

For: State Offices and Service Centers

Determining Double-Cropped Acreage of Covered Commodities

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

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Background

Notice DCP-9:

- provides a definition of double-cropped acreage for covered commodities
- instructs COC's to submit to STC, recommendations of specific combinations of covered commodities that meet the double-cropping definition
- instructs STC to review and approve or disapprove COC recommendations based on supporting data submitted by COC
- instructs Service Centers to revise FSA-578's, when applicable, based on STC determinations.

Some States have raised questions about:

- which commodities may be used to determine double-cropping acreage
- the harvesting of both covered commodities
- the importance of the normal harvest date and final planting date
- the producer-specific exception provided in Notice DCP-9, paragraph 4.

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Disposal Date	Distribution
October 1, 2003	State Offices; State Offices relay to Service Centers

Notice DCP-16

1 Overview (Continued)

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Background (Continued)

The importance of correctly establishing double-cropped covered commodity acreage cannot be overstated. Producers with approved double-cropping covered commodity acreage may be allowed to establish base acreage for the applicable farm that exceeds the amount of cropland on the farm. Such base acreage shall have a significant impact on the overall DCP expenditures.

OMB and OIG will be monitoring the approval process and budget impacts of double-cropping acreage.

B

Purpose

This notice provides:

- clarification of certain double-cropping procedures provided in Notice DCP-9
 - further instructions related to the STC review and approval or disapproval of COC recommendations of specific combinations of covered commodities
 - extension of July 15 deadline provided in Notice DCP-9
 - instructions for documenting revision of FSA-578's because of double-cropping determinations.
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2 Establishing Double-Cropped Covered Commodities

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Commodities Used to Determine Double-Cropped Acreage

To be approved for double-cropping according to Notice DCP-9:

- each of the commodities must be a covered commodity as defined in Notice DCP-9, subparagraph 2 A
 - the specific combination must be comprised of 2 different covered commodities.
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Notice DCP-16

2 Establishing Double-Cropped Covered Commodities (Continued)

A Commodities Used to Determine Double-Cropped Acreage (Continued)

STC shall **not** approve any of the following:

- any combination of covered commodities that were disapproved as a multiple-cropping practice under CDP or CLDAP
- any combination of commodities that includes a commodity that is not a covered commodity, as defined in Notice DCP-9, subparagraph 2 A
- a combination comprised of the same covered commodity.

Note: A second planting of the same crop on the same acreage in the same crop year is a repeat planting situation not double-cropping.

B Harvesting of Each Commodity to Determine Double-Cropped Acreage

Both covered commodities must have reasonable expectations and realistic possibilities of **reaching maturity and being harvested for grain or lint**, as applicable, on the same acreage within the same crop year under normal growing conditions to be approved double-cropped acreage according to Notice DCP-9.

STC shall **not** approve the specific combination of covered commodities if both covered commodities **cannot** be planted, taken to maturity and harvested for grain or lint, as applicable, on the same acreage within the same crop year under normal growing conditions.

Example 1: Situation:

In Jefferson County it is normal to plant and graze wheat then plant corn for grain on the same acreage within the same crop year. The wheat is not taken to maturity or harvested for grain. Under normal growing conditions in Jefferson County, corn **cannot** be planted, taken to maturity and harvested for grain on the same acreage that wheat was planted, taken to maturity and harvested for grain within the same crop year.

Result:

STC shall **not** approve the specific combination of wheat and corn for double-cropped acreage because both commodities **cannot** be planted, taken to maturity and harvested for grain on the same acreage with in the same crop year under normal growing conditions.

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2 Establishing Double-Cropped Covered Commodities (Continued)

B Harvesting of Each Commodity to Determine Double-Cropped Acreage (Continued)

Example 2: Situation:

In Jefferson County it is normal to plant and graze wheat then plant soybeans for grain on the same acreage within the same crop year. The wheat is not taken to maturity or harvested for grain. In Jefferson County, both wheat and soybeans can be planted, taken to maturity and harvested for grain on the same acreage within the same crop year under normal growing conditions.

Result:

STC may approve the specific combination of wheat and soybeans for double-cropped acreage.

C Normal Harvest Date and Final Planting Date

Notice DCP-9, subparagraph 3 A, provides that COC supporting documentation for recommendations of specific combinations of covered commodities shall include:

- length of growing season and moisture requirements required to produce the recommended covered commodities
- documentation of rainfall amounts normally received in the county during the growing season for each covered commodity
- irrigation requirements, if any
- RMA- or COC-established final planting date for each covered commodity
- COC-established normal harvest date for each covered commodity.

The normal harvest dates and final planting dates are established based on normal growing single cropping conditions.

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2 Establishing Double-Cropped Covered Commodities (Continued)

C

Normal Harvest Date and Final Planting Date (Continued)

COC shall:

- **not** change RMA-established final planting dates
- **not** establish a final planting date for a crop if there is an RMA-established final planting date
- use RMA-established final planting dates when making recommendations of specific combinations of covered commodities.

STC shall:

- carefully review COC-established normal harvest dates and final planting dates before approving or disapproving COC-recommended combinations of covered commodities
 - request verifiable documentation from COC supporting all COC-established normal harvest and final planting dates the STC determines questionable
 - use RMA-established final planting dates when making determinations about specific combinations of covered commodities
 - **not** change RMA-established final planting dates
 - **not** use COC-established final planting date when the crop has an RMA-established final planting date
 - **not** approve any combination of covered commodities when the normal harvest date for the first commodity is after the final planting date for the second commodity.
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Notice DCP-16

3 Exception

A Producer Specific Exception

Notice DCP-9, paragraph 4, provides an exception when a producer has verifiable proof of double-cropping of a specific combination of covered commodities that were either:

- not recommended by COC
- not approved by STC.

STC's shall, on a case-by-case basis at the request of the producer, review the specific combination of covered commodities for a specific producer.

STC may approve the specific combination of covered commodities for that specific producer only when the following requirements are met:

- producer provides verifiable and documentable proof that both of the specific covered commodities have been successfully planted, taken to maturity and harvested for grain or lint, as applicable, on the same acreage within the same crop year in at least 2 of the 4 crop years 1998 through 2001
- for crops requiring irrigation, evidence must be provided to show the specific covered commodities planted, taken to maturity and harvested for grain or lint, as applicable, were irrigated.

This exception does **not** apply nor shall the STC approve any combination of covered commodities for a specific producer if any of the following are met:

- 1 or both of the covered commodities were prevented planted or failed
- 1 or both of the covered commodities require irrigation and no verifiable evidence of irrigation is provided
- 1 or both of the covered commodities were **not** taken to maturity and harvested as grain or lint, as applicable.

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3 Exception (Continued)

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**Producer
Specific
Exception
(Continued)**

The purpose of the producer specific exception is to provide double-cropping acreage history to those producers who can provide verifiable and documentable proof that they have successfully planted, taken to maturity and harvested for grain or lint, as applicable, both covered commodities in a double-cropping situation in at least 2 of the 4 crop years 1998 through 2001.

Example 1: Situation:

COC did not recommend the specific combination of wheat followed by soybeans because the normal harvest date for wheat is after the final planting date for soybeans. Producer C provides STC verifiable and documentable proof that the producer planted, took to maturity and harvested wheat for grain then planted, took to maturity and harvested soybeans for grain on the same acreage in crop years 1998, 2000, and 2001.

Producer C requests STC review and approval of wheat followed by soybeans for double-cropping acreage for 1998, 2000, and 2001.

Result:

STC, upon review and verification of the data submitted, may approve double-cropping acreage history for Producer C for 1998, 2000, and 2001 for the applicable farm.

Example 2: Situation:

STC disapproved the specific combination of wheat followed by soybeans because the normal harvest date for wheat is after the final planting date for soybeans. Producer D provides STC verifiable and documentable proof that the producer planted and harvested wheat for hay then planted, took to maturity and harvested soybeans for grain on the same acreage in crop years 1999, 2000, and 2001.

Producer D requests STC review and approval of wheat followed by soybeans for double-cropping acreage for 1999, 2000, and 2001.

Result:

STC shall **not** approve double-cropping acreage history for Producer D for 1999, 2000, or 2001 because Producer D did not provide verifiable and documentable proof that the producer planted, took to maturity and harvested wheat **for grain** then planted, took to maturity and harvested soybeans for grain on the same acreage in 2 of the 4 crop years 1998 through 2001.

Notice DCP-16

4 Revised FSA-578's

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Documenting Revision of FSA-578's

Notice DCP-9, subparagraphs 2 C and 6 D, instruct FSA Service Centers to revise FSA-578's, as applicable, based on STC determinations for double-cropped acreage of specific combinations of covered commodities.

FSA-578's must be revised, when applicable, before the producer notification letter indicating the producer's acreage history is issued.

Note: FSA Service Centers have been instructed to make corrections to FSA-578 to provide to the producer the best data available for base purposes. All revisions shall be documented either on FSA-578 or the Multi-field Report.

5 Actions and Deadline Extension

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COC and STC Actions

Notice DCP-9, subparagraph 2 C, provides that FSA-578's shall be revised by July 15, 2002, based on STC approvals.

The importance of correctly establishing double-cropped covered commodity acreage cannot be overstated. Producers with approved double-cropping covered commodity acreage may be allowed to establish base acreage for the applicable farm that exceeds the amount of cropland on the farm. Such base acreage shall have a significant impact on the overall DCP expenditures.

STC shall review and make determinations on COC recommended combinations of covered commodities according to Notice DCP-9 and this notice as soon as COC recommendations are received.

COC shall make recommendations to STC of specific combinations of covered commodities according to Notice DCP-9 and this notice by no later than August 2, 2002.

FSA-578's must be revised, when applicable, before the producer notification letter indicating the producer's acreage history is issued. FSA Service Centers shall document revision of FSA-578 according to paragraph 4.
