Producers of perennial forage and fall-seeded small grains must submit their 2013 acreage report for those crops to the Farm Service Agency, and to their crop insurance agent, by November 15, 2012. In prior years, reports for these crops were not due to FSA until late June/early July. “This change is part of an initiative at the national level to align acreage reporting dates between FSA and the Risk Management Agency (RMA), and reduce the crop reporting burden on producers”, announced Dan Steinkruger, Nebraska FSA State Executive Director.

Crop acreage reports are essential to maintaining eligibility for multiple FSA program benefits, and establishing a record of historical cropping. Currently proposed Farm Bill legislation continues the crop reporting requirement. “Timely acreage reporting not only maintains a producer’s eligibility for traditional conservation, price support and production program benefits, but is also a requirement for critical disaster program assistance,” noted Steinkruger.

November 15 is also the crop insurance sales closing date for forage production in Nebraska. “Given the 2012 drought across the state, farmers and ranchers should consider their insurance options including the new Pasture, Rangeland and Forage (PRF) Rainfall Index program to cover pasture drought losses,” said Steinkruger.

Producers are reminded of the importance to accurately report the crop, crop acreage, intended use, irrigation practice, planting date and producer shares. Prevented planted acres must be reported within 15 days of the final planting date. Failed acres must be reported to FSA within 15 days of when the loss becomes apparent for non-insurable crops, or otherwise prior to disposition of the crop. Contact your local FSA office with questions or to schedule an acreage certification appointment.