

For: State and County Offices

Update on PSD’s Development of an ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Tool Application

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

PSD is developing a new Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based function called the Price Support Grain Storage Bin Tool (PS Bin Tool) that over time will progressively incorporate a wide range of price support and other automated processing functions currently performed by State and County Offices.

When fully implemented, this ArcGIS application will allow County Offices to:

- replace the current system of manually mapping and tracking grain storage bin locations on Price Support farm-stored loan applications and photographs
- reduce time-consuming manual tasks.

Note: Presently, the PS Bin Tool is in its initial Beta test Phase 1, and a Beta test Phase 2 is anticipated in the near future. See Notice PS-579 for additional background information.

B Purpose

This notice provides general information about the PS Bin Tool’s Beta testing.

- **Phase 1:**
 - is being performed in 17 selected County Offices
 - focuses primarily on gaining practical “field” experience by:
 - placing bin “points” on the Beta test County Office’s GIS layers
 - recording CCC-666 form and dimensional data for bins on GIS layers
 - using the preliminary capabilities that the PS Bin Tool provides.

Disposal Date	Distribution
January 1, 2008	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

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1 Overview (Continued)

B Purpose (Continued)

- Phase 2 will:
 - expand the number of Beta test sites
 - increase the functions that the PS Bin Tool provides.

C Contact

State Offices shall direct questions about this notice to Stacy Carroll, PSD at 202-690-8037.

2 Phase 1 of the PS Bin Tool Beta Test

A General Information for Phase 1

Phase 1 of the Beta project provides County Offices with an ArcGIS application designed to allow users to:

- load Global Positioning System points collected from the physical bin location so as to “locate” a bin on a GIS layer
- record and maintain grain storage bin measurements in a database
- gather data from the Service Center Information Management System to assist with the data collection
- collect a digital photograph of the bin
- export and fill CCC-666, as applicable.

B Phase 1 Initial Beta Sites

The selected County Offices for Phase 1 Beta testing are as follows.

State	County
Kansas	Washington
Maryland	Carroll
	Frederick
	Kent
Minnesota	Blue Earth
	Dakota
	Renville

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2 Phase 1 of the PS Bin Tool Beta Test (Continued)

B Phase 1 Initial Beta Sites (Continued)

State	County
Nebraska	Antelope
	Boyd
	Gage
	Holt
	Lincoln/Logan/McPherson
New York	Cayuga
	Livingston
	Seneca
Ohio	Auglaize
	Darke

C Placing Bin Points on GIS Layers

County Offices will have the ability to:

- create bin points on GIS layers that will capture the following data:
 - bin identification (aka steel bin next to barn)
 - bin type (hexagon, round, etc.)
 - owner
 - dimensions of bin (based on the bin type)
 - legal description
 - digital photograph of bin
- create, manage, and maintain geospatial bin point locations.

D Creating and Printing CCC-666

County Offices will have the ability to create and print CCC-666 that will capture the following data:

- producer data
- loan certification data
- bin data.

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2 Phase 1 of the PS Bin Tool Beta Test (Continued)

E Preliminary PS Bin Tool Functionality

A forthcoming PS notice will be issued to provide selected Beta sites with instructions on preliminary PS Bin Tool functionality, such as the following:

- operating the ArcGIS Bin Tool Data Loader
- using the ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Application
- using the Grain Storage Bin Tool Bar
- using the Grain Storage Bin Tool Functionality.

3 Phase 2 of the PS Bin Tool Beta Test

A Expanded Test Sites

A total of 150 County Offices will be operational during Phase 2 to increase the number of sites that will participate in the pilot. The current States of Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, and Ohio will be expanded to include additional Beta County Offices. This second pilot will allow for comments and feedback from the State GIS personnel that may require changes to be made before national deployment.

The following are additional States that have been selected to participate in the Phase 2 pilot:

- Arkansas
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa.

Note: Beta County Offices shall be selected by State Offices.

B Increased PS Bin Tool Functionality

By **November 2007**, Phase 2 of the pilot will be deployed that will provide updates to the application and allow for increased PS Bin Tool functionality, such as the following:

- farm-stored loan certification and spot-checking
- maintaining storage bin data related to CCC-677-1
- automatic export and population of printable CCC-677-1.

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4 Plan for National Deployment of the PS Bin Tool

A Going Nationwide

FSA plans to accelerate the deployment of the PS Bin Tool and complete nationwide data implementation in 2008.

5 Long-Term Plans for Using the PS Bin Tool

A Maximizing the Use of the PS Bin Tool

To maximize the use of the PS Bin Tool with other programs, PSD plans the following future enhancements:

- identify location of Farm Storage Facility Loan structures
- identify location for producers using web-based eLoans and eLDP's
- locate cotton modules
- provide Thematic Maps of Programs (for disaster purposes, etc.)
- use GIS with web-based programs to find producer, farm, crops, acres, share, and established yields to determine bushels eligible.

6 Grain Storage PS Bin Tool Resources

A Training Modules and User Guide

The ArcGIS Grain Storage Bin Application User Guide and Training Modules are:

- available and located on the FSA GIS web site at <http://fsagis.usda.gov/>
- provided to educate State and County Office level employees on ArcGIS software and specifically on the ArcGIS PS Bin Tool.

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7 Action

A State Office Action

State GIS Specialists and Coordinators:

- are responsible for ensuring that all State and County Office employees have the required GIS software and tools on their computers, as required for the selected pilot sites
- shall ensure communication with SED's and CED's
- shall inform Price Support Specialists of PS Bin Tool software deployment start dates and status information
- shall collect all issues from County Offices and submit these findings to PSD and ITSD.

B Phase 1 Beta County Office Action

Phase 1 Beta County Offices shall:

- determine point locations for each grain storage bin associated with CCC-666 located within the county
- use the most recent National Agriculture Imagery Program 1 or 2 meter imagery file available when determining point locations
- follow instructions for either of the following:
 - PS Bin Tool provided in the forthcoming PS notice
 - PS Bin Tool User Guide provided on the FSA GIS web site located at <http://fsagis.usda.gov/>.

Note: County Offices shall **not** perform a separate on-site inspection to verify bin site operations, status, or location for this project. However, County Offices shall take advantage of site verifications while on other official field duties.