

For: State and County Offices

Timeline for Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC)

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) was enacted on February 7, 2014. Final regulations governing ARCPLC (7 CFR Part 1412) were published on September 26, 2014.

Notice ARCPLC-5 announced the acreage history provisions related to the 1-time opportunity for current owners of farms to update yields and reallocate base acres of covered commodities. Notice ARCPLC-7 discussed the letter that was sent from FSA to farm owners and operators advising of their farm’s current base acres, program yields, and 2008 through 2012 planting history. Farm owners and operators were advised to cross-check the information with their personal farm records to ensure accuracy.

On September 29, 2014, FSA announced that current owners could update the farm’s crop yields and decide whether to retain the farm’s 2013 base acres, or to reallocate base acres among the covered commodities on the farm. Notices ARCPLC-10, ARCPLC-11, and ARCPLC-12 contained detailed information about yield update and base acre reallocation. Current owners of farms have until February 27, 2015, to update yields and/or reallocate base acres of covered commodities.

The program election follows the yield update and base reallocation. During the election period that begins November 17, 2014, and ends March 31, 2015, all of the farm’s current producers must make a 1-time election of either of the following:

- PLC or ARC-County Coverage (ARC-CO) on a covered commodity by covered commodity basis on a farm
- ARC-Individual Coverage (ARC-IC) for all covered commodities on a farm.

Disposal Date	Distribution
June 1, 2015	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

Notice ARCPLC-13

1 Overview (Continued)

A Background (Continued)

The election by current producers on a farm during the prescribed election period must:

- be unanimous
- follow base reallocation and yield update decisions of the farm's current owners
- apply to the farm for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.

A failure of the farm's current producers to make a program election will cause the farm to default to the PLC election on all covered commodities of the farm for 2015 through 2018 crop years, and the farm will **not** be eligible for ARCPLC payments in 2014.

After conclusion of the program election period on March 31, 2015, producers on the farm must annually enroll their respective share interest of base acres or interest of covered commodities. Only producers who annually enroll are eligible to receive payments. The ARCPLC enrollment for the 2014 and 2015 crop years is anticipated to occur from mid-April 2015 through mid-summer.

The roles and actions of current owners, current producers, 2014 producers, and 2015 producers are all specified in the 2014 Farm Bill. FSA has no discretion to alter the roles or who may perform those actions.

B Purpose

This notice provides:

- a summary of the phases for ARCPLC
- dates for when phases or actions are expected to occur or be complete.

2 Online Tools and Timeline of ARCPLC

A Online Tools

To assist current producers as they elect PLC, ARC-CO, or ARC-IC, USDA helped create online tools that allow farmers to enter information about their operation and see projections about what each program will mean for them under possible future scenarios. The new tools are now available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc. Producers can access the online resources from the convenience of their personal computer, Smartphone, or tablet at any time.

Notice ARCPLC-13

2 Online Tools and Timeline of ARCPLC (Continued)

B Timeline Phases of ARCPLC

The following table summarizes the planned phases of ARCPLC.

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
August 2014	Sept. 29, 2014 – Feb. 27, 2015	Nov. 17, 2014 – March 31, 2015	Mid-April 2015 – Summer 2015
Owners and farm operators receive letters notifying them of current bases and yields and 2008 through 2012 planting history.	Current owners have opportunity to update yields and reallocate base acres for ARCPLC purposes. ARC and PLC online tools become available.	ARCPLC 1-time elections by current producers on a farm.	ARCPLC enrollment for both the 2014 and 2015 crop years. 2014 producers enroll under 2014 contracts, and 2015 producers enroll under 2015 contracts.

3 Action

A County Office Action

County Office employees will:

- review the details of Notices ARCPLC-10, ARCPLC-11, and ARCPLC-12 to prepare for base reallocation and yield update decisions to be made in software according to Notice ARCPLC-11
- begin the reallocation process on **September 29, 2014**, if contacted by any farm owner
- publicize the timeline included in this notice.

B State Office Action

State Office employees will:

- provide guidance as needed for employees in publicizing the timeline and in reallocating base acres and updating yields
- forward questions about updating yields and reallocating base acres to Brent Orr at **brent.orr@wdc.usda.gov**.