

For: State and County Offices

**Crop Year 2008 Crop Acreage Reporting for Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE)**

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

Because of the delay in announcing the provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, producers may not have been aware that all 2008 crops were required to be reported, in all counties, in which they have an interest to meet the requirements of SURE provisions for 2008.

In addition, County Offices have received many requests from producers to change the intended use of crops previously reported because of the change in actual use of the crop. The intended use is considered the intended purpose of the crop at the time the crop was planted and reported on FSA-578.

**B Purpose**

This notice advises State and County Offices that for 2008 SURE purposes:

- producers **must** report all crops, in all counties, in which they have an interest
- late-filed fees shall be waived for late-filed 2008 acreage reports and physical evidence in the field is not required
- late-filed 2008 acreage reports will be loaded in the automated system
- if the actual use of a crop is different from the intended use reported, the producer may report the final use to the County Office; however, the intended use shall **not** be changed.

**Note:** Provisions in this notice are for 2008 only. For 2009 and 2010, normal acreage reporting requirements will be applied.

<b>Disposal Date</b>  June 1, 2010	<b>Distribution</b>  State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices
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## Notice CP-654

### 2 Reporting Crop Acreage for SURE

#### A Full Crop Acreage Report for SURE

To meet the provisions of SURE, producers who want to participate in the SURE program **must** report all crops, in all counties, in which they have an interest. This includes crops planted on cropland and/or noncropland, including native or improved grass that will be hayed.

#### B 2008 Late-Filed Acreage Procedure for SURE

Physical evidence of the crop in the field is not required for accepting the late-filed acreage report. However, evidence of existence or disposition **must** be provided. Acreage reports will be accepted when the user provides acceptable evidence of existence or disposition of the crop according to Exhibit 1.

**Note:** Evidence of existence or disposition is not required to meet this criteria for permanent vegetative cover.

The late-filed reports **cannot** be used to satisfy eligibility requirements for other programs unless all late-filed provisions of 2-CP are met.

2008 late-filed acreage reports filed for SURE purposes shall be loaded in the automated system according to 2-CP.

#### C 2008 Waiver of Late-Filed Fees for SURE

2008 late-filed fees shall be waived for producers who want to report crops for SURE purposes. This does not nullify or waive late-filed fees for crops reported for other program purposes.

#### D Actual Uses of Crop When Different From Intended Uses

A change to the reported intended use will **not** be allowed. If the producer requests to report an actual use of a crop that is different from the intended use reported, the producer shall write the actual use beside the applicable crop acreage, on the hardcopy FSA-578. The producer will initial and date beside the notated entry for confirmation. The actual use will **not** be loaded into the automated FSA-578.

**Example 1:** 10.0 acres of waterways were reported with an intended use of graze (GZ). The producer advises the County Office that the waterways were not grazed but left standing. The actual use of left standing (LS) should be notated and initialed on FSA-578.

**Example 2:** 10.0 acres were reported with an intended use of left standing (LS) but the producer later decides to graze the grass or let a neighbor graze the grass. The actual use of graze (GZ) should be notated and initialed on FSA-578.

**Important:** The intended use will **not** be changed in the automated system.

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### **3 Action**

#### **A State Office Action**

The State Office shall ensure that:

- County Offices are aware of the contents of this notice
- the requirement for reporting all crops, in all counties, for SURE is publicized by all available means.

#### **B County Office Action**

County Offices shall review the contents of this notice and publicize by all available means.

**Acceptable Evidence of Existence or Disposition of Crops**

The following provides examples of acceptable evidence of existence or disposition of crops.

<b>IF the evidence is to prove...</b>	<b>THEN COC may accept nonphysical evidence, such as...</b>
existence of the crop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• seed receipts showing the amount, variety, and date purchased</li> <li>• receipts for cleaning, treating, etc., for the seed planted</li> <li>• documentation obtained and certified by another Government agency indicating the acreage, location, and crop year</li> <li>• written contract or documentation of an oral contract to produce a specific crop</li> <li>• aerial imagery, if a positive determination can be made of the crop's identity and boundaries.</li> </ul>
disposition of the crop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• receipts, ledger sheets, diary, log book, or similar producer records showing the number and units sold</li> <li>• written contract or documentation of an oral contract to produce a specific crop</li> <li>• records showing the crop was fed to livestock</li> <li>• positive documentation of payment for custom harvesting indicating acreage, location, and crop year</li> <li>• if unharvested, a producer statement that includes final use, date of destruction, method of destruction, and any supporting farm records.</li> </ul>