 - telephone at 202-720-8954.