

Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Industrial Hemp Crop Acreage Reporting

What You Need to Know...

OVERVIEW

The 2018 Farm Bill directed USDA to establish a national regulatory framework for hemp production. USDA AMS published final rule 86 FR 5596-5691 in January 2021 providing hemp production regulations and hemp crop acreage reporting requirements. Subsequent to the USDA final rule, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry ('LDAF') amended the Hemp Law and regulations to reflect the USDA Farm Service Agency ('FSA') hemp reporting requirements.

REQUIREMENTS

Hemp growers and seed producers are required to file acreage reports with their local FSA office and to provide specific information to LDAF.

HEMP PRODUCER LICENSE

- In addition to filing an acreage report to FSA, growers and seed producers must include their hemp license number in the **exact** format: *the number twenty-two, then underscore, followed by their seven digit unique license number. EX: 22_1234567*
- The name on the hemp license must match the name provided to FSA and shown on the acreage report.
- If reporting as a business to FSA, that **exact** business information must also be on file with LDAF.

REPORTING HEMP LOTS TO FSA

Field Production

- Lots Versus Fields - License holders must designate the location by supplying GPS coordinates and the number of lots intended to be planted. For FSA purposes, the term "lots" refers to the specific subfield located within the field on the tract. The lot concept provides flexibility to growers to manage risk, therefore, lots may be subsections of a field without physical boundary as is required for other crops.
- An FSA Lot contains a farm, tract, & field number and possibly subfield letter.
- LDAF requires that hemp fields be subdivided by variety/strain and those fields correspond with the lots the producer has registered with FSA.

EXAMPLE: Grower has 2 varieties of hemp planted in the same field in an alternating pattern of 4 lots. Grower will report 4 subfields of hemp as follows:

Variety A Subfield A	Variety B Subfield B	Variety A Subfield C	Variety B Subfield D
-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------

Farm 123, Tract 456, Field 1, Subfields A-D
The same is true for multiple varieties in a field.

Acreage Reporting Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I find my local FSA office?

You can go online to offices.usda.gov or farmers.gov to locate your USDA service center.

Q: Do I need an appointment with FSA ?

No. But it is strongly encouraged.

Q: How do I contact the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry?

- Visit: ldaf.state.la.us/industrial-hemp/
- Email: industrialhemp@ldaf.state.la.us
- Call: 225-952-8062

Q: Why should I report my hemp acreage?

Reporting acreage to FSA can benefit hemp producers not only through crop insurance, farm loans, conservation and farm safety net programs, but it is required by law. The Industrial Hemp Law and regulations require that hemp producers report hemp acreage to FSA and to LDAF.

Q: What information should I be prepared to provide to FSA?

Hemp growers must provide FSA with information including parish, street address, and GPS coordinates for each lot (outdoor or indoor) where hemp is grown, acreage, planting dates, crop ownership, intended use and hemp license number. Growers who have not worked with FSA before will also likely need to supply the agency with a copy of the deed or lease agreement for each growing location.

Continued on next page

REPORTING HEMP LOTS CONTINUED...

Research Lots

- Hemp growers and seed producers producing hemp for research purposes, **that will never enter the stream of commerce**, must have an approved Research Plan on file with LDAF. The FSA acreage report for research plant material is not required to be broken down by lots. If the field was planted over several days, growers should report the average planting date.
- **Example:** A producer is growing hemp for research purposes and has planted six lots with six different varieties. The lots were planted on June 1, 12, 18, and 29, therefore, June 15 should be provided as the average planting date.

Greenhouse, Warehouse, or Similar Indoor Facility Production

- A grower or seed producer growing a crop in a greenhouse or indoor facility must follow the same guidelines as a field producer. The hemp must be reported by location, subfield(s), and planting date(s) for all varieties and end-uses.
- Growers or seed producers who plant hemp in a greenhouse or indoor facility with the intention of transplanting into larger containers or relocating the plants into an outdoor field before harvest **are not** required to report the initial indoor planting to FSA. The crop must only be reported when it is placed in the larger container from which it will be harvested, or planted in the field in its final destination. **Although FSA requires waiting until the final disposition, producers are still required to report the initial planting to LDAF on a *First Report of Planting* form.**
- Seed producers growing a crop to sell transplants to other producers for propagation purposes must report the crop using 'SE' (sets) as the intended use, when it is planted (by seed or by other propagating material) in the greenhouse or similar facility. **Because the producer is not growing the crop to harvest and therefore testing may not be required, the crop may be reported to FSA using the same method as a research grower.**

FSA-578 Form

Upon certification of acreage, the FSA office will provide you with an FSA-578 form identifying each lot; including farm, tract, field, and possibly subfield. Each variety of hemp corresponds with a lot for sampling purposes, and those lots are identified by FSA as unique subfields. **You must provide an FSA-578 form for each hemp lot to LDAF within 15 days of planting.**

CHANGE OF CROP 'END USE'

A grower who converts a lot, or portion of a lot to a different 'end use' (i.e., mother plants to commercial production, or similar conversion) must report that activity to FSA. FSA will record the new end use, and may or may not assign a new lot number for the converted plants. This conversion activity must be reported to LDAF as a new planting on a *First Report of Planting* form. The new 'planting date' is the date the decision was made to convert the plants to the new end use.

MOVEMENT OF HEMP PLANTS

Reporting to FSA and LDAF is not required for hemp plants moved within an approved site, and a new lot number is not required for this activity. Plants moved outside of an approved site must be reported to FSA and to LDAF, and a new lot number will be provided by FSA to the producer.

RESOURCES

[USDA hemp producers program eligibility](#)

[Locate your local FSA office](#)

[LDAF Industrial Hemp website](#)

[USDA Hemp Crop Insurance](#)

Your local FSA parish office can assist you in filing hemp crop acreage reports. The deadline for filing is July 15 of each year. There is no filing fee, however you will incur late fees if you file after the filing date. Contact your local FSA office for additional information on deadlines, information you need to provide to certify your crop acreage, and other important reporting information.