



USDA & ADAI Requirements for Reporting Hemp Crops & Frequently Asked Questions

Crop Acreage Reports *Links for referenced offices and forms will be at the bottom of this document*

Crop acreage reports filed with USDA document the crops grown on your farm or ranch and their intended uses. You must file timely acreage reports to be eligible for many USDA programs.

Each year, USDA agencies collect data relating to crops through crop acreage reports. If you want to participate in many USDA programs, including crop insurance, safety net, and disaster assistance programs, you must file timely acreage reports to remain eligible for program benefits. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits.

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) is required to report to USDA monthly and annually regarding the production of hemp. All licensed hemp growers are required to file with FSA and to submit those forms to ADAI.

📌 Deadlines to file crop acreage reports vary by crop and by state and county.

Farm Service Agency staff at your [local USDA Service Center](#) can help by providing you with maps and acreage reporting deadlines by crop for your county. [Your crop insurance agent](#) can assist you with reporting information necessary for crop insurance benefits.

July 15 is a major deadline for most crops with USDA; however, **ADAI requires hemp crop reporting to USDA/FSA after each planting**

How to Report Crop Acreage

Contact your [local USDA Service Center](#) to make an appointment to file your acreage report with FSA using the [Report of Acreage form \(FSA-578\)](#) or contact [your crop insurance agent](#).

Acreage reports for approved crops are electronically shared between FSA and Risk Management Agency, which eliminates the need for duplicate entry of the same acreage reporting information. However, **you must still contact both FSA and your crop insurance agent** to complete program-specific information, validate the common information, complete maps, and sign your acreage reports.

Required Information

To file a crop acreage report, you will need to provide:

- Crop and crop type or variety
- Intended use of the crop
- Number of acres of the crop
- Map with approximate boundaries for the crop
- Planting date(s)
- Planting pattern when applicable
- Producer shares
- Irrigation practice(s)
- Acreage prevented from planting when applicable
- Other information as required

Frequently Asked Questions

What if my local FSA office won't provide me with documents required by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries?

Contact ALHemp@agi.alabama.gov with the specific issues.

What if the FSA-578 form doesn't have my name on it?

If the licensed producer is not listed on the line item(s) of the FSA-578, the producer needs to go back to FSA and make them correct it and add them. The owner should be on the header of the FSA-578 but the lessee should be on the line item(s) or lot(s), for each lot.

How are crop acreage reports used?

The data collection from crop acreage reports is used to:

- Determine compliance with USDA farm programs
- Determine the amount of insurance provided and the premium charged
- Verify compliance with Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation provisions
- Inform USDA agency program decisions
- Determine producer eligibility for commodity loans and loan deficiency payments Determine
- crop and producer eligibility for participation in certain USDA programs

What happens if the deadline for crop acreage reporting has passed for my county? Can I still file?

Yes. Acreage reports can be filed up to a year after the deadline has passed. Having an acreage report on file helps ensure eligibility for payments and disaster assistance, especially unforeseen future disasters, or program payment eligibility. Sometimes program or payment eligibility decisions or application deadlines extend beyond the final date when a late-filed acreage report can be filed. In this case, electing not to file and paying a fee could be final regarding the potential eligibility of those acres and producers sharing in the acres.

Typically, producers who file late pay a fee. Even if there is no program payment that might be at issue when an acreage report could be filed or filed late with a fee, we encourage producers to file an acreage report and remit the late-file fee rather than choose not to report the acreage.

Is there a timeline for when I should report prevented planted and failed acres?

Many programs require that prevented planted and failed acres be reported **within 15 days** of the disaster. However, due to the pandemic, FSA is providing additional flexibilities for producers to file on acres with failed crops or crops that were prevented from planting because of extreme weather events.

For insured crops, producers who timely filed a prevented planted claim with the reinsurance company but filed a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) form after the deadline will be considered timely filed for FSA purposes. For uninsured crops, producers may start a Notice of Loss by calling their FSA county office.

I'm a beginning farmer. How do I report crop acres my first year?

If this is your first year farming a tract of land, make sure you have a farm number, that your tract information is current, and that you are in FSA's system.

To get a farm number, bring proof of identity, a copy of your deed or leasing documents, and any entity documentation for your business (limited partnership, estate, or trust documents) to your local USDA Service Center. They are here to help you get started!

How often do I need to report my crop acres?

Producers must generally certify acreage reports after **each planting** as some crops have multiple plantings and **each planting must be reported**. ADAL is required to report information **from FSA forms** to USDA for each licensed hemp producer/grower.

Some crops are eligible for continuous certification. This means after a crop is reported once, the certification remains in effect. Check with your [local USDA Service Center's FSA office](#) to see if your crops are eligible for continuous certification.

I have a small operation. Do I still need to report crop acres?

FSA works with farms and ranches of all sizes. Small farmers should still report their acreage because they may be eligible for assistance in the event of a natural disaster.

What does Failed Crops/Acreage mean?

Failed acreage is acreage that was timely planted with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster related conditions, the crop failed before it could be brought to harvest. Failed crops due to natural conditions or disaster-related conditions must be reported to FSA immediately by filing a Notice of Loss (CCC-576).

What does Prevented Planting mean?

Prevented planting is a failure to plant an insured crop with the proper equipment by the final planting date designated in the insurance policy's Special Provisions or during the late planting period, if applicable. Final planting dates and late planting periods vary by crop and by area.



Additional Resources - *Links to referenced offices and forms:*

- Local USDA Service Center: <https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>
- Crop Insurance Agent: <https://www.rma.usda.gov/informationtools/agentlocator>
- Report of Acreage from (FSA-578): <https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/fsa0578manual-190822v01-uni.pdf>
- Crop Acreage Reporting: <https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2022-02/fsa-cropacreagereporting-factsheet-22.pdf>
- Prevented Planting Coverage: <https://www.rma.usda.gov/en/News-Room/Frequently-Asked-Questions/Prevented-Planting-Coverage>
- Notice of Loss (CCC-576). https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/State-Offices/Ohio/pdfs/CCC_576_05_05_2015.pdf
- USDA Reminds Hemp Producers to File: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2022/usda-reminds-producers-to-file-crop-acreage-reports>