



# PRECISION FARMING TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

The following information provides a summary of the requirements needed to utilize Precision Farming Technology Systems (PFTS). Refer to paragraph's 821 and 931 of the 2021 Loss Adjustment Manual (LAM) (FCIC-25010) for a complete listing of all requirements:

<https://www.rma.usda.gov/en/Policy-and-Procedure/Loss-Adjustment-Standards---25000> (The LAM sections referenced above apply when the insured has utilized PFTS from planting through harvesting.)

*Note: Insureds should be advised to maintain alternate acceptable production records by unit in the event, the PFTS production records are determined to be unacceptable.*

## Planted Acreage Records from PFTS used as Determined Acres

For planted acreage records from automated planter monitoring systems to be acceptable as determined acres, the insured must provide:

- Insured's name, unit number, FSA tract/field ID numbers, legal description and a print out from the PFTS with the following information:
  - Crop name, acres planted, electronically produced maps of planted acreage and acreage summary records. (These records must show required discernible breaks between units or practices.)

*NOTE: If the system does not meet these requirements and/or does not meet all of the requirements as described in the LAM, the AIP must determine the acreage in accordance with subparagraph 821 A-F and J, as applicable.*

## Acceptable PFTS Records - Production to Count

Insureds should be advised to maintain alternate acceptable production records by unit in the event the PFTS production records are determined as unacceptable.

Acceptable PFTS records must include at least the following components:

- GPS technology integrated with planter monitors, combine monitors and yield mapping software;
- The ability to produce summary reports that reflect planted acres, harvested acres and harvested production;
- Report of calibrations performed per manufacturer's requirements.
- The insured must provide calibration documentation as described below.
- Insured's name, unit number, FSA farm/tract/field ID number (if applicable), legal description of acreage and a printout, by unit, of the following PFTS information:
  - Crop name, acres harvested, date harvested, total production (unadjusted for moisture) (Average moisture content must be adjusted in accordance with the Crop Provisions)
  - Yield maps and acreage/production summary records. These records, generated from the system, must show separate production records were maintained by unit and/or practice. These maps must be reviewed to identify harvested and unharvested (UH) acreage. If the map indicates UH acreage, a visual inspection is required to determine if crop appraisals are needed.

## ACCEPTABLE PFTS

Must include at least the following components:

- GPS technology integrated with planter monitors, combine monitors and yield mapping software;
- The ability to produce summary reports that reflect planted acres, harvested acres and harvested production; and
- Report of calibrations performed per manufacturer's requirements.

*Refer to page two for "Calibration Requirements".*

## Calibration of the Automated Yield Monitoring System - Required Documentation

- The insured must have calibrated the yield monitoring system at the beginning of harvest for each insured crop and crop year, in accordance with the operator's manual specifications.
- The sensor calibrations must not exceed three percent (3%) when compared to the actual weighed production harvested from the acreage used to calibrate the sensor. Refer to subparagraph 1002B of the 2021 LAM (Acceptable Scale Types). If the initial sensor calibration difference exceeds 3% when compared to the actual weighed production harvested from the acreage used to calibrate the sensor, additional calibration samples may be taken until the results are within tolerance.
  - This includes yield monitoring systems capable of self-calibrating. For crop insurance purposes, self-calibrating yield monitoring systems must be compared to actual weighed production harvested from the acreage at the beginning of harvest for each insured crop and crop year.
  - In the event the calibration exceeds 3% when compared to the actual production harvested from the acreage used to calibrate the sensor, **the PFTS records will not be considered acceptable as stand-alone production evidence but may be used like load records.** Post-harvest calibration of yield maps is not acceptable. The insured must provide documentation of the actual production based on acceptable production records.
  - Please refer to paragraph 931 of the 2021 LAM for additional information about additional post-harvest calibrations.
- The insured must provide documentation showing the sensor calibrations for the crop and crop year. The annual calibration report, from the yield monitor system or documentation from the insured, must include all calibrations and adjustments performed, by crop, for the crop year, including the date each calibration/adjustment was performed and the difference from the previous setting. The annual calibration report must be provided to the AIP or RMA.

## Unacceptable or Unreasonable PFTS Records

- If the AIP determines the PFTS production records are not acceptable, production must be determined in accordance with paragraph 1002 and paragraph 1003. The planter monitor acreage record can still be used as determined acres.
- If the production and yield map records provided by the insured are not reasonable, or the AIP has reason to question the production and/or yield map records, the insured must provide the PFTS or yield monitor system's raw data and any additional production records requested by the AIP. If after reviewing the system's raw data, the PFTS production records are determined not acceptable, production must be determined in accordance with paragraph 1002 and paragraph 1003 of the 2021 LAM.

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