

STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

DIVISON OF ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH 28 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

AMANDA E, BEAL COMMISSIONER

To: Maine Hemp Growers

From: DACF Hemp Licensing Program (hemp@maine.gov; 207.287.7545)

Date: January 1, 2024

Re: FSA Reporting Guidance for Hemp Growers

The USDA requires that all hemp production must be reported to the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The FSA reporting is in addition to the Planting Report that you submit to the DACF Hemp Program. DACF is not permitted to transfer this information to FSA for you. You should report your hemp crops to FSA when you complete planting. You will need to add the FSA lot codes to DACF Hemp Program's Planting Report, which is due no later than two weeks after planting. We will not be able to sample and test your hemp lots without these codes.

To avoid making multiple trips to your FSA office, we offer the following guidance:

- 1. Find your <u>local FSA office</u> and call them. You'll need to set up an account. Any farm can register with FSA, but the reporting process for hemp is a little different, so it's important that you explain that you are a hemp grower and that you want an appointment to set up an account and report your acreage.
- 2. Here is the information you will need to provide:
 - a. A copy of your final license agreement, landowner agreement and any incorporation documents if that applies.
 - b. The identity of the hemp producer. This should match the license holder name on your license.
 - c. EIN number for businesses (or Social Security number for individuals).
 - d. Street address and/or geospatial coordinates for each field or facility where hemp is growing.
 - e. Once your account is established with the above information, you will report the amount of hemp planted by completing **Form FSA-578 Report of Acreage**. You will be reporting by hemp lots, just like you do for your DACF Planting Report.
 - i. Identify on the FSA map(s) the location and acreage where each hemp lot is growing.
 - ii. Your Maine Hemp License Number for the current season. Note that we are putting the number "23" at the start of our license numbers (23 stands for Maine). So, if your license number is "1550" it needs to be presented as "23_1550" to USDA and FSA.
 - iii. Date your hemp lot was planted.
 - iv. Hemp variety/cultivar planted. You will have to write this in.
 - v. Intended use of the hemp (e.g., "flower" denotes CBD, CBG, etc.).
- 3. Bring this guidance document with you to FSA. This is a new process for everyone, including Maine's FSA offices. Plan on the visit taking as much time as an hour.
- 4. Keep a copy of your **Form FSA-578** as part of your records for at least 3 years.

