

# CROP RISK SERVICES

2019

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## Review of Acceptable Records & Precision Farming Technology

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**PURPOSE**

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).

**Production Weighed and Farm-Stored****From 2019 LAM****Para 1002 Production Weighed and Farm Stored**

If the insured meets the requirements for acceptable harvested production from a precision farming technology information system as outlined in Para. 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, 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 (prior to harvest) provide insureds (in writing) with the criteria for acceptable scales and acceptable scale weight/records outlined in the subparagraphs B and C below. Non-compliance with these instructions may result in the production being considered commingled as stated in Para. 1233.

**B. Acceptable Scale Types**

The AIP must provide the following information (in writing) to the insured prior to harvest of what is needed to have acceptable weight ticket/records for loss adjustment purposes. Acceptable Scale types are, as follows:

- (1) Non portable on-farm scales,
- (2) Commercial elevator scales, or
- (3) Grain Carts provided the grain cart:
  - (a) Can Produce Tickets showing the weight,
  - (b) Has an integrated display panel to show the weight of the production in the cart, provided the cart is available so the capacity of the cart can be determined; or
  - (c) Is equipped with scales integrated with Bluetooth ( or other wired or wireless) interface that is calibrated according to manufacturer's specifications and capable of electronically recording and storing weight records on a field-by-field basis from which the insured can print all individual load tickets and detailed summary, including all of the required information listed in subparagraph C below. If a producer used multiple grain carts, but not all were equipped with the system described herein, the adjuster must verify the production by other means (i.e., bin measurements, sales records, etc.)

**C. Acceptable Scale Weight Tickets Or Records**

- (1) To be acceptable, each individual scale weight ticket or record for each load must be available and must provide at least the following information:
  - (a) Insured's name;
  - (b) Crop;
  - (c) The gross weight, per load, of the conveyance with production and gross weight of the conveyance without production, except as stated in (i) below;
    - (i) Only the gross weight, per conveyance of the production is required if the production is weighted using a grain cart that:
      - (A) Prints out weight tickets showing the gross weight of production;

- (B) has an integrated display panel showing the gross weight of the production from which the insured documents the weight; or
  - (C) is equipped with scales integrated with Bluetooth (or other wired or wireless) interface that is calibrated according to manufacturer's specifications and capable of electronically recording and storing weight records on a load by load basis from which the insured can print all individual load tickets and detailed summary, by unit, which includes all of the required information
    - (ii) Scale Weight tickets/records printed from grain carts should be photo copied since the print can disappear with time.
  - (d) Date weighed
  - (e) Load number (if the scale does not print a number, the insured must apply a number)
  - (f) 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 cannot be correlated to a unit number for the crop, the production must be considered commingled, and procedures in Para. 1233 apply.
  - (g) 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
  - (h) When scale weights are from a grain cart that cannot produce printed electronic records or weight tickets, but the grain cart has an integrated display panel, a record is considered a handwritten contemporaneous log if the insured has recorded all of the information required below for each grain cart load weighed.
- (2) A summary record of all scale weight tickets/records is not acceptable. The insured must hand-write any of the required information listed in (1) above if the scale used is not capable of printing a ticket or the required information.

#### **PRIOR YEARS PRODUCTION**

##### **From the 2019 LAM**

**Para. 934(4)** AIPs CANNOT accept insured's weight records/tickets for current year's production stored in a structure (refer to Para. 1002) with prior year's production to separate the current and prior year's production, and CANNOT authorize insured's to make structure markings to separate production from the current and prior year(s) stored in the same storage structure, as described in Para. 1003, UNLESS the AIP or another USDA agency measures the prior year's production just prior to the current year's production being added (a copy of the other USDA agency's measurements must be kept in the loss file).

***Failure to measure this production prior to adding production will affect your claim.***

***If you have prior year's production in a storage structure that will have current year production added to it, please notify your agent to have a loss notice submitted. A CRS adjuster will then contact you to come and measure your prior year's production.***

#### **LOAD RECORDS**

##### **From the 2019 LAM**

***Para. 1003: Authorization to Accept Insured's Structure Markings, Load Records, & Combine Monitor Records***

#### ***C. Instructions for Records or Markings Used in Lieu of AIP Pre-Measurement of Production***

- (1) Load Records:

- (a) 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.
  - (b) 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 paragraph 1233 apply.
  - (c) Insured's are permitted to adjust their load records for excess moisture, and if they have done so, this will be used to compare against the adjuster measured and calculated production including adjustments for moisture in accordance with the CP if the adjuster's moisture test shows excess moisture.
- (2) Storage Structure Markings
- (a) 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.
  - (b) Identify and mark the depth of uninsured acreage production separately from insured acreage production when the storage structure will contain both.
  - (c) 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 cannot be correlated to a unit number for the crop, the production must be considered commingled, and the procedures in paragraph 1233 apply.
- (3) Records from Non-Precision Farming Technology System Combine Monitors
- (a) Printed records from combine monitors must show the field identification and location, 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.
  - (b) 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 paragraph 1233 apply.
  - (c) If production from the combine monitor records has been adjusted for moisture by the insured or automatically 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 PRODUCERS USING PRECISION FARMING TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS**

##### ***From the 2019 LAM***

##### ***Para. 821 I: Acceptable Farm Management Records from Producers Using Precision Farming Technologies***

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
  - (c) Report of calibrations performed per manufacturer's requirements. Refer to Para. 931(7).
- (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:
    - (i) Insured's name
    - (ii) Unit number
    - (iii) FSA farm/tract/field ID number (optional)
    - (iv) Legal description of acreage

- (v) A print out from the precision farming technology system with the following information:
    - (A) Crop name
    - (B) Acres planted
    - (C) 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.
  - (vi) 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 rows, the AIP must determine the acreage in accordance with Para. 201 A-F, H, and J, as applicable.
- (3) AIP approved precision farming technology information system automated planter records may be used to separate optional units on center pivots irrigation systems for irrigated circles and non-irrigated corners (refer to Para. 132 C (5) (b) (iii) (B) without discernable breaks in the planting pattern provided the insured can:
- (a) Document the automated planter monitoring system used;
  - (b) Provide the acres planted and practice for each optional unit
  - (c) Provide production records by optional unit 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 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 Para. 821 A-F, H, and J, as applicable. However, the production records from the precision farming technology system's yield monitor may still be used.

#### **ACCEPTABLE HARVESTED PRODUCTION RECORDS FROM PRODUCERS USING PRECISION FARMING TECHNOLOGY TO ESTABLISH TOTAL PRODUCTION**

##### ***From the 2019 LAM***

##### ***Para. 931 (Verifying Harvested Production)***

- (3) Acceptable precision farming technology systems used to establish records for total production 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 manufacturer's requirements.
- (4) The AIP must inform the insured in writing of the precision farming technology system record requirements prior to harvest.
- (5) Production records from precision farming technology systems may be used in lieu of settlement sheets and bin measurements provided all of the requirements under subparagraph 821I are met.
- (6) 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.
- (7) For the production records to be acceptable, the insured must provide the following information:
- (a) Calibration of the automated yield monitoring system.
    - (i) The insured must have calibrated the yield monitoring system at the beginning of harvest for each insured crop and crop year, in accordance with the operator's manual specifications. The sensor calibrations must not exceed three percent (3%) when compared to the actual weighed production harvested from the acreage used to calibrate the sensor. Refer to subparagraph 1002B (Acceptable Scale Types). If the initial sensor calibration difference exceeds three percent (3%) when compared to the actual weighed production harvested from the acreage used to calibrate the sensor, additional calibration samples may be taken until the results are within tolerance.

- self-calibrating yield monitoring systems must be compared to actual weighed production harvested from the acreage at the beginning of harvest for each insured crop and crop year.
- (ii) If after calibrating the yield monitoring system as stated in (i) above, the sensor calibrations for the crop and crop year:
    - (A) still exceed three percent (3%) when compared to the actual production harvested from the acreage used to calibrate the sensor, the PFTS records will not be considered acceptable as stand-alone production evidence but may be used like load records. Post-harvest calibration of yield maps is not acceptable. The insured must provide documentation of the actual production based on acceptable production records.
    - (B) are within three percent (3%) using production harvested from the acreage used to calibrate the sensor, and the insured wants to make additional calibrations throughout harvest due to changes in crop or field conditions. Additional calibrations are allowed, provided the revised calibrations are still within three percent (3%) of the actual weighed production harvested from the acreage used to calibrate the sensor.
    - (C) are within three percent (3%) when compared to the actual weighed production harvested from the acreage used to calibrate the sensor, but the insured wants to make additional calibrations after harvest (post-harvest), the post-harvest calibration must remain within the three-percent (3%) tolerance and documentation of the actual production based on acceptable weight records used for calibration must be provided for the PFTS records to be considered acceptable. Post-harvest calibration documentation must meet the requirements in paragraphs 932 (Verifying Sold or Commercially Stored Production) and/or paragraph 1002 (Production Weighed & Farm-Stored).
  - (iii) The insured must provide documentation showing the sensor calibrations for the crop and crop year. 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; if applicable
  - (e) Legal description of acreage; and
  - (f) A print out, by unit, of the following precision farming technology information:
    - (i) Crop name;
    - (ii) Acres harvested;
    - (iii) Date harvested;
    - (iv) Total production (unadjusted for moisture);
    - (v) Average moisture content (must be adjusted in accordance with the CP); and
    - (vi) 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 UH acreage. If the map indicates UH acreage, a visual inspection is required to determine if crop appraisals are needed.
- (8) If the AIP determines the precision farming technology system production records are not acceptable, production must be determined in accordance with paragraph 1002 and paragraph 1003. The planter monitor acreage record can still be used as determined acres.
- (9) 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 system's 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 paragraph 1002 and paragraph 1003.
- (10) All quality determinations must be made in accordance with paragraph 1102 and paragraph 1109 as applicable