

Farmers for Soil Health Enrollment Guide

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About Farmers for Soil Health

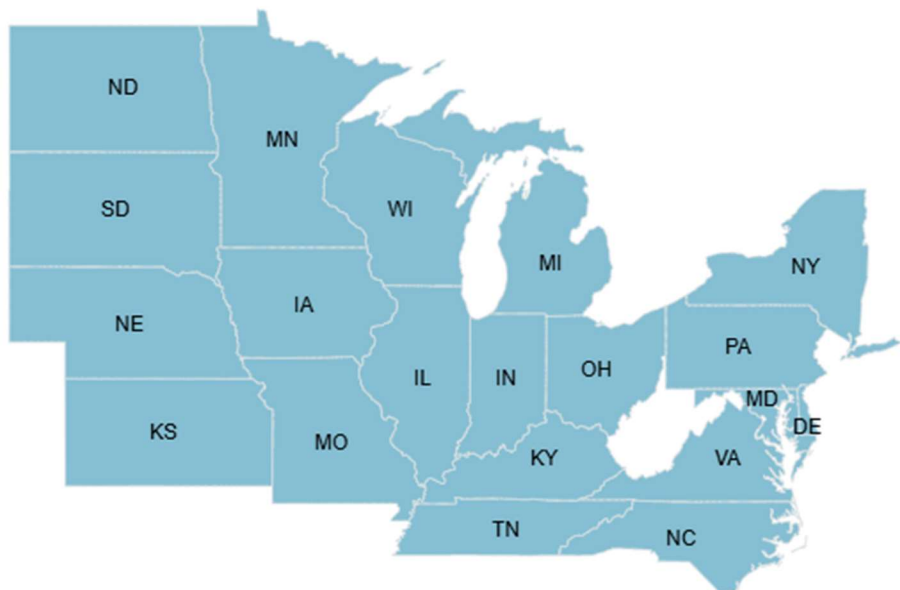
Created by farmers for farmers to enhance soil health practices to improve the environment and profitability of farmers.

Farmers for Soil Health's is a farmer-led partnership that advances soil health practices like cover crops to help producers meet sustainability and profitability goals.

By working together, the Soy Checkoff, Pork Checkoff and National Corn Growers Association want to continually reaffirm the U.S. corn and soybean value chain as a trusted leader in being environmentally sound, socially responsible and economically viable.

The mission of Farmers for Soil Health is to increase farmer adoption of soil health improvement practices by providing educational aids, outreach materials, and financial resources to the state commodity groups and other partners to increase the number of cover crop acres to 30 million U.S. acres by 2030.

Farmers for Soil Health offers two different incentive payments, Transition Incentive Payments (TIP) and Signing Incentive Payments (SIP). Producers who are new to cover crops, or at the minimum did not have a cover crop planted on the enrolled field in the preceding year, are eligible for TIPs, receiving \$50 per acre over three years - \$25 per acre year one, \$15 per acre year two, and \$10 per acre year three. Producers who continually have cover crops in their management system are eligible for SIPs, receiving \$2 per acre for one year and gaining access to the exclusive Sustainability Marketplace.



Farmer Eligibility

All farmers from FSH's 20-state geography are eligible to enroll for the financial incentives given they meet the following criteria:

- Farm must be operated in the 20-state geography.
- Enrolled farm(s) must have established Farm Service Agency (FSA) records, including farm, tract, and field numbers.
- Producers must follow the applicable state NRCS cover crop – 340 conservation practice standard (or an alternate practice standard that has been pre-approved by USDA and Farmers for Soil health partners) for the Transition Incentive Payment (TIP) enrolled fields.
- Producers must not concurrently receive any USDA federal cost-share or USDA federal incentive payments (from EQIP, CSP, RCPP, other USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities/Advancing Markets for Producers projects, etc.) for the cover crops planted on the enrolled fields.
- Producer must have operational control of the enrolled field(s), verifiable through an FSA-156ez form or FSA-578 form.
- Producer must plant corn, soybeans, cotton, durum or spring wheat, or sorghum on the enrolled field(s) in at least one year of the 3-year contract period for TIPs. If enrolled in the one-year SIP contract, producers must plant one of the above crops.
- Producer must be able to provide a current year Subsidiary Print, FSA Maps of the enrolled tracts, an IRS W-9, and FSA-156ez forms for each enrolled farm.
- If FSH is unable to verify cover crop planting through remote sensing, producers will be required to upload secondary verification documents (FSA-578 with reported cover crop acreage, cover crop seed receipt or application invoice, photos, machine data, etc.) prior to receiving payment.

Enrollment Process

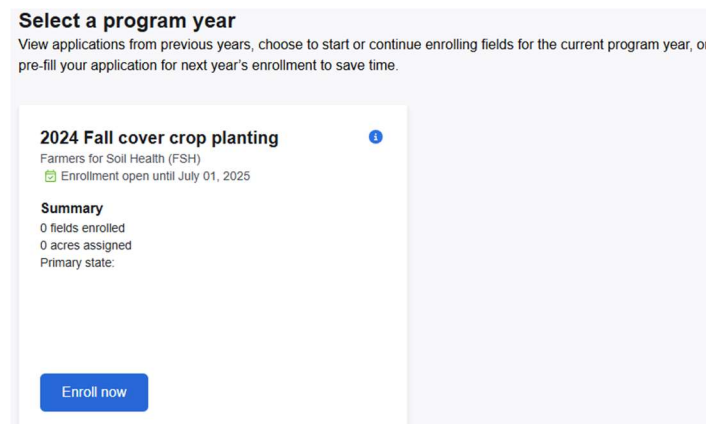
Creating an Enrollment

Producers seeking to enroll in FSH should visit the [DTN Farmers for Soil Health enrollment platform](#), and click the “login” or “create an account” button at the bottom of the page. Farmers creating an account will need to provide the following information:

- Name
- Valid email address
- Phone number

After creating the account, DTN will send an email to the address provided, which allows the farmer to validate the email and set a password.

Once logged in, farmers can enroll by clicking “Enroll now”



The screenshot shows a web interface for selecting a program year. At the top, it says "Select a program year" with a subtext: "View applications from previous years, choose to start or continue enrolling fields for the current program year, or pre-fill your application for next year's enrollment to save time." Below this is a card for "2024 Fall cover crop planting" under the heading "Farmers for Soil Health (FSH)". It includes a green checkmark icon and the text "Enrollment open until July 01, 2025". A "Summary" section shows "0 fields enrolled", "0 acres assigned", and "Primary state:". At the bottom of the card is a blue button labeled "Enroll now".

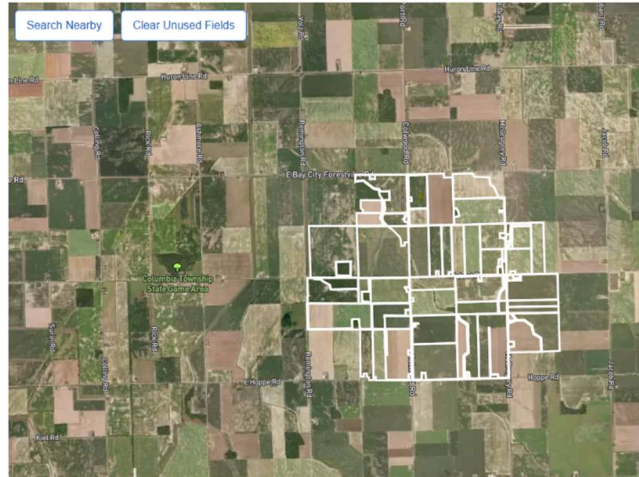
Farmers will initially be asked to choose the primary state in which the fields are located.

After that, farmers will create or lookup a record (name, phone number, email, and address). They can either search public records, entering their name and ZIP code to pull up associated records and fields, or create their own record.

Once creating or selecting a record, producers will answer two enrollment-level questions in the “Preliminary Assessment” section about:

- Organic farm status
- Climate-smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) experience.

After responding to these questions, farmers can select the fields they’d like to enroll. If there are fields associated with the farmer’s record, those will be presented for farmers to select. If the farmer wishes to enroll additional fields, they can navigate to the general area where the field is located, click “Search Nearby,” and select the field boundary for the field they’d like to enroll.



For each field, the producer must answer a few field-specific questions, inputting the information directly into the DTN Enrollment Platform. This includes:

- Land name – a field name recognized by the producer. This is in addition to the unique, numeric Land ID that DTN assigns to each field.
- Enrollment type – 3-year Transition Incentive Payment (TIP) contract for fields that were not cover-cropped in the preceding year, or the 1-year Signing Incentive Payment (SIP) contract for fields that were previously cover cropped.
- Acres – cover cropped acres to be enrolled. When you click on a field, DTN will estimate its acreage. You should modify the field size to align with the acreage you intend to cover crop and enroll, i.e. if you are only cover cropping part of the field, modify the field boundary and acreage accordingly. Enrolled acreage should not exceed the cropland acreage defined by the FSA CLU map.
- Cover crop species
- Cover crop termination method
- Tillage practices
- Irrigation practices
- Organic status
- Cash Crop - the cash crop that is expected to be planted immediately following cover crop termination
- USDA Farm, Tract, and Field numbers

Technical assistance providers can amend this information on a farmer’s behalf after the fields have been enrolled.

Attestations

After adding fields for enrollment, click “next step” on the bottom of the page. Farmers will be prompted to review, self-certify, and digitally sign (typing name and providing their SSN

or EIN) a series of certifications. These attestations ensure that producers understand their obligation to plant cover crops according to NRCS practice standards, avoid dual enrollment in other federal incentive programs for the same practice on the same acres, and meet all other applicable eligibility criteria for the program.

Identity Certification:

- I have established Farm Records with the USDA Farm Service Agency and have provided, or will provide, the following records and documents for my enrolled Transition Incentive Payment (TIP) Signing Incentive Payment (SIP) field(s):
 - Producer Name;
 - USDA Farm, Tract, and Field numbers;
 - USDA Producer Subsidiary Print;
 - FSA maps; and
 - Form FSA-156EZ
- I certify I am not a foreign person or entity.
- I certify I have operational control of the land for the term of my Signing Incentive Payment (SIP) or Transition Incentive Payment (TIP) contract.

Documentation and payments:

- I certify I will follow the applicable state [NRCS cover crop – 340 conservation practice standard](#) (or a relevant approved alternate practice standard pre-approved by USDA and Farmers for Soil Health partners) for my Transition Incentive Payment (TIP) enrolled fields.
- I certify I will not concurrently receive any USDA federal cost-share or USDA federal incentive payments (from EQIP, CSP, RCPP, [other USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities projects](#), etc.) for the cover crops I plant on my enrolled Transition Incentive Payment (TIP).
- I understand and acknowledge that Transition Incentive Payments (TIPs) and Signing Incentive Payments (SIPs) are funded and processed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and are subject to audit and inspection by the USDA Office of Inspector General and other federal assistance program oversight entities. NFWF reserves the right to recover payments if required by USDA after determining that a duplicate payment was made to a producer who 1) received USDA cost-share or incentives for the same practice on the same land at the same time; or 2) concurrently enrolls the same SIP acres in more than one Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities project.

Fields and Crops:

- I certify my enrolled field(s) has/have been cropped in the past year or in 4 of the past 7 years. As such, I certify no further site-specific cultural resources or environmental review is needed.
- I certify that I am compliant with all highly erodible land conservation (HELC) and wetland conservation (WC) provisions, and that I have certified my compliance via form AD-1026.
- I certify that any acres for which I receive a Transition Incentive Payment (TIP) have not been cover-cropped, according to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 340, in the

preceding crop year or I do not have any Transition Incentive Payment (TIP) fields to enroll.

- I acknowledge a subset of Transition Incentive Payment (TIP) farmers may be selected for field-based soil sampling, and if selected, I must allow the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) soil- sampling contractor access to my enrolled Transition Incentive Payment (TIP) field(s).
- FSH verifies cover crop establishment using satellite imagery and remote sensing. In the event that my cover crop cannot be verified through remote sensing, I certify that I will provide a cover crop seed tag or receipt, application invoice, or a photograph of the practice implemented in the field.

Required Documents

Prior to receiving payment, enrolled farmers must upload a current year FSA Subsidiary Print, a W-9, FSA Maps, and FSA 156EZ. Technical assistance providers can upload these on the farmers' behalf.

- **FSA Subsidiary Print:**
 - **What:**
 - Current year subsidiary print will be required for each crop year that the producer receives a payment.
 - **Why:**
 - Determine Highly Erodible Land Conservation/Wetland Conservation (HELC/WC) Compliance. Producers must be listed as “certified” for in the AD-1026 section and “compliant” in all conservation compliance sections.
 - Ensure that the "Foreign Person" field indicates "Not Applicable.”
 - **How:**
 - Producers can request a copy of their subsidiary print from their USDA Service Center *or* sign the FSH Producer Record Release Authorization to allow FSH partners to retrieve the subsidiary print on the producers' behalf.
 - **Common Mistakes:**
 - Non-current year Subsidiary Print uploaded. We need the Subsidiary Print for the year of expected payment.
 - Subsidiary Print individual/entity does not align with payee information (name, address, entity type) on W-9.
- **W-9**
 - **What:**
 - A [current W-9](#), signed and dated between the time of enrollment/re-enrollment and payment.
 - **Why:**
 - Enable FSH's fiscal agent, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, to process farmer incentive payments. Information given on the W9 (name, address, and entity type) should be consistent with the current year Subsidiary Print.
 - **Common Mistakes:**

- Name, entity type, and address don't align with the Subsidiary Print, e.g King Farms LLC Subsidiary Print and Dylan King individual W9.
 - Not signed or dated (or dated outside of the enrollment period).
 - Entity type information not filled in Box 3.
- **FSA Maps**
 - **What:**
 - Current FSA Tract Map for each enrolled field.
 - **Why:**
 - Enable FSH to verify and report farm, tract, and field numbers and acreage.
 - USDA will use field numbers to confirm eligibility, checking their conservation compliance and foreign person status, and whether the field has received duplicate payments for the same practices on the same land from Farm Bill conservation programs or other PCSC/AMP projects.
 - **How:**
 - Producers can request a copy of their FSA maps from their USDA Service Center *or* sign the FSH Producer Record Release Authorization to allow FSH partners to retrieve the FSA Maps on the producers' behalf.
 - **Common Mistakes:**
 - Enrolled acreage is larger than cropland acreage as defined by FSA maps.
 - Enrolled fields need to be joined or split.
 - Missing maps.
 - FSA Farm, Tract, and Field #s are not entered or are incorrectly entered into DTN platform.
- **FSA 156ez**
 - **What:**
 - Current year FSA 156ez for each enrolled Farm ID.
 - **Why:**
 - Enable FSH to verify that the enrolled producer has operational control. Determination will be made by the existence of the enrolled producer as owner, operator, or other producer on this document.
 - **How:**
 - Producers can request a copy of their FSA 156ez from their USDA Service Center *or* sign the FSH producer Record Release Authorization to allow FSH partners to retrieve the 156ez on the producers' behalf.
 - **Common Mistakes:**
 - Failure to upload 156ez for each Farm ID.
- **OR FSA 578 in lieu of FSA 156ez**
 - **What:**
 - Current crop year FSA 578 for each enrolled Farm ID
 - **Why:**

- Enable FSH to verify that the enrolled producer has operational control. Determination will be made by the existence of the enrolled producer as operator on the document.
- **How:**
 - Producers can request a copy of their FSA 578 from their USDA Service Center *or* sign the FSH producer Record Release Authorization to allow FSH partners to retrieve the 578 on the producers' behalf.

Verification

DTN, the technical contractor for Farmers for Soil Health, has established a process to detect the establishment of cover crops through remote sensing. Using satellite imagery from across the post-harvest to pre-plant period, DTN will determine whether a cover crop was established by analyzing the vegetative density on the enrolled area. If a cover crop is detected on an enrolled field, and the farmer has uploaded all the required documents, they will be eligible for payment. If a cover crop is not detected, the DTN platform will show “documents requested” for that field. Farmers or their technical assistance providers can upload secondary verification documentation to demonstrate cover crop planting. Examples of these documents include:

- FSA-578, if the producer reported their cover crop acres to FSA
- Photograph(s) of the cover cropped field. Ideally, these will show both the cover crop (or cover crop residue) and the broader field for scale. It's not required, but if possible, metadata should be preserved that shows time and location where the photograph was taken.
- “As applied” map from machinery/precision software that shows the date and field passes associated with cover crop planting and/or termination.
- Seed purchase receipt, application invoice, or seed tags.
- A written attestation from the TA provider. Detail should be provided where appropriate about whether the TA saw the field, etc. This method should only be used in situations where the above four options are not possible.

The TA provider is responsible for reviewing and validating the secondary verification documents. Once TA providers approve the secondary verification documents through the DTN TA Portal, the field's status will change to “review accepted.”

Payment Processing

Incentive Structures:

Transition Incentive Payments (TIP): For newly planted cover crops (fields that were not cover cropped the year directly preceding enrollment). This incentive payment pays \$50 per acre over three years - \$25 year one, \$15 year two, and \$10 year three.

Signing Incentive Payments (SIP): For fields that were cover cropped the year directly preceding enrollment. This incentive payment pays \$2 per acre for one year and offers access to the exclusive Sustainability Marketplace.

Payment Process:

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the fiscal agent on Farmers for Soil Health, is responsible for distributing farmer payments. NFWF will review all the farmer documents (Subsidiary Print, W9, FSA-156ez, and FSA Maps) to verify eligibility, and confirm via DTN's satellite imagery or the State TA's secondary verification that cover crops were planted. Once all aspects of the enrollment are verified, NFWF will issue a check to the enrolled farmer. NFWF will not process a farmer's payment until each field in the enrollment is approved.

If NFWF finds any issues with the documents or the enrollment, they will contact the appropriate State TA to explain what is needed, and the TA will contact the farmer to revise all enrollment issues.

Due to the high volume of payments, NFWF will incur the expenses of approved farmer payments in a one-month period and invoice USDA for this amount. Once USDA disburses funding to NFWF, NFWF will issue checks to the farmers.

Physical checks will be mailed the address on the W-9 and subsidiary print. The checks come in a nondescript envelope, so NFWF will alert TA providers when checks go out, so they can in turn notify farmers to check their mail.

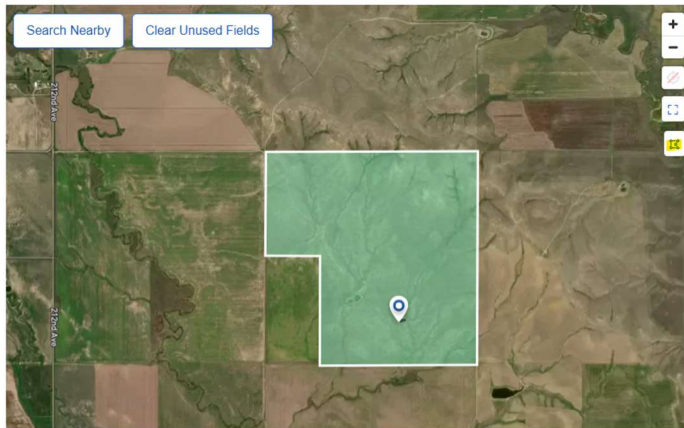
Appendix

Boundary Redrawing Tool

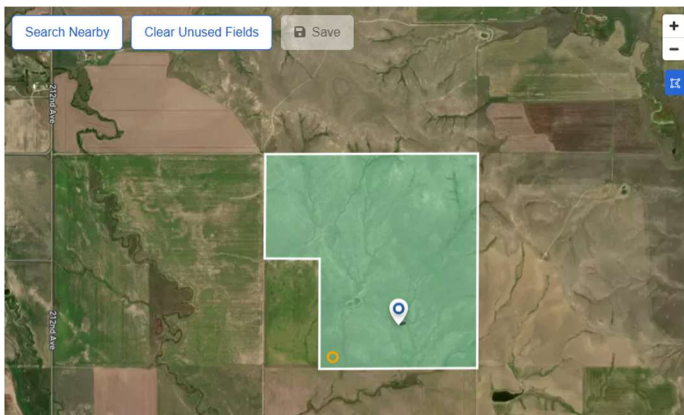
During enrollment, and sometimes while revising an enrollment, it will be appropriate to redraw the field boundary that is presented in the DTN platform. Because the DTN field boundaries may not be up to date, farmers may need to redraw the boundary to better align them with the FSA defined field boundary or enrolled acreage. This is most important when a large portion of the DTN boundary includes water, forest, grassland, or other noncropland, to ensure accurate remote sensing during MMRV.

The DTN drawing tool only works if a different shapefile is drawn within the existing CLU. The boundaries of the CLU will restrict the user from drawing outside of the lines.

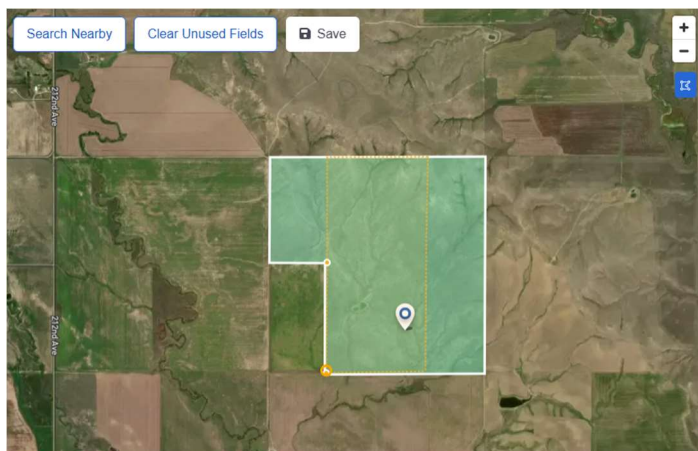
Step One: Press the highlighted drawing button



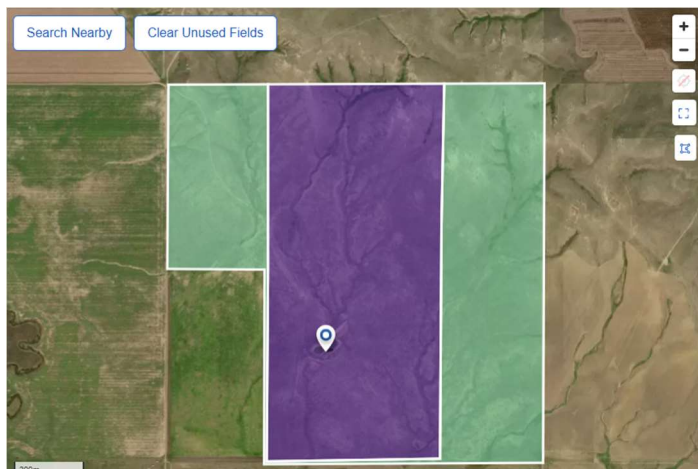
Step Two: Hover over and click the CLU that you would like to redraw



Step Three: Click each corner of the desired field boundary, ending at the starting point to draw a new field.



Step Four: Click “Save” to generate a new field



Step Five: The newly drawn boundary will appear in purple. Click on the new field to proceed with enrollment

Search Nearby

Clear Unused Fields

+

-

📍

🔍

Search by land name or land id

New cover crop planting

Land Name

Land ID

15980

Totals

Ongoing cover crop planting

Land Name

Land ID

Land Name

Acreage 140.1

Land ID 2145638673

How do you plan to manage/terminate this cover crop?
Please consult your state's NRCS Cover Crop (340) Conservation Practice Standard for eligible management and termination methods [here](#).

Select one option below

You must select one option.

Irrigation Type

Select an irrigation type

Is this field currently USDA-certified organic or transitioning to USDA-certified organic?

No

Tillage Method

Select a tillage method

Print Page

USDA Record Release Authorization

I hereby authorize FSA to release my below-identified farm records to the partners of the [USDA Farmers for Soil Health \(FSH\) Partnership](#) (Award # NR233A750004G003). This authorization is valid through the end Farmers for Soil Health Advancing Markets for Producers Initiative (AMP) in 2028. The following FSH partners will use the requested information only as is prescribed below:

- [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation \(NFWF\)](#) for the sole purpose of USDA reporting and farmer payment processing;
- [DTN](#) for the sole purpose of enrolling farmers, verifying farmer eligibility, and supporting and facilitating NFWF reporting to UDSA; and
- [FSH TA Subawardee Organization](#) for the sole purpose of providing technical assistance and enrollment support, as applicable.

Any data shared publicly will be aggregated and anonymized to protect personally identifiable information (PII).

For all farms, tracts, and fields listed on Page 2, please release the following **current year** farm records:

- Subsidiary print with Farm/Tract information;
- FSA farm/tract maps in .pdf and geoJSON formats;
- Form FSA-156EZ
- Form FSA578

Please send all files for my enrolled tracts and fields electronically to [FSH TA Subawardee name at email address](#).

Data Owner Signature	
Data Owner (Print Name)	
Date	
Farm Operation	
Operator	

Enrolled Farms, Tracts, and Fields

[illegible]