



## Documenting Yields for Updating Under the 2014 Farm Bill Using RMA Records

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Landowners have the option of updating yields as one of the three decisions under the 2014 Farm Bill (see [ARC-PLC Decision Steps](#) for more detail). Part of the process of updating yields is providing farm yields to the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Documentation for the provided farm yields is not required at sign up, but will be required if the farm is audited sometime in the future. If available, Risk Management Agency (RMA) records can be used for documentation and are likely the easiest option for providing documentation.

### Impact of Yield Updating Decision

Each program crop on a FSA farm has a current program yield. Current program yields by crop were provided for each FSA farm in a letter received from FSA in August 2014. A landowner can update a crop's program yield. The updated yield will equal 90% of the average of farm yields from 2008 through 2012, with a plug yield equal to 75% of county average replacing missing yields and actual yields below the plug yield. Program yields can be updated on a crop by crop basis. For example, a landowner could choose to update a corn yield and not update a soybean yield.

The program yield will impact payments under Price Loss Coverage (PLC) with higher yields resulting in higher payments when PLC makes payments. It seems prudent to update a yield when the updated yield is higher.

Even if not enrolling a crop in PLC, a landowner may wish to update when the updated yield is higher than the current yield. Program yields are attached to the FSA farm and may be used in future farm bills. Higher program yields may result in higher payments under future farm bills.

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## Yield Updating Processes

When updating, yields will need to be provided for years in which the crop is planted and documentation exists. Yields will be reported to FSA on a worksheet with the designation CC-859. Figure 1 shows an example of CC-859 in which corn was planted in 2008, 2010, and 2012 and soybeans were planted in 2009 and 2011. Only years in which the crop was planted will be used in calculating the updated yield. For the example, yields in 2008, 2010, and 2012 will be averaged for corn and yields in 2009 and 2011 will be averaged for soybeans.

Yields should only be provided for years in which the crop was planted and documentation exists. If documentation does not exist, the plug yield will be used rather than the farm's actual yield. Documentation source will be indicated by numbers next to each year's yield. Alternatives are:

- 1 – RMA data,
- 2 – Production sold/commercial storage,
- 3 – On-farm storage,
- 4 – Livestock feed records,
- 5 – FSA loan record,
- 6 – FSA NAP record, and
- 7 – Other.

For the example, RMA records are used for all yields.

### RMA Record

Appropriate RMA records are those used to calculate Actual Production History (APH) yields for crop insurance purposes. Figure 2 shows an example for corn of the types of information associated with an APH record. In this example, the yearly yields records with "A" associated with them would be used to report yields to FSA. For this example, yields report to FSA are 223 bushels per acre for 2009, 203 for 2009, 143 or 2010, 154 for 2011, and 60 for 2012.

To be used, the yield from a crop insurance record must be an actual yield. In most cases, this will be designated as "A" on the crop insurance record, as is the case in the example in Figure 2. Other codes that are considered actual yields are "A", "AY", "G", "GY", "NA", "NG", "NV", "V", and "VY". Yields without the above designations cannot be used. For example, transitional yields are used when in calculating APH yields for crop insurance records when limited years of yield data exist. These values are indicated by a "T" on the APH record. A "T" yield cannot be used to provide documentation to FSA.

Crop insurance records are for an insurable unit. Often, the acres in the insurance unit will not match the acres in the FSA farm. In these cases, some adjustment of the insurance records will be required. Sometimes an FSA farm will encompass multiple insurance units. Other times an insurance unit will encompass multiple FSA farms.

When an FSA farm unit includes more than one insurable unit calculating an acre-weighted average is appropriate. As an example, take an FSA farm that contains two insurable units and the 2009 yield is being calculated. In 2009, insurance unit A has 60 acres and insurance unit B has 50 acres. In 2009, unit A had a 180 bushels per acre yield and unit B has a 170 bushels per acre yield. An appropriate yield to report for this FSA farm is 175 bushels per acre (180 yield unit A x 60 acres unit A /110 total acres + 170 yield unit B x 50 acres unit B/ 110 total acres).

In other cases, multiple FSA farms will be part of one insurance record. For example, a farm uses enterprise units for insurance, which include all of one crop in one county. Two or more FSA farms may exist in one enterprise unit. In these cases, the same yield from the RMA record can be used for each FSA farm in that unit. Alternatively, yields can be allocated to each FSA unit. However, this will require evidence for this allocation, such as settlement sheets or some other outside verifiable record.

Figure 1. CCC-859 Completed with an Example Farm.

This form is available electronically.

<b>CCC-859</b> (09-23-14)  <b>PRICE LOSS COVERAGE (PLC) YIELD WORKSHEET</b>	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Commodity Credit Corporation		1. Program Years: 2014 through 2018		
	2A. County FSA Office Name and Address (Including Zip Code) Test office County 2 County 3				
	2B. County FSA Office Telephone Number (Including Area Code) XXX-XX-XXXX		2C. County FSA Office FAX Number (Including Area Code) VVV-VV-VVV		
	3. State Code 17	4. County Code 195	5. Farm Number 456		

THE YIELD WORKSHEET is used to obtain yield information that may be used by a current owner who may choose to update the covered commodity yield as permitted under Section 1113 of Public Law 113-79 and 7 CFR Part 1412. The yields provided in this worksheet for the years the covered commodity was planted, 2008 through 2012, will be averaged using the simple average method excluding years of zero planting. Once the simple average yield of the covered commodity is calculated, any current owner on the farm may choose to update the farm's covered commodity CC yield on form CCC-858 during the yield update period.

Report the actual yields planted on the farm for each covered commodity planted for the years 2008 – 2012. The higher of either the actual yield or 75% of the County Average (substitute yield) will be used for each year. If the owner chooses to update the yield, then the farm yield will be 90% of the simple average (excluding the year(s) the commodity was not planted) yield reported on this form.

**TOTAL FARM YIELD WORKSHEET**

Complete this section ONLY for covered commodities that the owner may wish to report. If a covered commodity was not planted for a particular year, then leave that year blank. Enter the source of the data used to support the yield in Item 6C. Rec Type: 1 for "RMA data", 2 for "production sold/commercial storage", 3 for "on-farm storage", 4 for "livestock feed records", 5 for "FSA loan record", 6 for "FSA NAP record", or 7 for "other". Please enter the other record type in the remarks section on the form. This is ONLY a worksheet. It is NOT the yield update. This form may be used by any current owner of the farm if the current owner decides to update a yield using CCC-858 during the yield update period.

6. Farm Yields										
6A. Commodity	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	6B. Yield	6C. Rec Type	6B. Yield	6C. Rec Type	6B. Yield	6C. Rec Type	6B. Yield	6C. Rec Type	6B. Yield	6C. Rec Type
Corn	146	1			200	1			60	1
Soybeans			60	1			55	1		
Wheat										

7. Remarks

8A. Contact Person's Name Henry Farmer	8B. Contact Person's Telephone Number 111-2222-3333	8C. Contact Person's Email Address testmail@illinois.edu
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**Figure 2. Example of Typical APH Yield Record.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Yield</b>	<b>YA Yield</b>	<b>TA Yield</b>	<b>Approved Yield</b>	<b>181</b>
2004	12,319.2	62.1	198 A	198	217	<b>Prelim/Rate Yield</b>	170
2005	10,326.9	81.5	127 A	127	144	<b>Prior Yield</b>	185
2006	12,604.0	62.1	203 A	203	219	<b>T-Yield</b>	183
2007	16,250.0	83.1	196 A	196	210		
2008	13,822.6	62.1	223 A	223	235		
2009	16,514.8	81.5	203 A	203	213		
2010	9,119.3	63.7	143 A	143	151		
2011	12,555.7	81.5	154 A	154	160		
2012	3,803.2	63.7	60 A	102	106		
2013	12,298.8	81.5	151 A	151	153		

**Summary**

Yield updating will require reporting farm yields to FSA that can be documented with evidence acceptable to FSA. Updating should be considered if the updated yield is higher than the current yield. RMA records can be used to document yields reported to FSA.