Acceptable Storage Records and Precision Farming

About This Document

The Loss Adjustment Manual (LAM) is the official publication of the Risk Management Agency (RMA) for all levels of insurance provided under the Federal Crop Insurance program and provides the criteria that must be followed for general loss adjustment (not-specific crop).

If the insured meets the requirements for acceptable harvested production from a precision farming technology information system as outlined in subparagraph 931(7), the following procedures do not apply. Conversely, if the insured does not meet the requirement for acceptable harvested production from a precision farming technology system, but the insured has weight tickets that can be used in accordance with the following procedures, then these procedures are applicable.

Use this procedure if there is a possibility that the insured may weigh and farm-store his/her production to keep records of separate production for optional units, basic units, and separate production from insured and uninsured acreage. AIPs must annually (prior to harvest) provide insureds (in writing) with the criteria for acceptable scales and acceptable scale weight/records outlined in the following paragraphs below and assure that the insured understands non-compliance with these instructions may result in the production being considered commingled as stated in PAR. 1233 of the LAM.

The following criteria as it pertains to Acceptable Scale Weight Tickets / Records, Bin Marking, Load Records, and printed Combine Monitor Records is being provided to you as a part of the requirements as outlined in the LAM paragraphs 252 1002 and 1003.

Insureds' Instructions for Load Records, Storage Structure Markings and Printed Records from Combine Monitors

Acceptable Scale Weight Tickets/ Records

A summary record of scale weight tickets/records is not acceptable. The insured must hand-write any of the required information listed below if the scale that is being used is not capable of printing a ticket or the required information. To be acceptable, each individual scale weight ticket or record for each load must be available and must provide at least the following information:

- The Insured's name, crop per load, the gross weight of the conveyance with production and the gross weight of the conveyance without production. If the production is weighed using a grain cart that prints out tickets showing the gross weight of production in the cart or has an integrated panel showing the gross weight of the production in the cart from which the insured documents the weight, only the gross weight, per grain cart, of the production is required.
- Date weighed;
- Load Number (if the scale used does not print a number, the insured must apply a number);
- Identification and location of farm-storage structure in which the load(s) from each field are stored and/or satisfactory explanation of disposition of the production if any or all of the production is no longer stored at the time of inspection; and Unit and/or field identification from which the production was harvested that can be correlated to the unit numbers for the crop stored. To be acceptable, the adjuster must verify that the field identification can be correlated with the unit numbers for the crop for the current crop year. If a field identification number cannot be correlated to a unit number for the crop, the production must be considered commingled, and the procedures in PAR 1233 of the LAM apply.

Prior Years Production

Production from prior years in a storage structure where new crop production will be commingled must be measured before commingling of the new crop occurs. Contact ProAg or your local FSA office to provide this service (FSA measurements are acceptable). Failure to measure this production prior to adding production will affect your claim.

Definitions

Contemporaneous and Conveyance, as used in the following paragraphs, are defined as follows:

- Contemporaneous - Occurring or originating during the same time.
- Conveyance - Anything in which agricultural commodities are transported.
  EXAMPLES: combine hoppers, commodity bins, grain carts, grain wagons, farm truck, semi-trailer. The term "transported" does not include all forms of grain movement; e.g., the following are not conveyances: grain augers, grain dryers, elevator legs, or picking lines.
- When scale weights are from a grain cart that cannot print tickets but has an integrated display panel, a record is considered a handwritten contemporaneous log the insured has kept that provides all of the information listed above under acceptable tickets/records for each grain cart load weighed.

Load Records

Maintain a contemporaneous ledger, by crop, recording loads of production for the crop identified by unit and/or field identification, date of harvest, identity of the conveyance used to transport the grain to the bin and the estimated bushel volume per conveyance. The adjuster must be able to verify that the field identification can be correlated with the unit numbers for the crop for the current crop year. If a field identification number cannot be correlated to a unit number for the crop, the production must be considered commingled, and the procedures in PAR. 1233 of the LAM apply.

Storage Structure Markings

Identify the depth of such production by marking the storage structure with a permanent marker. Write the unit number(s) and/or field identification from which the production was harvested, and date and initial the mark. Also, on the storage structure, identify and mark the depth of uninsured acreage production separately from insured acreage production when the storage structure will contain both. The adjuster must verify that the field identification numbers can be correlated with the unit numbers for the crop for the current crop year. If a field identification number cannot be correlated to a unit number for the crop, the production must be considered commingled, and the procedures in PAR. 1233 of the LAM apply.

Printed Records from Combine Monitors

Printed records from combine monitors must show the location of field (field identification), name of crop, date, and number of pounds or bushels of the crop. Insureds must also, identify the unit number that correlates with the field identification on the records. The adjuster must verify that the field identification can be correlated with the unit numbers for the crop for the current crop year. If a field identification cannot be correlated to a unit number for the crop, the production must be considered commingled, and the procedures in PAR. 1233 of the LAM apply. If production from the combine monitor records has been adjusted for moisture by the combine monitor, this recorded amount will be the amount compared against the adjuster's measured and calculated production, (including adjustments for moisture in accordance with the CP.)

Acceptable Farm Management Records

From the 2016 LAM Subparagraph 8211 (General Information & Methods) This section will apply if the insured is utilizing the full Precision Farming Technology System from planting through harvesting.

(1) Acceptable Precision Farming Technology Systems must include at least the following components:
- a) GPS technology integrated with planter monitors, combine monitors, yield mapping software;
- b) The capability of producing summary reports that reflect planted acres, harvested acres, and harvested production; and
- c) Report of calibrations performed per manufacturers requirements.

(2) Planted acreage records from precision farming technology systems used as determined acres:
- a) The AIP must annually inform the insured in writing of the automated planter monitoring system record requirements prior to planting.
- b) For planted acreage records from automated planter monitoring systems to be acceptable as determined acres, the insured must provide the following information in conjunction with production data as stated in Subparagraph 8211 of the LAM:
  1 - Insureds name;
  2 - Unit number;
  3 - FSA farm/tract/field ID number (optional);
  4 - Legal description of acreage; and
  5 - A print out from the precision farming technology system with the following information:
    - i Crop name;
    - ii Acres planted; and
    - iii Electronically produced maps of planted acreage and acreage summary records. These records must show required discernable breaks between units or practices except as stated in (3) below.

  If the insured planted overlapping rows within the planted acreage, the AIP must determine if the automated planter monitor records adjusted for overlapping planted rows. If the system did not adjust for the overlapping planted rows, the AIP must determine the acreage in accordance with Subparagraph 821A-F, H and J of the LAM, as applicable.

(3) AIP approved precision farming technology system automated planter records may be used to separate OUs on center pivots irrigation systems for IRR circles and NIRR corners without discernable breaks in the planting pattern (refer to the CIH) provided the insured can:
- (a) document the automated planter monitoring system used;
- (b) provide the acres planted and practice for each OU;
- (c) provide production records by OU and practice;
- (d) provide the required information in (1) above; and
- (e) provide records of variable rate planting populations if recommended by ag experts.

(4) If the automated planter monitor acreage records provided by the insured are not reasonable, or the AIP has reason to question the records, the insured must provide the precision farming technology system's yield monitor systems raw data and any additional records requested by the AIP. If the AIP determines the planted acreage records are not acceptable, the AIP must determine planted acreage in accordance with 821A-F, H and J, as applicable.

Acceptable Harvested Production Records from Producers Using Precision Farming Technology to Establish Total Production

From the 2016 LAM Subparagraph 931(3) (Verifying Harvested Production)

(1) Acceptable Precision Farming Technology Systems must include at least the following components:
   a) GPS technology integrated with planter monitors, combine monitors, yield mapping software;
   b) The capability of producing summary reports that reflect planted acres, harvested acres, and harvested production; and
   c) Report of calibrations performed per manufacturers requirements.

(2) If the AIP determines the precision farming technology system production records are not acceptable, production must be determined in accordance with Par. 1002 and 1003 of the LAM. The planter monitor acreage record can still be used as determined acres.

(3) Production records from precision farming technology systems
   a) The AIP must annually inform the insured in writing of the precision farming technology system record requirements prior to harvest.
   b) Production records from precisions farming technology systems may be used in lieu of settlement sheets and bin measurements provided all of the requirements under Subparagraph 8211 of the LAM are met.
   c) The insured should be advised to maintain alternate production records by unit in the event the precision farming production records are determined to be unacceptable.
   d) If acreage is not harvested, production will be appraised.

(4) For the production records to be acceptable, the insured must provide the following information, in conjunction with planting data as stated in Par. 218 C of the LAM:
   a) Calibration of the automated yield monitoring system — The insured must have calibrated the yield monitoring system for each insured crop and crop year, in accordance with the owner's manual specifications. The insured must provide documentation showing the weighed average sensor calibrations for the crop and crop year. The sensor calibrations must not exceed three percent when compared to the actual weighed production harvested from the acreage used to calibrate the sensor. If the initial sensor calibration difference exceeds three percent when compared to the actual weighed production harvested from the acreage used to calibrate the sensor, additional calibration samples must have been taken until the results were within tolerance. The annual calibration report, from the yield monitor system or documentation from the insured, must include all calibrations and adjustments performed, by crop, for the crop year, including the date each calibration/adjustment was performed and the difference from the previous setting. The annual calibration report must be provided to the AIP or RMA.
   b) Insured's name;
   c) Unit number;
   d) FSA farm/tract/field ID number;
   e) Legal description of acreage; and
   f) A print out, by unit, of the following precision farming technology information:
      1 - Crop name;
      2 - Acres harvested;
      3 - Date harvested;
      4 - Total production (unadjusted for moisture);
      5 - Average moisture content (moisture must be adjusted in accordance with the crop provisions); and

6 - Yield maps and acreage/production summary records. These records, generated from the system, must show separate production records were maintained by unit and/or practice. These maps must be reviewed to identify harvested and unharvested acreage. If the map indicates unharvested acreage, a visual inspection is required to determine if crop appraisals are needed.

(5) If the production and yield map records provided by the insured are not reasonable or the AIP has reason to question the production and/ or yield map records, the insured must provide the precision farming technology system or yield monitor systems raw data and any additional production records requested by the AIP. If after reviewing the systems raw data, the precision farming technology system production records are determined to be not acceptable, production must be determined in accordance with Par. 1002 and 1003 of the LAM.
(6) All quality determinations must be made in accordance with Par 1002-1008 of the LAM as applicable.

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