#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency Washington, DC 20250 **Notice COR-129** 

For: National, State, and County Offices

# **Recommendations for FY 2016 National Office-Directed Target Reviews**

**Approved by:** Associate Administrator for Operations and Management



#### 1 Overview

# A Background

In August 2013 the Operations Review and Analysis Staff (ORAS) sought recommendations from SED's and applicable National Office FSA managers for National Office-directed target reviews of county operations to be conducted in FY 2014.

Based on recommendations received, the following areas were selected for review:

- CRP Status Reviews performed in FY 2013
- FSFL's disbursed in FY 2013
- ECP and CRP C/S agreements with performance reported and CRP Practice Incentive Payments (PIP's) issued in calendar year 2014.

All of these reviews were implemented; however, implementation occurred across FY's 2014 and 2015, instead of the intended FY 2014 only.

With the goal of a more structured, timely implementation in mind, ORAS requests input from SED's and National Office FSA managers on the program and/or administrative operations to be reviewed during National Office-directed reviews for 2016.

**Note:** Although the same programs, but different locations, could be reviewed under the national reviews, these reviews would be in addition to the annual Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (IPIA) reviews.

This input will facilitate ORAS's development of the FY 2016 National Office-directed target review plan that will outline a series of reviews, each with a specific scope. SED's and National Office FSA managers will be notified of the plan as soon as it is developed.

Disposal Date	Distribution
January 1, 2016	National and State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices, CORP Coordinators, and COR's
10.06.15	D 4

10-26-15 Page 1

#### **Notice COR-129**

### 1 Overview (Continued)

# A Background (Continued)

County operations reviews:

- can be beneficial for gaining insight into the strengths and weaknesses in program implementation
- provide training experiences for County Offices that are reviewed.

## **B** Purpose

This notice provides instructions for SED's and National Office FSA managers on providing recommendations for the programs and/or administrative operations to ORAS for the development of the FY 2016 National Office-directed target review plan.

# 2 Developing Recommendations

#### A Areas of Consideration for Review

The following areas may be considered for inclusion in the National Office-directed target review:

- administrative operations, such as COC minutes, receipts and deposits management
- common provisions, such as HELC/WC, acreage reporting
- programs, such as ARC/PLC, guaranteed loan making, MAL repayments.

### **B** Scope of Recommended Reviews

An entire administrative operation or program area, or a portion thereof, may be recommended for review. SED's and National Office FSA managers shall carefully consider the scope of each area to recommend, so only the most critical issues are recommended for review.

10-26-15 Page 2

# **2** Developing Recommendations (Continued)

#### **C** Recommendations

When determining what to recommend for review, SED's and National Office FSA managers should seek input from managers under their supervision, such as CED's, DD's, FLM's, Program Chiefs, Program Managers, etc.

Each SED and National Office FSA manager shall compile input received into 1 response for their area of responsibility.

**Note:** Applicable National Office FSA managers include the following:

- DAFLP
- DAFO
- DAFP
- DAM
- Director, EPAS
- Director, OBF
- Director, OBPI
- Director, OCR
- Director, OEA
- CIO.

## **3 Submitting Recommendations**

### **A E-Mail Recommendations**

SED's and National Office FSA managers shall submit their recommendations directly to all of the following by e-mail.

ORAS	E-mail
Perry Thompson, Director	perry.thompson@wdc.usda.gov
Iris Evans, Agricultural Program Specialist	iris.evans@wdc.usda.gov
Jonna Miller, Agricultural Program Specialist	jonna.miller@wdc.usda.gov

### **B** Deadline

The deadline for submitting recommendations to ORAS is **November 9, 2015**. Negative responses are required.

10-26-15 Page 3