### Question | Answer
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What is the new Unit Number Structure for 2011? | For 2011 the Unit Number will consist of two separate fields that combined with the Unit Structure Code will provide a hierarchy for reporting. The first field in the hierarchy is the Basic Unit Number (4 digits) which is used in conjunction with the Unit Structure Code of Basic Unit, “BU”. The second level of hierarchy is the Optional Unit Number (4 digits) and is used in conjunction with the Unit Structure Code of Optional Unit, “OU”, “UA” or “UD”. Following the Optional Unit Number will be the Unit Structure Code.

What are the Unit Structure Code values for 2011? | The Unit Structure Code is a two position alpha-character field that identifies the insured’s unit election for the crop year, valid values are as follows:

a) **BU** - Basic Unit  
b) **OU** - Optional Unit  
c) **UD** - OU established by unit division option  
d) **UA** - OU established by a written unit agreement”.  

Following the Unit Structure Code will be the APH Procedural Exception Number (3 digits) and finally the APH Procedural Exception Code (1 character).

What is the APH Procedural Exception Number? Why do we need it? | The APH Procedural Exception Number is a unique three digit number used only when reporting of multiple “APH Databases” is allowed. It is only applicable to the Acreage, “P11” and Yield, “P15” record set and should be empty unless required to uniquely identify which Yield “P15” record set should be used by the Acreage, “P11” record. The value on the P11 record must match the value reported on the corresponding P15 record for the APH Procedural Exception Number.

What are the APH Procedural Exception Code values? | The APH Procedural Exception Code Values are Added Land, “A”, Blocked Production of Category C Commodities, “B” Combination or Division of Unit by Practice or Type, “C” and Skip Row Grain Sorghum, “S”. If the APH Procedural Exception Code does not meet one of the conditions specified both the APH Procedural Exception Number and the APH Procedural Exception Code should be empty. The value on the P11 record must match the value reported on the corresponding P15 record for the APH Procedural Exception Code.
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| What is the Unit Number structure for 2011? | The unit number is a eight-position number divided into two separate fields;  
1) Basic Unit Number (4-digit numeric)  
2) Optional Unit Number (4-digit numeric)  
The unit number is used in conjunction with the additional two position alpha-character field (Unit Structure Code) to designate the unit structure elected by the insured. Values equal “BU, OU, UA and UD”.  
The APH Procedural Exception Number and Code will be used when multiple “APH Databases” are submitted due to a procedural exception. The APH Procedural Exception Number and Code only apply to the P11 and P15 records.  
Example Unit Numbers:  
a) An insured elects OUs and has two OUs within one BU. The unit numbers submitted would be as follows:  
   1) 0001-0001  
      i. OU  
   2) 0001-0002  
      ii. OU  
b) An insured with different share arrangements, an OU structure, and they elect an EU for the current crop year. The unit numbers would be as follows:  
   1) 0001-0001-EU owns100% share, section 3  
   2) 0001-0002-EU rents 100% share from landowner A, section 5  
   3) 0001-0003-EU owns100% share, section 19  
   4) 0002-0001-EU 60% share with landowner B, section 2  
   5) 0002-0002-EU 60% share with landowner B, section 3  
   6) 0002-0003-EU 60% share with landowner B, section 7  
   7) 0003-0001-EU 60% share with landowner C, section 2  
   8) 0003-0002-EU 60% share with landowner C, section 5  
   9) 0003-0003-EU 60% share with landowner C, section 33 |
**Why is RMA changing the Unit Number structure and reporting scheme in 2011?**

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| Unit Number size is increasing to fix the outstanding issues in DAS and to give room for future growth. Separating the Unit Number into three fields will serve to facilitate reporting and provide clarity when aligning with the Unit Structure Code as well as allowing RMA the ability to apply production to the land appropriately. The new APH Procedural Exception Number and Code support the requirement for multiple “APH Databases”. The 2011 implementation of the Unit Number will allow producers to maintain their records at the level they determine appropriate and report to PASS at that same level. This means the Unit Structure may be at a higher level than the data reported to PASS. For example, Unit Structure Code may be Basic Unit, “BU” but data will be reported thru PASS at the Optional Unit Level, “OU”.

Other potential benefits for the AIP’s include reduction of overhead associated with unit restructuring caused by changes in use of the Unit Structure and elimination of the need to maintain multiple redundant levels of data for reporting.

Primary areas impacted by this change:

1. The underlying rules that determine when optional units are allowed and how to determine basic units are not changing. The Basic Unit Number will be used in conjunction with the Unit Structure Code of “BU”, Optional Unit Number and will be used in conjunction with the Unit Structure Codes of “OU”, “UA” or “UD”. The intent is to allow the AIP’s to report information at the level the producer keeps records, and reduce the need for re-numbering Unit Numbers from year-to-year. The unit numbers do not need to change if the only difference year-to-year is a change in the Unit Structure Code. Finally, Unit Numbers as much as possible should be consistent across commodities.

2. The inclusion of the APH Procedural Exception Number and the APH Procedural Exception Code allow for accurate reporting for those instances where multiple “APH Databases” are required.

3. The AIP Yield Key must be unique within the Reinsurance Year, AIP, Policy and Insurance In Force for each Yield, “P15” record. It will be used to associate a Yield, “P15” record to the Acreage, “P11” record for the purposes of establishing the Approved Yield. The match will be used to tie the Approved Yield on the Acreage, “P11” to the Yield, “P15” record.

4. Once the unit-numbering scheme is set by the submission of the Acreage, “P11” record, all following submissions including downstream records such as the Land, “P27” record and the Claims, “P21” record must follow that same unit number scheme until the end of the Reinsurance Year cycle.

5. For 2011, two new Optional Units, “OU” unit structure codes will be accepted by PASS. These are “UA” to identify a Written Agreement unit and “UD” to identify a Unit Division option. These new unit structure codes are established differently than the policy provisions by Written Agreement and may represent different land than what may be reported under an OU for that policy in prior years. These new codes will be used as optional unit codes and require no special provisions.
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<td><strong>How is the Unit Structure Code used?</strong></td>
<td>The Unit Structure Code on the Acreage, “P11” record will be used to determine how actuarial calculations should work. This includes but is not limited to such calculations as the basic unit discount, whole farm and enterprise calculations. It is no longer required that the unit-numbering scheme used when reporting to PASS match the Unit Structure Code. It is only required that the unit-numbering scheme be at or lower than the level of the Unit Structure Code and all records at and below the level of the Unit Structure Code be relevant. For determining Optional Units where multiple Basic Unit numbers are identified, PASS will use both the Optional and Basic Unit numbers to determine the Optional Unit, e.g., 0001-0001, 0001-0002, and 0002-0001 identifies 3 separate Optional Units.</td>
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| **How does Unit Numbering work when Units are Combined?** | Numbering if Units are Combined, when OU production is commingled and OUs are being combined, unit numbering should be handled as follows:  
  a) The first set of four digits of the combined unit number designate the BU 0001.  
  b) The second set of four digits designate the OUs. If, after the combination, three or more OUs remain, the combined unit number should be the lowest unit number of the units which were combined.  
  c) The third set of values indicate the Unit Structure Code designation for these units.  
  
  **Example:**  
  Original units are 0001-0001-OU, 0001-0002-OU, and 0001-0003-OU.  
  If 0001-0001-OU and 0001-0002-OU are combined due to commingled production, the revised acreage report and unit numbers would be 0001-0001-OU and 0001-0003-OU. |
| **How is Master Yield affected by changes to the Unit Number?** | Master Yield Summary P15 records are identified with all zeros in the Unit Numbers, and “M” in the Yield Indicator Code field. The Approved Yield on a P15 record may be replaced with the Approved Yield from the Master Yield record when the business key of the Master Yield matches the business key of the Yield record. Both the Master Yield and the Yield records must have “M” in the Yield Indicator Code field. In this case, the Approved Yield on the P15 record will not be validated against the P15 Yield History records accompanying the Yield Record. The Master Approved Yield will then be used on the corresponding P11 Acreage record.  
  
  Master Yield Summary must have at least 4 years of Actual History but can have up to 10 years of History. When 4 years of actual history are available and the policies & procedures allow, the producer can elect to use the Master Yield information to calculate the Approved Yield on the Acreage, “P11” record, but is not required to do so. |
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<td>How is Personal T-Yield affected by changes to the Unit Number?</td>
<td>Personal T-Yield P15 records are identified with all zero’s in the Unit Number fields. Personal T-Yield is substituted on the Yield History record for County T-Yield and is then used to calculate the appropriate Approved Yield when the T-Yield option is identified in the Yield Option Code List on the P15. The T-Yield on the P15A record may then be replaced with the Personal T-Yield from the Personal T-Yield record when the business key of the Personal T-Yield record matches the business key of the Yield record and policies &amp; procedures allow.</td>
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| What are Section, Section Equivalents and FSN’s and how do they affect the Unit Structure Code? | **Sections** - The definition of a section for unit structure: is a unit of measure under a rectangular survey system describing a tract of land usually one mile square and usually containing approximately 640 acres.  

**Section Equivalents** - In some areas of some states (e.g., Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, New Mexico, Ohio and Texas), other methods of measure (i.e., Spanish grants, railroad surveys, leagues, labors, Virginia Military Lands etc.) are employed. If these units of measure are legally recorded and consist of at least 640 acres, they will be considered a section equivalent.  

**Examples of section equivalents:**  

![Diagram of 740 acres and 645 acres]  

**FSA FSNs**. FSA assigns farm serial numbers (FSNs) to farms owned or operated by a person. |
Order of Precedence. The order of precedence to determine whether sections, section equivalents, or FSA FSNs are used to determine OUs is:

(a) Section;

(b) Section equivalent, containing at least 640 acres;

(c) FSA Farm Serial Numbers in the absence of section descriptions or section equivalents.

Order of Precedence Examples:

Assume that for each survey identified, the insured has kept separate records of acreage and production, the survey boundaries are clearly visible, and that the planting pattern does not cross the survey boundaries.

Example:
The County is primarily surveyed in sections one-mile square containing approximately 640 acres. However, some of land is surveyed using other methods than sections.

Units are determined by precedence as follows:

Section 1 is a separate OU (section) - 00101

Survey #3 is a separate OU ("section equivalent" survey containing 640 acres or more) - 00102

Survey #2, #4 and #5 are each FSN OUs (FSN units in the absence of section and "section equivalent" descriptions) - 00103, 00104 and 00105.
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Example 2: Spanish Land Grant

Units are determined by precedence as follows:

Survey #79 is a separate OU ("section equivalent") - 00101

Survey #78 is an OU (FSN unit in absence of "section equivalent" description) - 00102

Surveys #76, and #77 is one OU (FSN unit in absence of "section equivalent" descriptions because each survey contains less than 640 acres and is a single FSN.) - 00103

NACAT
### Unit Division Option

- **Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Texas**

In areas of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Texas not surveyed under the U.S. Rectangular Survey System or similar surveys allowing for sections or “section equivalents” insured’s may request the Unit Division Option to aggregate two or more, (any shape) legally identifiable parcels of land of less than 640 acres into "section equivalents" for OU Division purposes in lieu of FSA FSNs.

For the purpose of this option, if a survey is required to identify the parcels of land, the parcels are not legally identified. A unit cannot be divided by a physical boundary (i.e., road, creek, drainage ditch, fence, etc.) which is NOT identified by a legal survey.

### Unit Division Option Instructions:

1) **OUs for the Proposed Aggregation.** To qualify for OUs for the proposed aggregation, the insured MUST comply with the production reporting, record, and planting pattern guidelines specified in the applicable crop policy or actuarial documents.

2) **Policies with More than One AIP.** If the insured has policies with more than one AIP, the insured must decide which AIP to work with to develop the Unit Division Option aggregate and then provide the other AIP(s) copies of the Unit Division Option on or before the ARD.

3) **Establish the Same Aggregated OUs.** The insured MUST establish the same aggregated OUs for all crops insured by all AIPs. The purpose of the option is to provide aggregated OUs on the same basis as those determined by section under the Rectangular Survey System.

   a) **More than one Unit Division Option.** If it is discovered that the insured has more than one Unit Division Option, the one with the earliest signature date will apply.

   b) **Limited to BU's.** If the insured does not have acreage and production records or does not file required production to support the aggregated OUs, the insured will be limited to BU's for the crop(s).

   c) **Bona fide landlord - tenant arrangements (companion policies) are not required to have the same aggregated OUs.** If a landlord and a tenant have different aggregated OUs, each person or policy will have its own approved APH yield and unit arrangement.
### Unit Division Option Instructions continued:

4) Continuous Option. The option is a continuous option and applies (until canceled) to any crop for which OU(s) are chosen. Written documentation must be completed on the UDO by the applicable ARD.

   a) If the insured chooses OU(s) for any crop(s), the aggregated OU(s) established on the option apply to all insured crop(s) permitted OU(s) by section.

   b) If the insured does not want OU(s) for a crop(s), the option is not effective for that crop(s).

   c) All parcels of the aggregated OU must be legally identified by number or name of each parcel (donation, section, labor, block, tract, etc.), and identified on the option.

   d) All parcels of land in an aggregated OU must be contiguous (lie adjacent to each other). It is not required that the aggregated OU be of a rectangular shape. Aggregated acreage may or may not be classified as cropland.

   e) Ownership or control of all land in the aggregate by the insured is not required.

   f) If the insured starts farming additional land that was not included in any of the aggregated OU(s), the added land may be:

      i) Added to an existing aggregated OU,
      
      or

      ii) Combined with other non-aggregated land to form its own aggregated OU.

      The additional or added land must be contiguous.

5) OU(s)

   OU(s) determined by sections or “Section equivalents” (single parcels containing at least 640 acres) are not required to be entered on the option.

6) Agents Will Prepare the Option.