

The USDA acreage reporting process needs to be streamlined. Streamlining the reporting process for farmers is beneficial and will cut down on the misreporting that causes inaccurate crop insurance claims. Currently farmers report planted acres to FSA and to their crop insurance agent and in a number of places the reporting deadline dates are different. The process of reporting planted acres to multiple places is cumbersome and redundant. The Farm Service Agency has a long history of taking accurate crop acreage reports from farmers and in many areas crop insurance agents will not take an acreage report before farmers have reported their planted acres to FSA. If the Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services is serious about simplifying and streamlining the crop acreage reporting process, they would give the Farm Service Agency full responsibility for gathering crop acreage reports. The FSA is already responsible for gathering crop acreage reports for other programs they administer and this data could be shared with RMA for agents to obtain. The FSA already deals with a broader clientele than crop insurance does. There are, by far, more producers who enroll in FSA programs than those who simply carry crop insurance. If crop insurance agents were allowed to take acreage reports, most producers would still have to visit their local FSA office to complete their acreage report for such things as non-insured crops, CRP acres, and non cropland that qualifies for other programs that require an acreage report to be completed. I implore you to do the right thing and permit FSA to be the only contact point for producers to complete and file their crop acreage reports.