

For: State and County Offices

Clarifying Forage Crop Definition and Recording Planting Periods on National Crop Table (NCT)

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

Forage is generally defined by NASS as alfalfa, alfalfa mixtures, and other hay. Alfalfa, alfalfa mixtures, and other hay:

- is further defined according to 1-NAP, subparagraph 170 A for service fee and production purposes based on the intended method of harvest, either mechanically or grazed
- acreage intended to be mechanically harvested includes acreage intended for both forage or seed production
- acreage intended to be grazed can be further defined as warm and cool season forage.

Small grain forages such as wheat, barley, oats, triticale, rye, sorghum forage, soybean/sorghum forage, and perennial peanuts are defined for service fee and production purposes as a single crop without regard to method of harvest or designation as warm or cool season forage. However, expected and actual production will be determined based on the actual method of harvest, either mechanically or grazed, and summarized at a dollar value to determine the overall percent of loss of the specific crop acreage.

Several cases have been received in the National Office requesting assistance in resolving forage crop payment issues. Specifically, some County Offices are receiving a message that payments cannot be processed because of duplicate records. A review of each case has revealed that the payment problems are a result of planting periods being established incorrectly for grazed forage crops on NCT.

Disposal Date

December 1, 2007

6-6-07

Distribution

State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

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1 Overview (Continued)

B Purpose

This notice:

- clarifies planting periods for forage crops, specifically forage crops with intended use of grazing
- provides guidance in recording planting periods on NCT for forage crops with intended use of grazing
- provides guidance for correcting erroneous entries of planting periods for forage crops intended for grazing on NCT.

2 Forage Crop Planting Periods

A Planting Periods for Forage Crops With an Intended Use of Forage and/or Seed

The NCT planting period for forage crops with an intended use of forage and/or seed will **always be** defaulted to “01” regardless of whether the type of forage is considered warm or cool season.

Example: Two of the forage types in the State are Tall Fescue and Orchard Grass. The following table provides the crop data for each of the forage types with intended use of forage (Fg).

Crop Code	Crop Type	Planting Period Number	Intended Use	Pay Crop	Pay Type
0102	FTA	01	FG	0102	01
0102	ORG	01	FG	0102	01

B Planting Periods for Forage Crops With an Intended Use of Grazing

Planting periods for all forage crop types with the intended use of grazing, based on STC determination, may be broken down into either full season or warm and cool season, but not both.

STC shall designate grazed forage types in the county as either:

- full season “01”
- cool season “01” and warm season “02”.

Important: STC’s shall designate grazed forage types as either warm and cool season or full season, but not both.

2 Forage Crop Planting Periods (Continued)

C Establishing Full Season Forage

If STC elects to designate grazed forage in a county as “full season”, the NCT planting period for forage crops in the county with an intended use of grazing will be “01” regardless of whether the type of forage is considered warm or cool season.

Example: Two of the forage types in the county are Tall Fescue and Orchard Grass. STC has determined that grazed forage in the county is “full season”. The following table provides the crop data for each of the “full season” forage types with intended uses of forage (Fg) and grazing (Gz).

Crop Code	Crop Type	Planting Period Number	Intended Use	Pay Crop	Pay Type
0102	FTA	01	FG	0102	01
0102	FTA	01	GZ	0102	02
0102	ORG	01	FG	0102	01
0102	ORG	01	GZ	0102	02

D Establishing Warm and Cool Season Forage

If STC elects to designate grazed forage types as **warm and cool season**, STC shall identify **warm and cool season** forage by assigning a planting period number to each type as follows:

- planting period number 01 for cool season forage
- planting period number 02 for warm season forage.

Example: STC has determined to designate grazed forage types in the State as warm and cool season. Two of the forage types in the State are Tall Fescue and Orchard Grass. STC designated Tall Fescue as a cool season forage and Orchard Grass as a warm season forage. The following table provides the crop data based on the STC designations with intended uses of forage (Fg) and grazed (Gz).

Crop Code	Crop Type	Planting Period Number	Intended Use	Pay Crop	Pay Type
0102	FTA	01	FG	0102	01
0102	FTA	01(cool)	GZ	0102	02
0102	ORG	01	FG	0102	01
0102	ORG	02(warm)	GZ	0102	02

Note: The same crop type and intended use cannot be designated as both warm and cool season. For example, Tall Fescue with an intended use of grazing cannot be designated as cool season and warm season in the same county, it is either warm season or cool season, but not both.

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3 Guidance for Correcting Erroneous Planting Periods for Grazed Forage Crops on NCT

A State Office Action

State Offices shall immediately:

- verify that forage grazing records for 2007 and 2008 (when available) for each county have been designated by STC as either “full season” or “warm and cool season”
- review 2007 and 2008 (when available) NCT grazed forage crop records for all counties to ensure that the correct planting period has been entered for each crop type and intended use
- contact their designated National Office program specialist for assistance in deleting crop types with incorrect planting periods and resetting approval flags.

Notes: It is highly recommended that State Offices coordinate correcting erroneous planting periods for grazed forage crop records with each respective County Office.

Unique situations may exist for some 2006 grazed forage records which will need to be handled on a case by case basis. In these situations, the State Office shall contact their designated National Office program specialist for assistance.