

What will happen if my 2008-2012 Farm Yields get audited and are found to be wrong or I don't have proof?

This is a question many producers are asking as the deadline to update payment yield is fast approaching (March 31st). While you only have to “certify” your yields with FSA for 2008-2012, at any time from now through 2018, you are subject to audit to verify those yields are correct.

The important thing is to keep verifiable records. For most, this will be crop insurance records. These have to pass Risk Management Agency (RMA) standards, so are recognized as accurate by FSA. If you don't have crop insurance records, there are other options such as settlement sheets, warehouse ledger sheets, production reported for other FSA programs, etc. They must show the producer's name, commodity, buyer's name or name of storage facility, date of delivery or transaction, and quantity.

If an audit is conducted and production evidence in support of the yield certification is found to be false or incorrect, as determined by the county committee, then the committee will determine if the parties involved acted in “good faith” but made mistakes, or if intent was to defeat the purpose of the farm programs.

If acting in good faith, the county committee will:

1. Correct the PLC yield on the commodity to equal the yield that should have been calculated based on production evidence
2. Recalculate any payments with the corrected yield and require refunds of any payments that were issued as a result of the incorrect yield. Unearned payment and interest from the date of disbursement will be due back to FSA if they would not have been issued because of the error in yield.

If not acting in good faith, the county committee will:

1. Require full refund of any payments, with interest, that were made based on the erroneous certification or production evidence.
2. Yield update will be invalid.

If you have verifiable records, there is no reason not to update your payment yields with FSA. Even if you are not enrolling in the PLC program, these yields will stay with the farm and an update may not be offered again for a long time.

For more information, visit our Farm Bill page at www.AgManager.info and look for publication “Updating Payment Yields”.

[This publication is brought to you by the Kansas State University Farm Bill Team:](#)

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Disclaimer: This publication is designed to aid farmers with their marketing and risk decisions. This information is based on the author's interpretation of the 2014 Farm Bill. Some details may change after final rules and regulations are released by FSA. This information is intended for educational purposes only.