



Ag-Analytics

Collection of the 2008 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Common Land Unit (CLUs) Boundaries Terms of Use and License Agreement

Ag-Analytics Technology Company, LLC.
2019

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THESE DATA HAVE NOT BEEN UPDATED TO CURRENT BOUNDARIES AND ONLY CONTAIN FIELD BOUNDARIES AND CALCULATED ACREAGE IN SHAPEFILE FORMAT. SHAPEFILES ARE PROVIDED BY COUNTY. THE COVERAGE OF THE DATA AND/OR COLLECTION COVER THE VAST MAJORITY OF COUNTIES IN THE U.S. BUT ARE NOT NECESSARILY COMPLETE AND THERE MAY BE GAPS.

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Description

Common Land Unit (CLU) boundaries are farm/field boundaries used by USDA in the delivery of certain farm programs. It is not uncommon for more than one crop to be grown on a CLU. These CLU boundaries are derived from the last publicly available distribution from 2008.

A single CLU is approximately interpreted as a "field". A Common Land Unit (CLU) is the smallest unit of land that has a permanent, contiguous boundary, a common land cover and land management, a common owner and a common producer in agricultural land associated with USDA farm programs.

CLU boundaries are delineated from relatively permanent features such as fence lines, roads, and/or waterways. CLU boundaries were last published in 2008. The 2008 Farm Bill included sections that prohibited USDA from releasing further CLU updates.

See: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/aerial-photography/imagery-products/common-land-unit-clu/index>

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Total there are 890,777,053 acres and 31,112,827 fields covered in the entire dataset. USDA estimates there is about 915 million acres of farmland in the United States in 2014.

FSA Description of CLUs

When the Common Land Unit tract and field boundaries are digitized from photography, a confidence level of 90% with a tolerance of three meters (approximately 10 feet) from ground features visible on the photography is used. The photomaps are an image base of digital ortho quadrangles mosaicked together creating a seamless image base which eliminates any offset that would normally be present between standard USGS quarter-quadrangles.

Each CLU defined in the GIS database will be automatically identified and tracked, for national purposes, with an ID number assigned by the automated system. This ID is not visible to the user, but can be accessed when needed. The ID is a unique computer-generated number (GUID) that is created and will never be reused.

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Citation

Users who use these CLU data in their Applications must use the button provided below.



Users who use in publications or data analysis must cite us in your publications as

"2008 Public FSA Common Land Units obtained via Ag-Analytics.Org (Woodard,2016a; Woodard, 2016b)" or similar with the following references:

- 1.) Woodard, J.D., "Big data and Ag-Analytics: an open source, open data platform for agricultural & environmental finance, insurance, and risk," Agricultural Finance Review, (2016) 76(1):15-26.
- 2.) Woodard, J.D., "Data Science and Management for Large Scale Empirical Applications in Agricultural and Applied Economics Research," Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy, (2016) 38(3): 373-388.

Each county zip file contains a shapefile, with format clu_public_a_SSFFF where SS is the State abbreviation and FFF is the 3 digit county fips code (e.g., clu_public_a_il001 is Adams County, IL)

Format: vector polygon - Arc shapefiles

Spatial Reference Information: Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Dominant Zone, North American Datum 1983

Please contact Joshua Woodard, josh@ag-analytics.org or woodardjoshua@gmail.com, with any comments or questions.

