

**For:** State and County Offices

**Conversion of 2013 Crop Acreage Reporting System (CARS) Data to MIDAS Acreage Reporting**

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



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**1 Overview**

**A Background**

MIDAS Release 1.0 deploys 2013 Acreage Reporting that will be interfaced with CARS. Before go-live of Release 1.0, data loaded in CARS for 2013 will be converted to MIDAS. After go-live, any data reported in MIDAS will be passed to the CARS database to be used by legacy programs. A conversion plan has been developed for data already loaded in 2013 CARS that will be migrated to MIDAS; however, some discrepancies between data loaded in CARS and data used by MIDAS have been discovered. Some of the discrepancies can be resolved by providing updated instructions for dataloading reports in CARS before the conversion.

**B Purpose**

This notice provides instructions for loading 2013 reported acreage in CARS to ensure that conversion of the data is as complete and accurate as possible. Corrections may be necessary based on the contents of this notice for some 2013 reported acreage loaded in CARS before the release of this notice.

<b>Disposal Date</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
February 1, 2013	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

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### 2 CARS Functionality versus MIDAS Acreage Reporting Functionality

#### A Existing CARS Functionality

The following CARS functionalities will be enhanced with MIDAS Acreage Reporting.

- CARS is a web-based system that is integrated with the existing Farm Records Management System (FRS); therefore, the farm and tract information **must** match. CARS is not integrated with GIS; therefore, there is no direct link to field level information, such as field numbers or acres maintained in GIS. CARS allows entering any field number, even if it does not currently exist in the GIS CLU layer.
- CARS requires a manual calculation for determining acreage involving the practice of alternating strips of crops with strips of idle land. Crop acreage planted in a skip-row pattern **must** be factored and the net crop acreage entered in CARS. CARS requires the user to enter skip-row details and a conversion factor. The skip-row deduction (or idle land) is reported as the crop "Skip Row". CARS does not calculate the skip-row conversion factor percentage; nor does CARS use the conversion factor to calculate the net acreage by subtracting the skip-row deduction automatically.
- A standard deduction is an acreage allowance determined for turn areas by applying a percent of the area planted to the crop, instead of measuring the turn areas. The standard deduction is 3 percent of the gross acreage devoted to the crop unless otherwise authorized. The turn area deduction (headland, turn row, or end row) is reported as the crop "Turn Area". CARS does not calculate the turn area or calculate the net acreage by subtracting the turn area deduction automatically.

#### B New MIDAS Functionality

MIDAS Release 1.0 will include Acreage Reporting fully integrated with FRS and GIS. The information collected in MIDAS Acreage Reporting is virtually the same information currently collected in CARS. However, the way the information is collected may be slightly different, resulting in minor discrepancies.

As a result of the integration, some MIDAS Acreage Reporting data will come directly from MIDAS Farm Records rather than requiring user entry. MIDAS Acreage Reporting data integrates with MIDAS Farm Records as follows:

- **Farm Number** is established in FRS and accessed by acreage reporting
- **Tract Number** is established in FRS and accessed by acreage reporting
- **Field Number** is established in GIS, used by FRS and accessed by acreage reporting
- **Field Acres** are established in GIS, used by FRS and accessed by acreage reporting.

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### 2 CARS Functionality versus MIDAS Acreage Reporting Functionality (Continued)

#### B New MIDAS Functionality (Continued)

MIDAS also incorporates additional functionality currently not present in 2013 CARS:

- Automated Deduction Calculations.
  - MIDAS Acreage Reporting will automatically calculate and deduct turn areas acres from commodities flagged as having turn areas. The standard deduction is 3 percent. State Offices may adjust the standard deduction for County Offices, as necessary.
  - Subfields will not be automatically created; however, the user does have the option to delineate turn areas as specific subfields, rather than using the automated deduction feature.
  - MIDAS Acreage Reporting will automatically calculate and deduct the skip-row acres from commodities flagged as having skip rows. The standard deduction or conversion factor is a calculated percentage based on the commodity and skip-row information provided by the producer. County Offices may override the calculated conversion factor percentage, as necessary.
- Automated Copy of Subsequent Years Commodity.
  - MIDAS Acreage Reporting will automatically copy a “cross-over” commodity from the prior year report to the current year report. This functionality replaces “end-year dates” used by CARS. Commodities designated as a “cross-over” commodity are perennial commodities, such as grasses, trees, etc, that once planted are expected to be reported on an annual basis for multiple years.

**Note:** Further details about this functionality and how CRP practice information will be copied to MIDAS Acreage Reporting will be provided in a future notice.

### 3 Conversion of 2013 CARS Reported Data to MIDAS Acreage Reporting

#### A Conversion from CARS to MIDAS

To ensure conversion of 2013 CARS data to MIDAS occurs properly, County Offices shall do the following:

- load reported acreage using **only** field numbers that exist in CLU for the applicable farm and tract (Exhibit 1, examples 1 and 2)
- not lump subfields for multiple fields as a single subfield for the applicable farm or tract (Exhibit 1, examples 1, 2, and 3)
- load strips of crop alternating with strips of idle land as planting pattern “Skip/Strip Row” (Exhibit 1, example 4)

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### 3 Conversion of 2013 CARS Reported Data to MIDAS Acreage Reporting (Continued)

#### A Conversion from CARS to MIDAS (Continued)

- not lump strips of idle land for multiple fields as a single field

**Note:** Load idle land associated with skip or strip cropping separately for each field (Exhibit 1, example 4).

- ensure that the correct conversion factor is entered in the Skip/Strip Row Information Screen
- not lump multiple fields as a single field for the applicable farm and tract (Exhibit 1, examples 1, 2, 3, and 5).
- load **only** turn areas under the crop code “0105, Turn areas, Terraces, etc.”

**Note:** Terraces and other similar acreage should be loaded under the applicable crop code for the commodity or use. 2-CP will be updated to reflect this change.

- not load information in the “Field ID” data field, because this data field does not exist in MIDAS and data loaded in the “Field ID” will not be converted to MIDAS. It is not necessary to remove any existing Field ID data.

See Exhibit 1 for 2013 CARS acreage reporting examples.

#### B State Office Actions

State Offices shall ensure that County Offices are entering reported data into 2013 CARS as directed in preparation for the conversion of CARS data to MIDAS Acreage Reporting for Release 1.0 scheduled for 2013.

State Offices shall contact either of the following with questions about this notice:

- Jantrice Williams, PECD, by:
  - e-mail at [jantrice.williams@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:jantrice.williams@wdc.usda.gov)
  - telephone at 202-720-3637
- Mary Higgins, PECD, by:
  - e-mail at [mary.higgins@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:mary.higgins@wdc.usda.gov)
  - telephone at 202-720-6157.

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### 3 Conversion of 2013 CARS Reported Data to MIDAS Acreage Reporting (Continued)

#### C County Office Action

County Offices shall:

- enter reported data into 2013 CARS as directed to ensure that conversion of 2013 CARS data to MIDAS Acreage Reporting is accurate and complete
- correct previously reported data entered in 2013 CARS to ensure accurate conversion of data based on the contents of this notice

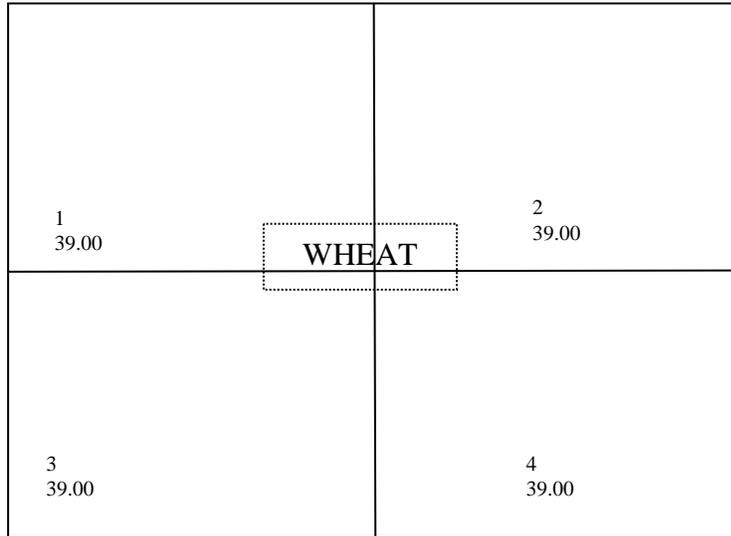
**Note:** Producers will **not** be required to recertify to data corrected for purposes related to this notice.

- on FSA-578, manually notate changes made because of any action addressed by this notice.

**2013 Acreage Reporting Examples**

The following are examples of unacceptable and acceptable acreage reporting options for subfields, skip-rows, and turn areas for CARS in 2013. Using the acceptable reporting options will ensure that conversion of 2013 CARS reported data to MIDAS is accurate and complete.

**Example 1: GIS View**



**Example 1: Tabular View**

For conversion from CARS to MIDAS:

- unacceptable dataload

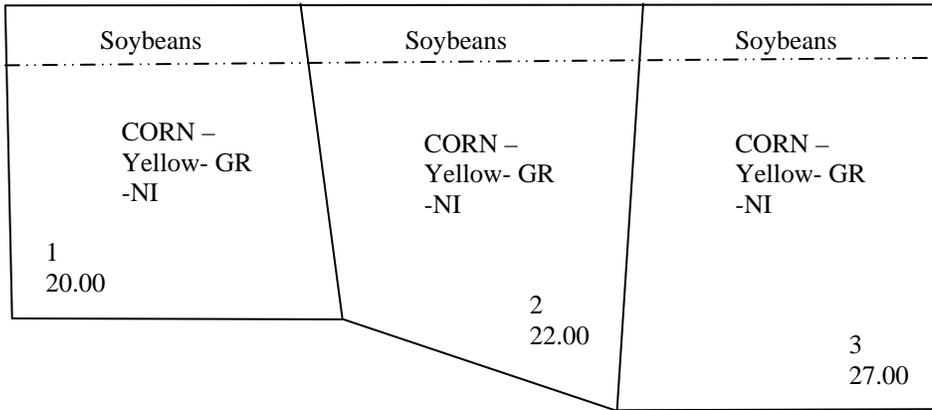
Field	Crop	Acres
1	Wheat	156.00

- acceptable dataload.

Field	Crop	Acres
1	Wheat	39.00
2	Wheat	39.00
3	Wheat	39.00
4	Wheat	39.00

2013 Acreage Reporting Examples (Continued)

Example 2: GIS View



Example 2: Tabular View

For conversion from CARS to MIDAS:

- unacceptable dataload

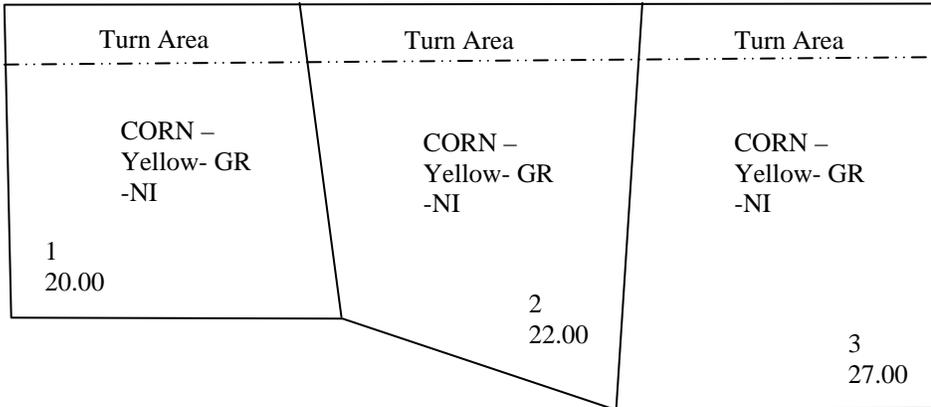
Field	Crop	Acres
1	Corn	62.50
2	Soybeans	6.50

- acceptable dataload.

Field	Crop	Acres
1A	Corn	18.00
1B	Soybeans	2.00
2A	Corn	19.50
2B	Soybeans	2.50
3A	Corn	25.00
3B	Soybeans	2.00

2013 Acreage Reporting Examples (Continued)

Example 3: GIS View



Example 3: Tabular View

For conversion from CARS to MIDAS:

- unacceptable dataload

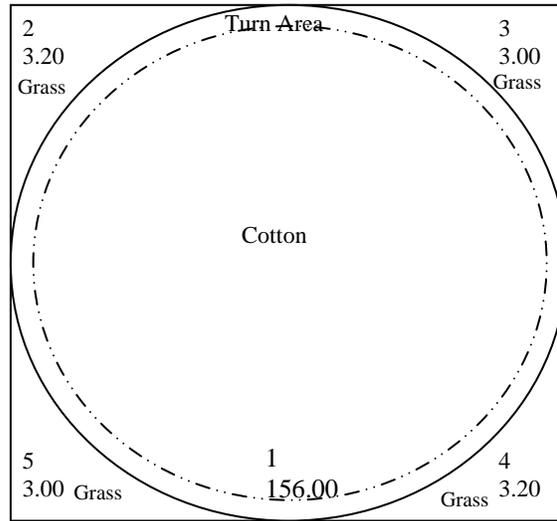
Field	Crop	Acres
1	Corn	19.40
2	Corn	21.34
3	Corn	26.19
4	Turn Area	2.07

- acceptable dataload.

Field	Crop	Acres
1A	Turn Area	0.60
1B	Corn	19.40
2A	Turn Area	0.66
2B	Corn	21.34
3A	Turn Area	0.81
3B	Corn	26.19

2013 Acreage Reporting Examples (Continued)

Example 4: GIS View



Example 4: Tabular View

For conversion from CARS to MIDAS:

- unacceptable dataload

Field	Crop	Acres
1	Cotton	151.32
1T	Turn Area	4.68
2	Grass	12.40

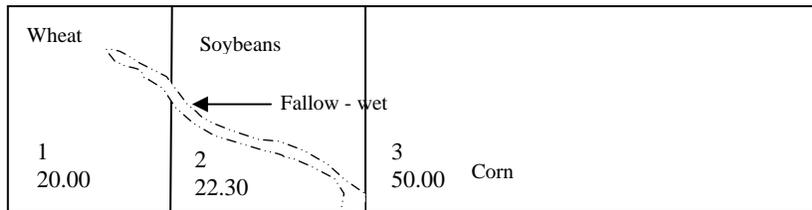
- acceptable dataload.

Field	Crop	Acres
1A	Cotton	151.32
1C	Turn Area	4.68
2	Grass	3.20
3	Grass	3.00
4	Grass	3.20
5	Grass	3.00

**Note:** For conversion, the alpha character used for the subfield (A, B, C, X, T, S) does **not** matter.

2013 Acreage Reporting Examples (Continued)

Example 5: GIS View



Example 5: Tabular View

For conversion from CARS to MIDAS:

- unacceptable dataload

Field	Crop	Acres
1	Wheat	17.30
2	Soybeans	19.50
3	Corn	50.00
4	Fallow	5.50

- acceptable dataload.

Field	Crop	Acres
1A	Wheat	17.3
1B	Fallow	2.70
2A	Soybeans	14.70
2B	Fallow	2.80
2C	Soybeans	4.80
3	Corn	50.00

**Note:** Delineating the fallow in MIDAS Acreage Reporting would result in 3 subfields in field 2; therefore, the soybeans would be reported as 2 separate line items.