

**For:** State and County Offices

**Accurate and Timely Crop Acreage Reporting**

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



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act) provides that acreage reports for 2008 through 2012 are required for all cropland on a farm as a condition of receiving DCP payments, ACRE payments, LDP's, and MAL's for that farm.

To be eligible for FSA program benefits, FSA-578 is required to be filed by the applicable reporting dates according to 2-CP, Exhibit 6. If an acreage report is late filed for a program, a late-filed fee must be charged according to 2-CP, paragraph 21.

Producers should be informed of the requirement for reporting all cropland for the applicable programs, and that FSA-578 is required for reporting a crop acreage for which a benefit is dependent upon that respective acreage amount.

**B Purpose**

This notice advises State and County Offices of the:

- need to publicize crop reporting requirements and final reporting dates according to 2-CP
- importance of filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses
- availability and use of FSA-578 status reports.

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|----------------------|--|
| <b>Disposal Date</b> | <b>Distribution</b>                                  |
| November 1, 2009     | State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices |

## Notice CP-643

### 2 Crop Acreage Reporting Requirements

#### A Crop Acreage Reporting Reminder

State and County Offices are reminded that crop reporting requirements and final reporting dates in 2-CP are applicable for crop year 2009. County Offices shall continue to accept acreage reports from producers who want to file a report by the final crop reporting date. Using appointments is encouraged. Registers shall be used if required according to 1-CM, paragraphs 2 and 3, and 2-CP, subparagraph 18 D.

#### B Program Benefits and Crop Acreage Reporting Requirements

The following provides a list of program benefits and the associated requirement for crop acreage reporting.

| Benefit  | Acreage Reporting Requirement   | Reason for Requirement   |
|--|---|--|
| MAL's and LDP's                                | All cropland on the farm.<br><br><b>Note:</b> Farms that have zero cropland will have the flag set to "Y" in the cropland comparison file. No producer or County Office action will be necessary. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.</li> <li>• Needed to determine reasonableness of claimed production.</li> </ul>                   |
| Direct and counter-cyclical payments under DCP | All cropland on the farm.<br><br><b>Note:</b> Farms that have zero cropland will have the flag set to "Y" in the cropland comparison file. No producer or County Office action will be necessary. |  |
| CRP annual rental payment                      | CRP acreage according to CRP-1 Appendix.  | Needed to determine that the producer has maintained CRP acreage.  |
| NAP  | Crop acreage for which NAP benefits maybe requested.  | Needed to established eligibility of the crop and producer for NAP benefits.   |
| SURE   | All crops, in all counties.<br><br><b>Note:</b> This includes crops on cropland and/or non-cropland, including native or improved grass that will be hayed or grazed.                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.</li> <li>• Needed to establish eligibility of the crop and producer for SURE benefits.</li> </ul> |
| ACRE Program                                   | All cropland on the farm.<br><br><b>Note:</b> Emphasis must be placed on accurate reporting of irrigated status and intended use of a crop.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008</li> <li>• Needed to establish eligibility of the crop and producer for ACRE benefits.</li> </ul>  |
| LFP Program                                    | Pastureland or grazing land acreage for which LFP benefits may be requested.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.</li> <li>• Needed to establish eligibility of the crop and producer for LFP benefits.</li> </ul>  |

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### 2 Crop Acreage Reporting Requirements (Continued)

#### C Publicizing Crop Reporting Dates and Requirements

State and County Offices shall notify all producers of acreage reporting requirements by any means of communication according to 2-CP, paragraph 16.

#### D Late-Filed Acreage Reports

Late-filed fees will continue to apply for acreage reports filed after the final crop reporting dates according to 2-CP, paragraph 21.

### 3 FSA-578 Status Reports

#### A Available Status Reports

Status reports are a management tool that allows County Offices to identify FSA-578 data discrepancies. The following is a list of available FSA-578 status reports:

- Farms with unreported cropland
- Farms with uncertified crops
- Farms with no FSA-578
- Farms with incomplete determined acres
- Farms with reported acres on noncropland
- Farms with DCP contract and unreported cropland
- Farms with invalid crops and/or invalid crop attributes.
- Farms with prevented planted acres.

#### B Accessing and Generating Status Report

FSA-578 status reports shall be accessed and generated according to 2-CP, paragraph 296.

### 4 State and County Office Action

#### A State Office Action

State Offices shall ensure that:

- County Office employees are immediately informed of the contents of this notice
- acreage reporting requirements and deadlines are adequately publicized by any means of communication according to 2-CP, paragraph 16.

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### 4 State and County Office Action (Continued)

#### B County Office Action

County Offices shall:

- follow procedure in this notice for 2009 crop acreage reporting
- notify all producers of acreage reporting requirements by any means of communication according to 2-CP, paragraph 16
- generate FSA-578 status reports on a regular basis throughout the crop reporting season
- correct all data discrepancies identified on the FSA-578 status report(s) before rollover of FSA-578 acreage reporting software
- use appointments and registers if required according to 1-CM, paragraphs 2 and 3.

**Note:** A copy of the registers shall be filed in the CP folder and remain on file according to 25-AS.