

For: State and County Offices

Cropland Information

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A

Background

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (the Act) provides that the sum of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage, Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), bases, and any other acreage enrolled in a conservation program that prohibits the production of agricultural commodities, cannot exceed actual cropland. An exception is made for double-cropping.

Current farm maintenance software allows for the entry of only CRP and Water Bank Program (WBP) acres. Changes are being made to farm maintenance software to allow for the entry of WRP, State conservation, and other conservation acres. These new fields will be used in the calculation for determining the cropland amount that 2002 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) bases cannot exceed.

B

Purpose

This notice provides the following:

- cropland definition
- DCP cropland definition
- information on the new fields being added to farm maintenance
- County Office action
- producer responsibility.

C

Obsolete Notice

Notice DCP-17 is obsolete.

Disposal Date	Distribution
December 1, 2002	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

Notice DCP-18

2 Cropland

A

Definition of Cropland

The definition of cropland is not being changed from previous years.

Cropland is land that COC determines meets any of the following conditions:

- currently being tilled to produce a crop for harvest
- **not** currently tilled, but has been tilled in a prior year and is suitable to be tilled for crop production
- currently devoted to 1- to 2-row shelterbelt planting, orchard, vineyard, or other related crops
- in terraces that, according to FSA records, were cropped in the past even though they are no longer capable of being cropped
- in sod waterways or filter strips planted to perennial cover
- under CRP-1, including alternative perennials, until CRP-1 expires or is terminated
- new land broken out if both of the following conditions are met:
 - land is planted to a crop to be carried through to harvest
 - tillage and cultural practices in planting and harvesting the crop must be consistent with normal practices in the area.

Note: Violations of highly erodible land conservation or wetland conservation provisions do **not** affect cropland classification.

Land classified as cropland shall be removed from this classification upon a determination by COC that the land is:

- no longer used for an agricultural use
- no longer suitable for producing a crop

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Notice DCP-18

2 Cropland (Continued)

A

Definition of Cropland (Continued)

- subject to a restrictive or permanent easement that prohibits the planting of an annual crop

Note: This does **not** include land under CRP-1.

- converted to ponds, tanks, or trees.

Note: This does **not** include trees planted under CRP-1 or currently devoted to 1- to 2-row shelterbelt planting, orchard, or vineyard.

B

Definition of DCP Cropland

DCP cropland will be used for DCP base purposes.

DCP cropland is land for which 1 or more of the following apply:

- the land currently meets the definition of cropland
 - the land met the definition of cropland at the time it was enrolled in PFC and the land is currently being used for an agricultural or related activity
 - the land met the definition of cropland on or after April 4, 1996, and the land continues to be devoted to an agricultural or related activity.
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3 Changes to 2002 Farm Maintenance

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2002 Farm Maintenance

For 2002, farm maintenance software will allow County Offices to view and/or update the following 2 different programs:

- production flexibility contract (PFC) fields have not been revised
- DCP fields have been added.

When updating acreage through farm maintenance, County Offices shall ensure that:

- PFC information is only loaded in the fields relating to PFC
 - DCP information is only loaded in the fields relating to DCP.
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Notice DCP-18

3 Changes to 2002 Farm Maintenance (Continued)

B

Ag Use

For DCP, ag use and effective ag use will **not** be used. They will be renamed DCP cropland and effective DCP cropland. These fields will still display in 2002 farm maintenance, but will only be used for 2002 PFC purposes.

C

Cropland

In 2002 farm maintenance, the following 2 different cropland fields will be provided:

- cropland
 - DCP cropland.
-

4 New Farm Maintenance Fields

A

New Fields

The following new fields will be added to farm maintenance for DCP purposes:

- DCP cropland
 - effective DCP cropland
 - WRP acres
 - State conservation acres
 - other conservation acres
 - NAP crop acres as defined in 3-CM.
-

B

DCP Cropland

DCP cropland is equal to 2002 Ag Use and will be automatically populated to this amount. DCP cropland will be used for DCP only.

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Notice DCP-18

4 New Farm Maintenance Fields (Continued)

C

Effective DCP Cropland

The effective DCP cropland is automatically calculated by subtracting from DCP cropland, cropland acres of the following:

- CRP
- WBP
- WRP
- State conservation
- other conservation.

Note: This field is read-only and cannot be updated by the County Offices.

D

WRP Acres

WRP acres are acres enrolled in an active wetland reserve program. Only WRP acres that are still classified as cropland shall be entered into this field.

E

State Conservation Acres

State conservation acres are cropland acres on the farm enrolled in a conservation program for which payments are made in exchange for not producing an agricultural commodity on the acreage.

F

Other Conservation Acres

Other conservation acres are cropland acres on the farm enrolled in a conservation program for which payments are made in exchange for not producing an agricultural commodity on the acreage. Other conservation acres include, but are not limited to, the following:

- county conservation programs
- municipality conservation programs
- corporation conservation programs.

Example: A corporation conservation program may prohibit the growth of certain crops under power lines.

Notice DCP-18

5 Responsibility

A County Office Action

Software is **not** yet available to load WRP, State conservation, and other conservation acres. County Offices shall begin to research these acres to enable quick action when the software becomes available. County Offices **must** load all WRP, State conservation, and other conservation acres into 2002 DCP farm maintenance as soon as the software is made available. Not loading the acreage timely could result in additional workload for County Offices.

County Offices are instructed to **immediately** run Query PFCFIX and correct all farms. This query will identify farms with 2002 PFC acres in excess of effective ag use. Follow procedure in 3-CM, paragraph 376 to run the PFCFIX Query and correct all farms identified on the query.

B Owners' Responsibility

The System 36 will automatically calculate the DCP cropland and effective DCP cropland acres and place them into the new DCP cropland fields in 2002 farm maintenance. The system will validate that the base acres do **not** exceed the effective DCP cropland. If the base acres **do** exceed the effective DCP cropland plus double cropped acres, the farm owner will be responsible for letting the County Office know which base or bases to reduce so that the total of all bases is equal to or less than the effective DCP cropland amount. The base reductions must be made before making base selections. If the base acres **do not** exceed the effective DCP cropland amount, no action will be necessary by the farm owner.
