

King Crop News



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Summer 2026

ACREAGE REPORTS DUE JULY 15!



July 15th is the acreage reporting deadline for corn, soybeans, grain sorghum and most processing vegetables. With input costs as high as they have ever been, margins are slim for farmers, which means accuracy in acreage reporting is extremely important.

For one thing, farmers do not want to report acreage in a field that does not have anything planted on it – you are insuring empty space. That not only means your premium will be higher due to increased acreage, but also your Actual Production History will take a hit because your bushels are spread over more acres.

One way to ensure you are insuring only what you plant is to use precision ag data from your monitor to report your acres. Used correctly, this data can be highly accurate and is allowable for reporting purposes. It may not seem like much, but shaving tenths of an acre here and there adds up to dollars saved over time. Let **King Crop Insurance** know if you would like to use your data this summer for your acreage reporting, it might save you time as well as money (*read more about this option on page 2 of this newsletter*).

Even if you do not or cannot use precision ag data, you will still want to be as accurate as possible when you report to **King Crop Insurance** and FSA. If you have not planted acres because of buffers, basins, or repurposed land, make sure we are aware. We do not want you to pay to protect land you did not

plant, but we need to know prior to the reporting deadline.

On the flip side, farmers do not want to be underinsured. Did you pick up land, clear land, or have land coming out of CRP? Did you add irrigation to any acres or take any towers down? Misreporting these acres could cost you protection and possibly money. Make your policy work for you, not the other way around.

Producers with processing vegetables are advised to make sure their contracts reflect their planted acres as well. Double-check your contracts (and make sure you send a copy to **King Crop Insurance!**) to ensure you are able to cover everything you plant.

After reporting your plantings and signing your acreage report, the next crucial step is reviewing your schedule of insurance, which is sent to you after your acreage report is processed by an underwriter. The schedule will tell you what you are insured for and what your guarantees are. Keeping a copy of this handy at harvest will let you track your production for possible claims and scanning the document can confirm the accuracy of your coverage.

The other post-acreage reporting duty that is of utmost importance is timely loss reporting. Do not hesitate to put in a notice of loss on a crop if you think there is a chance of low yields or if you need to replant.

Acreage reporting is where the rubber meets the road for crop insurance. Timely and accurate reporting is how farmers can get the most out of their policies. Contact **King Crop Insurance** with any questions you need or if you need any guidance.



SIGNED Acreage Reports Due July 15, 2026!
302.855.0800 Office
Website: www.kingcrop.com

302.470.7348 Text Line
Email: agents@kingcrop.com



Precision Ag - Report Once, Report Right

King Crop Insurance has been using farmers' precision ag planting data for acreage reporting purposes for nearly a decade. If you are using precision software to record your planted acres, there are multiple reasons to use that data to report your acres this summer.

1. Accuracy – Many fields have areas that a farmer either chooses not to plant or they simply cannot plant: too close to a tree line, low-lying mud pits, plots for building projects, noxious weed inundation, etc. Properly recorded planter data will not include these unplanted areas where traditionally the entire field would be reported on the FSA Form #578. Using precision ag data to report acres means unplanted acres are excluded, so the farmer does not pay premium on what they do not plant.

Conversely, there are times when, depending on the planter, a pass over a previously planted area might be recorded by the monitor – overlap. At **King Crop Insurance**, the reporting software we utilize to import your data is designed to compensate for overlap, so you are NOT double-reporting any acreage and you are NOT paying twice the premium on any plantings.

King Crop Insurance can import prescriptions for irrigated fields into our map software, separating acres under a pivot so dryland can be insured apart from the irrigated acres. This will be helpful if a claim is necessary and will also save on premium for most crops.

2. Simplicity – The process of reporting acres using precision ag data can be easy for farmers. For one thing, at King Crop Insurance, we can link with a variety of programs (John Deere Ops Center, Case FieldOps, Climate Fieldview, & AgFinity, to name just a few) and our systems can process raw data from a wide variety of file types. We also have multiple ways of retrieving

your data, so however your system is set up, we can find a way to access your files to record your acres.

Once **King Crop Insurance** has access to your data, we can record an accurate acreage report. After we have processed your plantings and you have approved the report, we can then send that report to your local FSA office to begin the completion of your 578. The goal is saving the farmer time by streamlining the reporting process.

3. Cost-Savings – as mentioned above, more accurate reporting saves farmers on premium and streamlined reporting saves farmers time, which is as valuable as money. Utilizing your precision ag data for reporting purposes is also a value-add for software and machinery farmers are already paying for anyway. Any more juice you can get out of the squeeze is another type of cost-savings for your operation.

Contact **King Crop Insurance** now if you want to discuss your reporting options!

Important Acreage Reporting Notes:

- Final Plant Dates for full insurability: Corn (5/31), Soybeans (7/5), Sweet Corn (6/30), Grain Sorghum (6/20), Lima Beans (7/10), Snap Beans (8/10).
- Cecil, Allegany, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, and Harford counties in Maryland have final plant dates of 6/10 for Corn. Allegany and Harford have final plant dates of 6/20 for soybeans.
- A few varieties of baby lima beans have final plant dates of 7/20: M15, Meadows, Cypress, C-Elite, & Emperor



There will be a new voice on the phone when you call **King Crop Insurance** and a new face to greet you at the **King Crop**

office in Georgetown. **We are excited to welcome Raegan Jackson to our team!** Raegan will be managing our office and supervising administrative duties. We hope everyone comes in during acreage reporting season to introduce themselves to Raegan!

Raegan brings with her a background in insurance, customer service, and relationship building. She enjoys connecting with people and looks forward to helping clients feel comfortable through the insurance process while bringing a positive, hard-working attitude to the workplace.

Outside of work, Raegan loves spending time with her boyfriend, Corey, baking homemade breads and sweets, decorating, and playing with her two dogs, Lexa and Leeroy. She also enjoys home and yard projects and anything that allows her to be creative. Raegan is excited to continue learning, growing, and becoming part of the **King Crop** family.

ONE FARMER, ONE FILE HAS PROMISE

At the Commodity Classic in Texas this March, US Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins announced the One Farmer, One File initiative to modernize reporting for US farmers with the Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency, and Natural Resources Conservation Services.

In a news release, the USDA said the action would bring about “sweeping technological improvements at [USDA]” and the mission is to “to create a single, streamlined record that follows the farmer – no matter where they go in the USDA system.”

The idea, that farmers will just need to report their data and sign off on it once, could save farmers time and a lot of headaches. Not only would it improve acreage reporting, it could also speed up the process of receiving benefits through conservation programs, as well as disaster relief and other ad hoc initiatives. It should also greatly reduce the amount of paperwork a farmer will have to endure.

Grower organizations such as American Farm Bureau Federation, American Soybean Association, and National Association of Wheat Growers have already applauded the announcement. Secretary Rollins, in her remarks, stated the project has already begun, and she expects large advancements in 2026, and completion in 2028.



DICAMBA HERBICIDES CLEARED FOR MID-ATLANTIC

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has lifted a two-year ban on dicamba-based herbicides in our region for use on soybeans. Three different varieties (Engenia, Styrax, & Tavium) are available for applications totaling no more than two times in the growing season.

According to Dr. Kurt Vollmer of Maryland Extension, each application is limited to 0.5 pounds per acre and farmers are required to practice runoff and drift control measures in accordance with the Endangered Species Act and there are also tem-

perature restrictions where the herbicide may not be applied when temperatures meet or exceed 95 degrees.

Contact your local Extension weed specialist for a full explanation of the requirements.



SUPER EL NIÑO RETURNS, AIMS TO KEEP FARMERS GUESSING

Our pals at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have announced the return of El Niño, the atmospheric condition that greatly influences weather patterns across the Pacific and Atlantic oceans and North America. This time, they have upped the ante by predicting the presence of a Super El Niño.

What makes a Super El Niño different from a run-of-the-mill El Niño? Technically, it is when ocean surface temperatures rise 2 degrees Celsius or more above normal. The weather effects caused by El Niño are intensified in the super-condition.

Extreme weather in the Pacific Ocean is more likely under a Super El Niño, but it can actually suppress hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean. According to Cornell University, the Mid-Atlantic usually sees milder fall and winter temperatures and the increased presence of Nor'easters. Areas north and south of our area tend to have greater fluctuations in temperature and precipitation compared to normal and the conditions in the Mid-Atlantic can differ from one event to the next.

The most recent occurrence of a Super El Niño was 2015-2016. 2015 saw twelve named storms during Atlantic hurricane season, including Hurricane Joaquin, whose storm surge led to announced states of emergency in multiple Mid-Atlantic states. 2016 had fifteen named storms, including the destructive Hurricane Matthew, a category 5 hurricane that led to hundreds of deaths and over \$15 billion worth in damages. The most recent El Niño Atlantic hurricane season was 2023, with twenty named storms, one of the most active on record.

All of this is to say, the only thing for certain is uncertainty. So, what else is new for farmers?