



NAU Country[®]

A QBE Insurance Company

ACRSI (Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative)

This packet will walk you through the ACRSI expansion program including a description of what ACRSI entails, talking points for producers, system changes, and a FAQ.

ACRSI description

The Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI) has been a work in progress for several years at RMA. The goal is to streamline acreage reporting for producers by allowing them to report acres at one location. The reported information will be shared electronically between RMA (through agents and AIPs) and the FSA office. The ACRSI 2016 spring expansion includes all states and numerous crops. Any producer reporting acres of the ACRSI crops to their agent is already participating in the ACRSI expansion program. Now, it is up to the producer to decide if they want to report their non-MPCI crop acres to their agent as well. Agents, along with their Crop Insurance company need to stress the importance to their producers that we want them to come to us first. The Crop Insurance industry has a vested interest in making sure producers report all acres first with their dedicated NAU Country agent and we are taking steps to prove that.

What is included in the ACRSI Expansion?

- The ACRSI expansion now includes all states.
- ACRSI has increased to 9 MPCI crops:
 - Corn
 - Cotton (Upland and ELS)
 - Peanuts
 - Oats
 - Rice
 - Rye
 - Sorghum
 - Soybeans
 - Wheat
- ACRSI also includes 4 non-MPCI crops:
 - Alfalfa
 - CRP
 - Fallow
 - Grass

Encourage your producer to start with us

How does this effect our producers?

Producers are still required to complete, submit, and sign acreage reports with the agent. Once the acreage reports are received, NAU Country will submit the acreage information to a clearing house at RMA. The RMA clearing house will then push the ACRSI data to FSA. When your producer arrives at their FSA office, the ACRSI information will be available. The producer must ask the FSA office to pull the data from ACRSI to pre-populate their FSA report. The producer will review the completed acres at FSA before signing. This will streamline the process and result in a less time consuming FSA appointment.

How does this effect our producers?

We encourage all of our agents to discuss ACRSI with their producers and let them know the steps we are taking to make this process simple and easy for them. It is important for our producers to go to their NAU Country agent once one-stop acreage reporting becomes a reality. As a NAU Country agent, you are dedicated to supporting their concerns, assisting with their claim questions, and so much more.

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Our systems are ready

Is NAU Country ready to handle these changes?

Yes! Not only do we want to make our producers know that reporting to their agent is the best choice to make by keeping the process simple and easy, we also want to make sure our agents have the tools needed to provide this service.

To do so, we have also added the ability in our EASYwriter Pro® system to report non-MPCI crop acreage:

How to report acres:

- The producer will report insured acres as usual.
- We have added a non-MPCI ACRSI Acreage Report page to the end of our Acreage Report to allow for the producer to report those acres with their agent.

How to report ACRSI Acres:

- You can access the ACRSI Pilot Crop Entry from the *MPCI Policy Editor* tool bar, EASYmapping or Quick FTF.
- We have added an entry screen in EASYwriter Pro for keying non-MPCI crops.
- Once acres are keyed and the policy is committed, EASYwriter Pro will send the information to the RMA clearing house.
- The information will be available at the producers' FSA office shortly after acceptance at the clearing house.
- Agents will have the ability to include an ACRSI pilot 578 with their Schedule of Insurance.

We also have the ability to import FSA reported MPCl acreage into our EASYwriter Pro system through our Producer Data Import process. If the producer was not aware of our features and has already reported acreage to FSA, we can still pull in the reported data. We will retrieve the data from FSA and store it in our system. In the future, we can reassure the producer that we have their prior year data and they can begin with their agent first.

Frequently asked questions

How to deal with acreage differences between the FSA Office and the Agent/AIP? Will the FSA system default the differences or will it be flexible to match what is reported?

For crop insurance purposes, the producer will need to report what they planted. If they under report this, it can cause a Loss Adjustment Factor on a claim. We will use what the producer reports on their acreage report as the acres they planted for crop insurance. If there is a discrepancy with what FSA has reported through ACRSI, it will be verified with our information when a claim is reported.

How will we handle late charges for certifying forage/grass late? FSA intends to start enforcing a \$48 charge per farm for late certification. If a grower didn't certify last fall with FSA and they choose to certify with the agent, will it cause a charge to be incurred?

This may be an FSA requirement, but does not change any requirements for Federal Crop Insurance nor how ACRSI can be used. Since producers still must certify both with their agent and at the county office, the timing of both certified reports will differ, incurring whatever relevant penalties either channel assesses.

How quickly will the CIMS data communication with ACRSI take? This information will help show what was certified last fall at FSA and possibly be able to bring some of the non-insured crops/acres in from years past.

The CIMS data is refreshed every weekend. The producer's FSA office must upload their data to a central repository for CIMS data within FSA. When this is done, the insurance companies are able to get the CIMS data the following week.

FSA uses different codes and types than crop insurance on producer crops and non MPCl crops. (For example, on wheat, FSA will specify hard red spring, white winter, etc and Crop Insurance does not). Will that cause errors or more work for the producer when signing off at FSA?

The different codes will not cause any errors for the producer when signing off at FSA. The clearing house used for ACRSI is able to translate these different correctly for crop insurance when getting FSA data or for FSA when getting crop insurance data.

In crop insurance, agents get a keying grace period of 30 days after the deadline. The FSA deadline is July 15, unless the producer is on their approved late list. Should we be advising agents to not to submit ACRSI data after July 15?

If acres are reported to crop insurance after the July 15 date, an ACRSI data file will still be sent to FSA. This will not "override" any certification or cause a producer to be certified at FSA. The information will be available for FSA to use, or to help the producer certify after the July 15 date. There is no negative impact for ACRSI information being sent after the July 15 date for the producer.

It is in everyone's best interest to demonstrate that the crop insurance industry should maintain control of the acreage reporting process and is fully capable of collecting acreage reporting data efficiently and accurately.

At FSA they will report separate irrigated and dryland acres even if a discernable break is not maintained. They have been insuring it as one or the other depending on the situation if the producer had no intention of putting in a break. Will the FSA default back to their system if the producer goes there first? Would the agent need to change information before committing?

This is an example of business process challenges the ACRSI program wants to identify in order to simplify the process for producers in the future. Please provide examples of these when they occur so the USDA team can analyze and address.

Is there a specific list of crops and types that agents should use when completing the non-insured acres for the ACRSI report? (Examples include cover crops, different grass types, forage crop types).

For the non-insured crops, we will be using the FSA practice and types. When there is no MPCCI relation, we will default to what FSA is using. Our ACRSI entry form will use the FSA types to help with keying this information.

What if the agent only keys the insured crops and submits it to ACRSI, but the producer has grass/pasture/CRP, etc? Will the producer have to certify these additional crops like normal at FSA? Will all the acres of their major crops still pull across?

Correct. We will send what information we have (insured and non-insured) in our system for the ACRSI pilot. If the producer chooses not to provide the non-MPCI crops to us, they are still able to provide these to FSA when they certify.

What is the ACRSI Submission Status report in the Inbox of EASYwriter Pro?

The ACRSI Submission Status report shows the status of the ACRSI file sent to the RMA ACRSI clearing house. A user is able to see if the file has been accepted or is in error. Once accepted, the clearing house is able to push the ACRSI information to FSA. Our ACRSI files are generated once a policy has been committed, when acreage information has been added, or modified. A normal expectation would be for the file to be sent and accepted within five minutes of a policy being committed. During peak times, it may take longer.

Once the Non-MPCI crops are keyed into EASYwriter Pro via ACRSI Pilot Crop Entry form, will they show in the policy editor?

The non-MPCI crops will only show in the ACRSI Pilot Crop Entry form.

Do the Non-MPCI crops roll from year to year?

Currently, they do not roll from year to year. We are waiting to see what FSA is doing. It appears that they are allowing producers to certify certain crops and those will roll automatically each year, as long as they are altered. I'm guessing we will be adding this functionality for the non-MPCI crops as well.

Is there anything special we have to do to send the data to FSA? Or does it just go to RMA and then get sent to FSA?

There is nothing special you have to do. Once the acres are keyed on the policy and the policy is committed, it is queued into the ACRSI send process. Then, it is sent to RMA's clearing house and subsequently off to FSA.

Currently, ACRSI and crop insurance round acres differently. How is this going to be handled?

This is one of the discrepancies that was never resolved before ACRSI was put out for us to use. Currently, there are no plans to allow for MPCCI crops to be reported to the hundredths. We will send the MPCCI crops to FSA that way, the producer can then modify them at the FSA office to reflect what they require.



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