UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency Washington, DC 20250 **Notice LP-2202**

For: State and County Offices

FY 2014 National CORP Review for Improper Payments of MAL's

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs

of Michael Dhuto

1 FY 2014 MAL Improper Payments

A Background

The Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA) of 2002 requires Federal agencies to evaluate programs to determine whether internal controls are sufficient to prevent issuing improper payments.

IPIA reviews enable FSA to have reliable and statistical data to determine:

- the effectiveness of programs
- whether adequate management controls are in place to conform to IPIA requirements.

OMB defines an improper payment as any payment that should **not** have been issued or was issued for an incorrect amount under statutory, contractual, administrative, or other legally applicable requirements. Incorrect amounts include both overpayments and underpayments.

FSA continues to make eliminating improper payments a top priority and has incorporated the priority into strategic planning and performance measures.

B Purpose

This notice:

- is being issued as part of FSA's Corrective Action Plan as required under IPIA
- informs State and County Offices of FY 2014 CORP findings for FY 2013 MAL disbursements
- **requires** follow-up action in all County Offices to ensure that all offices and employees are aware of the errors identified and the proper procedures for these findings.

Disposal Date	Distribution
April 1, 2015	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

2 IPIA Findings

A FY 2014 IPIA MAL Rate

The FY 2014 improper payment rate for MAL is .86 percent, up from the .34 percent error rate reported in FY 2013. The following table provides error rates for the past 3 years.

Program Name	FY of Review	Error Rate
MAL's	2012	.08 percent
	2013	.34 percent
	2014	.86 percent

B MAL Specific CORP Findings

The following table provides MAL application CORP findings. MAL producer eligibility findings are in subparagraph C.

Description of		
Findings	Procedure Reference	Policy
Signature on note and	8-LP, subparagraph 509 B.	MAL shall not be:
security agreement		
obtained after loan		 approved until the note and
disbursement.		security agreement is signed by
Note and Security		all required borrowers, and
Agreements not		_
approved on or before		disbursed by an individual
the date of loan		delegated, or redelegated to
disbursement.		approve MAL's.
Determination of	8-LP, subparagraph 230 E.	COC shall annually determine
reasonable quantity is		reasonable maximum yields for each
not made.		commodity based on crop and
		growing conditions in the county.
		Document in COC minutes. The
		County Office shall determine
		maximum reasonable quantity and
		available amount according to
		Notice PS-726.
Incorrect loan rate	8-LP, paragraphs 234, 506,	The Loan rate for all MAL's:
used.	and 540.	
		• is the applicable loan rate for the
		county where the commodity is
		stored, and adjusted for
		reductions according to 8-LP,
		paragraph 520

2 IPIA Findings (Continued)

B MAL Specific CORP Findings (Continued)

Description of		
Findings	Procedure Reference	Policy
Incorrect loan rate used. (Cntd)	8-LP, paragraphs 234, 506, and 540.	 stored in a warehouse is not: reduced to reflect storage paid through maturity
		Note: If receipt indicates that storage is not paid through loan maturity, see subparagraph 540 G for acceptable documentation.
		 adjusted for premiums and discounts for any commodity except cotton and peanuts.
Loan quantity was determined not reasonable.	8-LP subparagraph 230 G.	For MAL quantities that exceed COC maximum established yield, counties must, in all cases, follow 8-LP, subparagraph 230 G.
Required lien waivers were not obtained.	8-LP, paragraph 505.	CCC-679's shall be obtained before loan disbursement. Under no circumstances shall the County Office initiate the MAL disbursement process before all required CCC-679's are received. If CCC-679 cannot be obtained, the loan shall not be disbursed.
CCC-10 is not on file.	8-LP, paragraph 502.	CCC-10 is required for all MAL's. If CCC-10 is already on file and the information is still correct, a new CCC-10 is not required.
Basis of quantity determination on CCC-666 is not completed.	8-LP, paragraph 500 and subparagraph 524 A, item 14.	Acceptable basis of quality determination is required. If item 14 is not completed according to subparagraph 524 A, then MAL will be considered an improper payment.
Loan forms and security agreements were approved by employees without redelegation of authority.	8-LP, subparagraph 2 B and 16-AO, paragraphs 212 through 214.	COC is authorized to approve all MAL documents. COC must redelegate to CED this approval authority. CED may redelegate to Federal and non-Federal County Office employees, approval authority for specific forms and/or programs. Redelegations must be documented in the COC minutes.

2 IPIA Findings (Continued)

C MAL Producer Eligibility CORP Findings

The following table provides MAL producer eligibility CORP findings. These findings may also apply to LDP's.

Description of Findings	Procedure Reference	Policy
An acceptable acreage report for all cropland on the farm is not on file.	8-LP, paragraphs 200 and 201, 2-CP, paragraphs 16 and 19.	To be eligible for MAL and LDP benefits on any production from a specific farm, acreage for all cropland under that farm number must be reported according to 2-CP. All cropland on the farm must be reported by the final crop reporting date applicable in the State or all production from that farm is ineligible. This is a statutory requirement included in the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) at Sec. 1118(c). See 2-CP, paragraphs 318 and 380.5 for information on a Crop Acreage Reporting System report for identifying "Farms with Unreported Cropland".
Report of acreage for applicable crop not on file.	8-LP, paragraphs 200 and 201.	Only crops reported with applicant having a share in the commodity are eligible for MAL and LDP. Exception: Acreage reports for producers requesting wool, mohair, and honey MAL's and LDP's, are only required if the producer has cropland.
AD-1026 not on file for producer or affiliated producers.	8-LP, paragraphs 200 and 201, 6-CP, paragraphs 301 and 302.	AD-1026 is required for all producers and affiliated persons, according to 6-CP, before MAL's and LDP's are approved and disbursed.

3 Additional Requirements for Crop Year 2014

A Additional Information

Because of the increased error rate for MAL's, additional steps are being taken to ensure that proper procedure is being followed when processing MAL disbursements. In addition, because of lower commodity prices, MAL and LDP activity will likely increase in the next few years and County Offices have many new employees who are working with MAL's for the first time.

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3 Additional Requirements for Crop Year 2014 (Continued)

A Additional Information (Continued)

With the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill), new eligibility requirements are applicable to MAL's and LDP's. To ensure that employees are following proper procedure, training presentations and updated CCC-770 checklists have been developed and are now available.

B Required Training

Power Point training presentations on MAL and LDP policy requirements have been developed and are available on the DAFP intranet web site. Because it has been a number of years since LDP's have been issued, and cotton is in LDP status, LDP policy training is included as a refresher for employees.

All County Office employees working with MAL's and LDP's are required to access and complete the training. Both presentations should only take 10 to 15 minutes each to complete. The training shall be completed **within 4 weeks** after this notice is issued.

Exception: Employees hired within the last 12 months or employees without prior MAL and LDP experience shall complete the training **within 2 weeks** after issuance of this notice.

After the training has been completed:

- CED's shall send the names of employees and date completed to their price support State Office specialists within 1 month after the issuance of this notice
- State Office specialists shall:
 - within 6 weeks after the issuance of this notice, consolidate the lists and e-mail 1 list to **deann.allen@wdc.usda.gov**
 - ensure that all employees working with MAL's and LDP's have reviewed the training slides.

To access the training slides, log into the DAFP web site at http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov/DAFP and CLICK:

- DAFP Training Web Site
- Other Farm Programs Training
- MAL 2014 Farm Bill or LDP 2014 Farm Bill.

Note: The training slides may be printed for future reference.

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3 Additional Requirements Crop Year 2014 (Continued)

C CCC-770 Checklists

The CCC-770 checklists for MAL's and LDP's have been revised to incorporate the eligibility changes beginning with the 2014 crop year. The revised CCC-770 MAL (Exhibit 1) and CCC-770 LDP (Exhibit 2) are attached.

Because of the increase in improper payments, all County Office employees working with MAL's and LDP's, after receipt of this notice and at the beginning of each crop year, are required to:

- complete CCC-770 MAL for the first 3 MAL's processed
- complete CCC-770 LDP for the first 5 LDP's processed.

Notes: SED's may require new employees or employees processing MAL's and LDP's for the first time, to complete more than the required number of CCC-770's.

The requirement for completing additional CCC-770's will be effective after the receipt of this notice. MAL's and LDP's already completed do **not** need to be reviewed.

In addition, the applicable CCC-770 form is **required** to be completed for any MAL or LDP that was disbursed, reversed with a receivable established, and is being re-entered. The applicable CCC-770 **must** be completed before the MAL or LDP is re-entered to ensure that all eligibility requirements and signatures have been obtained.

D Action

SED's shall ensure that:

- applicable State Office program chiefs and specialists review this notice, and all related CORP reports in detail to develop Corrective Action Plans as needed, to ensure that County Offices follow applicable program procedures issued through national notices and program handbooks
- additional internal control procedures are developed to avoid findings indicated by any CORP reviews for the specified program according to 8-LP, subparagraph 23
- applicable State Office program divisions provide additional training where needed and implement Corrective Action Plans to reduce improper payments
- DD's review this notice with CED's and PT's within their respective districts.

Example CCC-770 MAL

This is an example of CCC-770 MAL page 1.

	CC-770 MAL 2-09-14)		OF AGRICULTURE ty Credit Corporation	1. Name of Ap	plicant						
MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOAN (MAL) PROCESSING CHECKLIST		2. Date of App	3. Loan Warei Sto	nouse	Farm Stored						
		OMMODITIES EXCE		4. State Office	State Office Name		5. County Office, DMA or CMA Name				
6.	Commodity	7. Class/Type	8. Crop Year	9. Loan Numbe	er 10. Warehouse Code	11. No.	of Warehou	ise Receip	ts:		
						Paper:		EWR:			
12	. MAL Request	t/Application:	1	,	Handbook or Other Applicable References	YES	NO	N/A	Initia		
	farm stored loans peanuts? Note: (oroperly completed and si and warehouse stored to CCC-666 can also be rec termined by State Office.	oans for all commoditie	s except	8-LP, paragraphs 500, 540 and 524	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
B.		tored loans, has the pape ower or CCC made holde		/	8-LP, paragraph 545		***************************************				
C.		service is requested, has applicable portions of the			8-LP, paragraphs 524 and 525		O A SA S				
D.		operly completed, signed	and on file for all type	s of loan	8-LP, paragraph 502						
13	. Producer/Co	mmodity Eligibility V	erification:	:							
Α.		been properly complete modity? (Not applicable		plicant has a	8-LP, paragraph 200						
В.	applicant understa	on the farm been reported and that all cropland on the te in the State or all produce able for CMA's).	he farm must be report	ed by the final	8-LP, paragraph 20 <i>0</i>						
C.	Has AD-1026 bee 6-CP?	en filed by applicant and	all affiliated persons ac	cording to	6-CP, paragraphs 17, 302 and 601						
D.		nd all affiliated persons, a foreign person, controlled			8-LP, paragraphs 201-20	3					
E.		require a CCC-666, did t o-applicant delinquent on			8-LP, paragraphs 202, 523 and 524						
F.		ligibility (in existence and cation on CCC-666 or by			8-LP, paragraph 225						
		n requested on or before			8-LP, paragraph 226						
H.	commodity? Note	quested within the COC-occupies. County Office MUST do quantity, as applicable.			8-LP, paragraph 230						
***		ty review been properly c is initialed by the review		? Ensure	8-LP, paragraph 234						
14	. MAL Process	sing/Approval:									
Α.		een properly filed and ve ? (Not applicable for C		eceived on all	8-LP, paragraph 521, an subparagraphs 504B and						
В.		been performed, if applied in the loan folder. (Not			8-LP, paragraph 504						
C.	Have all required county office?	lien waivers been signed	by lienholders and an	e on file in the	8-LP, paragraph 505						

Example CCC-770 MAL (Continued)

This is an example of CCC-770 MAL, page 2.

14. MAL Processing/Approval (Continuation):	Handbook or Other Applicable References	YES	NO	N/A	Initials
D. For DAFP authorized loan deductions, were the deductions submitted on a statement of charges signed by the producer?	8-LP, paragraphs 505 and 547				
E. Were authorized deductions and joint payments made according to lienholder instructions on CCC-679?	8-LP, paragraph 505				
F. Were CCC-683, Commodity Loan Seals provided for farm stored MAL?	8-LP, paragraph 523 and Exhibit 16				
G. Has the CCC-665, Agreement for Grain Pledged as Collateral for CCC Commodity Loans, been properly completed and all required signatures obtained, if applicable for commingled production?	8-LP, paragraph 527				
H. Was the applicable loan rate for the stored commodity requested for loan verified? Note: Loan rate is based on where the commodity is stored.	8-LP paragraph 506				
 Has a second party review been properly completed on CCC-677 or CCC-678 with the reviewer initialing the applicable form? 	8-LP, paragraph 234				
J. For MAL disbursements greater than \$150,000, if loan proceeds will be used for lobbying, has SF-LLL been obtained?	8-LP, paragraph 28				
K. Is the CCC-677 or CCC-678 approved by an individual delegated or re-delegated to approve these forms?	8-LP, paragraphs 2 and 509				
L. Is the approval the same day or after the date all producer signatures were obtained AND before processing the disbursement?	8-LP, paragraph 509				
15. Remarks					
15. Remarks Certifications: I (we) the undersigned certify the above items have been verified or update provided the applicable Note and Security Agreement and the Note and Se	ecurity Agreement Terms	and Con	ditions u	pon the a	pproval
	ecurity Agreement Terms	and Con	ditions u the appli	pon the a	ipproval ndbooks.
15. Remarks Certifications: I (we) the undersigned certify the above items have been verified or updat provided the applicable Note and Security Agreement and the Note and Soft the requested marketing assistance toan and that the policies and proce	ecurity Agreement Terms	and Con	ditions u the appli	ipon the d icable hai	ipproval ndbooks.
15. Remarks Certifications: I (we) the undersigned certify the above items have been verified or updat provided the applicable Note and Security Agreement and the Note and Soft the requested marketing assistance toan and that the policies and proce	ecurity Agreement Terms	and Con	ditions u the appli	ipon the d icable hai	ipproval ndbooks.
Certifications: I (we) the undersigned certify the above items have been verified or updat provided the applicable Note and Security Agreement and the Note and Sof the requested marketing assistance toan and that the policies and procedure. Signature of Preparer(s)	ecurity Agreement Terms dures were followed acco	and Con	the appli	pon the decable han	approval adbooks. D-YYYY)
Certifications: I (we) the undersigned certify the above items have been verified or updat provided the applicable Note and Security Agreement and the Note and Sof the requested marketing assistance toan and that the policies and procedure. Signature of Preparer(s)	ecurity Agreement Terms dures were followed acco	and Con ording to	the appli	pon the dicable had	approval adbooks. D-YYYY)
Certifications: I (we) the undersigned certify the above items have been verified or updat provided the applicable Note and Security Agreement and the Note and Sof the requested marketing assistance toan and that the policies and procedure. Signature of Preparer(s)	ecurity Agreement Terms idures were followed accordingly. Ited accordingly. Is for employment on the bass of race, or all or part of an individual's income is Not all prohibited bases will apply to all minumication or program internation (if	and Conrding to Concu Concu color, nations derived from programs an a. Braille.	the appli	pon the dicable han ate (MM-D Do Not ate (MM-D disability sex, ssistance progent activities) include, etc. pro	pproval adbooks. D-YYYY) Concur D-YYYY) gender identition or Persons with lease contact

Example CCC-770 LDP

This is an example of CCC-770 LDP, page 1.

CCC-770 LDP (12-09-14)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Commodity Credit Corporation	Producer/Applicant Name			Date of Applicatio (MM-DD-YYYY)		
I OAN DEFICIEN	CY PAYMENT (LDP) PROCESSING	Administrative or Producing Stat County Office	e & _ 4	1. Disburs	ing Count	y Office	
LOAN DEI IOIEN	CHECKLIST	5. Crop Year		S. LDP No	reals on		
		э. стор теағ	(). LUP NE	mper		
		7. Farm Number (Not Required)	8	3. Commo	odity/Class	/Туре	
NOTE: Properly comple addresses, date	ted forms mean completed according to the applicable stamp, etc.		r signatu	res, share	s, ID num	bers,	
9. LDP Request/Applica	ation	Handbook or Other Applicable References	YES	NO	N/A	Initial	
	pleted and signed CCC-633 EZ Page 1 on file? (Note: If "NO", LDP shall not be processed.)	8-LP, paragraphs 1002 and 1007; 7-CN, subparagraph 261F, and paragraph 261.5					
	Page 1 filed prior to loss of beneficial interest? Note: If "NO", LDP shall not be processed.)	8-LP, paragraph 1002 7-CN, paragraphs 261.5 and 275.5					
	Page 1 approved by an individual delegated or e CCC-633 EZ's, after all required signatures have	8-LP, paragraphs 2 and 1007; 7-CN, paragraph 14					
D. Has CCC-633 EZ, Page applicable?	e 1 been forwarded to other county offices, if	8-LP, paragraph 1002; 7-CN, subparagraph 261G					
E. Was the completed CC	C-633 EZ, Page 1 and applicable LDP benefit 3 or 4) received in the county office on or before the idity date?	8-LP, paragraph 226; 7-CN, paragraph 263					
F. Was CCC-633 EZ, Pag	e 1 and applicable LDP benefit request page (page cording to instruction, and signed by all applicable	8-LP, paragraph 1007; 7-CN, paragraph 261.6					
G. Do individuals signing in	n a representative capacity have the documentation ce allowing them to sign for that individual or entity	8-LP, paragraph 1007; 7-CN, paragraph 45					
H. Are CCC-633 EZ, Page date of receipt verified a	e 1 and Page 2, 3, or 4 date-stamped and was the according to procedure?	8-LP, subparagraph 1001E; 7-CN, paragraph 263					
	or the question, "Are you or any co-applicant	8-LP, subparagraph 202A; 7-CN, paragraph 100.5	~				
benefits page (CCC-63:	ewer verified and initialed the applicable LDP 3 EZ, Page 2, 3 or 4) to ensure the applicable LDP empleted and ready for approval and processing?	8-LP, paragraph 234; 7-CN, subparagraphs 271A and 274J					
	, 3 or 4 approved by an individual delegated or cCC-633 EZ's, after all producers signatures D before processing?	8-LP, paragraphs 2 and 1007; 7-CN, paragraphs 14, 261.5 and 274					
10. Producer/Commodit		Handbook or Other Applicable References	YES	NO	N/A	Initials	
A. Has the FSA-578 been a share in the commodi	properly completed and filed showing applicant has ty?	8-LP, paragraph 200 and 201; 7-CN, subparagraph 100A, 2-CP, paragraphs 15 and 16					
applicant understand th	farm been reported on FSA-578? If not, does the nat all cropland on the farm must be reported by the in the State or all production from that farm is	8-LP, paragraph 200 and 201; 7-CN, subparagraph 100A; 2-CP, paragraph 16					
C. Has AD-1026 been filed 6-CP?	d by applicant and all affiliated persons according to	8-LP, paragraphs 200 and 201, 7-CN, subparagraph 100A; 6-CP, paragraphs 17, 302 and 601					
applicable, sex, marital status, income is derived from any put	ulture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, pol bic assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET	litical beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, o programs.) Persons with disabilities who re	or becaus equire alte	e all or part	of an indivi	dual's	
9410, Washington, DC 20250	ation, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Offic 9410, or call toli-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877 ual opportunity provider and employer.						

Example CCC-770 LDP (Continued)

This is an example of CCC-770 LDP, page 2.

ш	Producer/Commodity Eligibility (Continuation)	Handbook or Other Applicable References	YES	NO	N/A	Initials
D.	Has CCC-941 been completed and compliance verified for the applicant and all affiliated persons according to 5-PL?	8-LP, paragraphs 200 and 1000; 7-CN, subparagraph 100A; 5-PL, paragraphs 3, 291 and 294				
Ε.	Has CCC-902 and CCC-901, if an entity, been completed, and the applicant determined to be actively engaged in farming?	8-LP, paragraphs 200 and 1000; 7-CN, paragraphs 43 and 100; 5-PL, paragraphs 17, 41 and 44				
F.	Does applicant have payment limitation available?	8-LP, subparagraph 34A; 7-CN, subparagraph 43A; 5-PL, subparagraph 3R, and paragraph 17				
G.	Does applicant and all affiliated persons, if applicable, meet the eligibility requirements for controlled substance, delinquent debt, fraud and foreign person?	8-LP, paragraphs 201-203 and 1001; 7-CN, paragraphs 40, 100,100.5 and 101				
	Is the quantity requested for LDP within the COC established reasonable yield for the commodity and profile established?	8-LP, paragraph 230, 7-CN, subparagraph 119B				
1 .	If the requested quantity exceeds COC established reasonable yield, did the COC determine the quantity reasonable? Explain "NO" answer:	8-LP, paragraph 230, 7-CN, subparagraph 119C				
	If LDP is based upon date beneficial interest is lost, was acceptable Production evidence provided and was the LDP rate verified? Explain "NO" answer:	8-LP, paragraphs 227 and 1004; 7-CN, paragraph 262				
K.	Is LDP rate correct for request date and county where marketed or stored, if beneficial interest is maintained? (N/A for cotton)	8-LP, paragraph 1004				
L.	Is LDP rate correct for "Dates of Delivery", if LDP requested based on date of delivery? (N/A for cotton)	8-LP, paragraph 1004				
Α.	I. LDP Processing For LDP's exceeding \$100,000, has CCC-674 or SF-LLL been obtained before LDP is processed?	8-LP, paragraph 28 7-CN, paragraph 37				
B.	Has the FSA Financial Services Web Application (FSAFS) been updated to reflect assignments, if applicable?	63-FI, Parts 3 and 4				
C.	Has LDP summary page been printed, filed in LDP folder, and a copy given to producer?	15-PS, Part 2, 7-CN, Subparagraph 285.2I				
12	2. Cotton – Specific LDP Processing					
	If request is for a module-lock-in LDP, is the request date after the beginning-of-harvest-date for the County?	7-CN, paragraph 275				
В.	gin indicate that the bales were produced from the modules identified on the original application?	7-CN, subparagraph 275B and 262A				
Ç.	Has CCC-Cotton AA-1 been printed, filed in LDP folder and a copy given to producer?	7-CN, subparagraph 278C				
14	3. Remarks 4. Certification: (we) the undersigned certify the above items have been verified or u	pdated accordingly. I also certi	fy that th	e applic	able LD	P
de ac	ocuments will be filed in accordance with handbook 25-AS and that ecording to policies and procedures found in applicable handbooks. (A. Signature of Preparer(s)		plicable i	LDP doc		ion
	5. I concur/do not concur the above items have been verified or up A. CED Signature / STC Designee signature	odated accordingly.	Concur 15B. E		Do Not C	