

For: State and County Offices

Reporting Acreage for 1999 Oilseeds Program (OP)

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs

1 Overview

A

Background

Pub. L. 106-78, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000, provides authority for the 1999 OP. This Act provides:

- \$475 million for producers who planted 1999 crop flaxseed, sunflowers, safflower, soybeans, rapeseed, mustard seed, canola, or crambe
- that a producer's payment will be based on the higher of the 1997 or 1998 planted acreage of each specific oilseed, or, for new producers, the 1999 crop planted acreage of each specific oilseed
- that producers may use the higher of the county average yield or the producer's actual yields to determine payment quantity.

B

Purpose

This notice informs State and County Offices that acreage reports of oilseeds may be accepted from producers who planted eligible oilseeds in 1999 but did not report all their acreage of those oilseeds in 1997, 1998, or 1999.

<p>Disposal Date</p> <p>October 1, 2000</p>	<p>Distribution</p> <p>State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices</p>
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2 Acreage Reports for OP Purposes Only

A Processing Acreage Reports

If a producer wants to report oilseed acreage according to this notice:

- use the manual FSA-578D according to instructions in 2-DAP, subparagraph 33 F

Note: Do not enter the acreage in the automated system. If acreage is partially reported on the automated FSA-578, continue reporting on the FSA-578D manual acreage report. Acreage previously reported on FSA-578 does not need to be transferred to FSA-578D.

- one FSA-578D may be filed for each year and may include all the acres and oilseeds on all farms in which the producer had an interest that was not previously reported on a timely filed FSA-578
- the producer must indicate the crop, acres, and crop use on an aerial photocopy

Note: Attach the aerial photocopy to the acreage report.

- producers may provide RMA acreage reports if FSA-578's are not on file for the specific crop year. County Offices shall transfer acreage data to FSA-578D and retain a copy of RMA data to verify the acreage source.
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B Who May File FSA-578D

County Offices may accept FSA-578D from the following:

- farm operator
 - farm owner
 - person authorized by power of attorney
 - tenants and sharecroppers, but only for crop acreage for which the person has a share.
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2 Acreage Reports for OP Purposes Only (Continued)

C

Acceptable Evidence of Existence and Disposition

Acreage reports for OP purposes only may be accepted when the producer provides acceptable evidence of the existence and disposition of the oilseed acreage according to this table.

IF the evidence is to prove...	THEN COC may accept nonphysical evidence, such as...
existence of the oilseeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seed receipts showing the amount, variety, and date purchased • receipts for cleaning, treating, etc., for the seed planted • documentation obtained and certified by another Government agency indicating the acreage, location, and crop year • a written contract or documentation of an oral contract to produce a specific crop • aerial slides, if a positive determination can be made of the crop's identity and boundaries.
disposition of the oilseeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • receipts showing number and units sold if sale can be positively identified for the 1997, 1998, and 1999 crop years • a written contract or documentation of an oral contract to produce a specific crop • records showing the crop was fed to livestock • positive documentation of payment for custom harvesting indicating acreage, location, and crop year.

Note: Third party verification of the crop may be accepted in conjunction with other documentation, but shall not be considered acceptable evidence by itself.

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2 Acreage Reports for OP Purposes Only (Continued)

**D
Oilseed Acreage
Reporting
Deadline** Only 1997, 1998, and 1999 oilseed acreage reports that have been filed by February 18, 2000, will be accepted for the purpose of determining acreage for OP.

**E
No Late-Filed
Fees for OP
Acreage Reports** Late-filed fees are not applicable for producers reporting oilseed acreage, if the acreage report will be used only for the purpose of OP.

Note: If the producer requests that the acreage report be used for other FSA program purposes, the procedure for accepting late-filed reports in 2-CP, paragraph 21, must be followed, including charging late-filed fees.

3 Notifying Producers of the Need to Report 1997, 1998, and 1999 Oilseed Acreage

**A
County Office
Action** County Offices shall immediately notify producers of the contents of this notice, including the February 18, 2000, deadline to file missing acreage reports of oilseeds for 1997, 1998, or 1999.

Notification shall be made by any means of communication including, but not limited to:

- news releases
 - newsletters
 - radio and television
 - meetings.
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**B
State Office
Action** State Offices shall:

- immediately notify County Offices of the contents of this notice
- ensure that County Offices immediately notify producers of the contents of this notice, as directed.
