

For: State and County Offices

Acreage Reporting During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Approved by: Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs



1 Acreage Reporting During the COVID-19 Pandemic

A Background

The COVID-19 pandemic is posing challenges for 2020 crop year acreage reporting.

FSA is currently delivering most programs and services over the telephone and through the mail. As a result, additional guidance is needed on the procedures for accepting acreage reports for the 2020 crop year.

B Purpose

This notice provides revised policy related to:

- 2020 acreage reporting
- accepting organic certificates after the acreage reporting date (ARD)
- producer signatures.

Disposal Date	Distribution
January 1, 2021	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

Notice CP-757

2 Policy Revisions

A Waiving Late-Filing Procedures for 30 Days After ARD in the 2020 Crop Year

All late-filing procedures for the 2020 crop year for all remaining ARD's are waived until 30 days after the ARD for the crop. This means that the ARD stays the same; however, an acreage report meeting all the requirements that exist for those filed by ARD can be filed and considered the same as timely filed with FSA as of the ARD if it is filed within 30 days of ARD. After the 30 days, all provisions in Handbook 2-CP, paragraph 27 apply. This policy does not impact 2019 late-filed acreage reports which can only be accepted through the 2020 ARD.

Example: The ARD for a 2020 crop is May 15, 2020. The 2020 crop can be filed with FSA and reported through June 14, 2020, and it will be viewed the same as one filed by the ARD of May 15, 2020.

B Waiving Late-Filing Procedures for the 2021 Crop Year

The late-filing procedures for the 2021 crop year for any crop that has an ARD before August 1, 2020, are waived until 30 days after the ARD for the crop. This authority is **only** applicable to crops with an ARD before August 1, 2020.

C Accepting Organic Plans After the ARD for the Crop

Because of the current situation with COVID-19, there is a delay in producers receiving organic certifications. As a result, for the 2020 crop year producers may not have the documentation required in Handbook 2-CP (Rev. 16), paragraph 33 to report the crop as certified organic by the ARD.

County Offices are authorized to revise the organic status after the ARD but before NAP payments or insurance indemnities are issued for the crop.

D Signatures on Acreage Reports

Instead of each FSA-578 requiring a signature, the producer may sign the operator print or the producer print as defined in Handbook 2-CP, paragraph 277.

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3 Action

A State Office Action

State Offices will ensure that:

- County Offices are immediately informed of the contents of this notice
- policy changes and procedures in this notice are adequately publicized.

B County Office Action

County Offices will ensure that all provisions of this notice are followed and applied to applicable 2020 and 2021 acreage reports.

For more information, County Office employees can review the specific COVID-19 Field Guidance included in the FP Field Guidance COVID-19 document for suggestions of acreage reporting methods at <https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/fsa-dafo/SitePages/PPOD.aspx>.