

§ 760.500

7 CFR Ch. VII (1–1–16 Edition)

organizations and the Cooperative Extension Service for the State. Adjustments will be applied as specified in paragraph (d) of this section.

(b) The LIP national payment rate for eligible livestock owners is based on 75 percent of the average fair market value of the applicable livestock as computed using nationwide prices for the previous calendar year unless some other price is approved by the Deputy Administrator.

(c) The LIP national payment rate for eligible livestock contract growers is based on 75 percent of the average income loss sustained by the contract grower with respect to the dead livestock.

(d) The LIP payment calculated for eligible livestock contract growers will be reduced by the amount the participant received from the party who contracted with the producer to raise the livestock for the loss of income from the dead livestock.

Subpart F—Tree Assistance Program

SOURCE: 75 FR 25108, May 7, 2010, unless otherwise noted.

§ 760.500 Applicability.

(a) This subpart establishes the terms and conditions under which the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) will be administered under Titles XII and XV of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246, the 2008 Farm Bill).

(b) Eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers will be compensated as specified in § 760.506 for eligible tree, bush, and vine losses in excess of 15 percent mortality, or, where applicable, 15 percent damage, adjusted for normal mortality and normal damage, that occurred in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested and as a direct result of a natural disaster.

§ 760.501 Administration.

The program will be administered as specified in § 760.102 and in this subpart.

§ 760.502 Definitions.

The following definitions apply to this subpart. The definitions in parts

718 and 1400 of this title also apply, except where they conflict with the definitions in this section.

Bush means, a low, branching, woody plant, from which at maturity of the bush, an annual fruit or vegetable crop is produced for commercial purposes, such as a blueberry bush. The definition does not cover plants that produce a bush after the normal crop is harvested such as asparagus.

Commercial use means used in the operation of a business activity engaged in as a means of livelihood for profit by the eligible producer.

County committee means the respective FSA committee.

County office means the FSA or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center that is responsible for servicing the farm on which the trees, bushes, or vines are located.

Cutting means a piece of a vine which was planted in the ground to propagate a new vine for the commercial production of fruit, such as grapes, kiwi fruit, passion fruit, or similar fruit.

Deputy Administrator or DAFP means the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, FSA, USDA, or the designee.

Eligible nursery tree grower means a person or legal entity that produces nursery, ornamental, fruit, nut, or Christmas trees for commercial sale.

Eligible orchardist means a person or legal entity that produces annual crops from trees, bushes, or vines for commercial purposes.

FSA means the Farm Service Agency.

Lost means, with respect to the extent of damage to a tree or other plant, that the plant is destroyed or the damage is such that it would, as determined by FSA, be more cost effective to replace the tree or other plant than to leave it in its deteriorated, low-producing state.

Natural disaster means plant disease, insect infestation, drought, fire, freeze, flood, earthquake, lightning, or other natural occurrence of such magnitude or severity so as to be considered disastrous, as determined by the Deputy Administrator.

Normal damage means the percentage, as established for the area by the FSA State Committee, of trees, bushes, or vines in the individual stand that

would normally be damaged during a calendar year for a producer.

Normal mortality means percentage, as established for the area by the FSA State Committee, of expected lost trees, bushes, or vines in the individual stand that normally occurs during a calendar year for a producer. This term refers to the number of whole trees, bushes, or vines that are destroyed or damaged beyond rehabilitation. Mortality does not include partial damage such as lost tree limbs.

Seedling means an immature tree, bush, or vine that was planted in the ground or other growing medium to grow a new tree, bush, or vine for commercial purposes.

Stand means a contiguous acreage of the same type of trees (including Christmas trees, ornamental trees, nursery trees, and potted trees), bushes (including shrubs), or vines.

State committee means the respective FSA committee.

Tree means a tall, woody plant having comparatively great height, and a single trunk from which an annual crop is produced for commercial purposes, such as a maple tree for syrup, papaya tree, or orchard tree. Trees used for pulp or timber are not considered eligible trees under this subpart.

Vine means a perennial plant grown under normal conditions from which an annual fruit crop is produced for commercial market for human consumption, such as grape, kiwi, or passion fruit, and that has a flexible stem supported by climbing, twining, or creeping along a surface. Perennials that are normally propagated as annuals such as tomato plants, biennials such as the plants that produce strawberries, and annuals such as pumpkins, squash, cucumbers, watermelon, and other melons, are excluded from the term vine in this subpart.

§ 760.503 Eligible losses.

(a) To be considered an eligible loss under this subpart:

(1) Eligible trees, bushes, or vines must have been lost or damaged as a result of natural disaster as determined by the Deputy Administrator;

(2) The individual stand must have sustained a mortality loss or damage, as the case may be, loss in excess of 15

percent after adjustment for normal mortality or damage;

(3) The loss could not have been prevented through reasonable and available measures; and

(4) The trees, bushes, or vines, in the absence of a natural disaster, would not normally have required rehabilitation or replanting within the 12-month period following the loss.

(b) The damage or loss must be visible and obvious to the county committee representative. If the damage is no longer visible, the county committee may accept other evidence of the loss as it determines is reasonable.

(c) The county committee may require information from a qualified expert, as determined by the county committee, to determine extent of loss in the case of plant disease or insect infestation.

(d) The Deputy Administrator will determine the types of trees, bushes, and vines that are eligible.

(e) An individual stand that did not sustain a sufficient loss as specified in paragraph (a)(2) of this section is not eligible for payment, regardless of the amount of loss sustained.

§ 760.504 Eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers.

(a) To be eligible for TAP payments, the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower must:

(1) Have planted, or be considered to have planted (by purchase prior to the loss of existing stock planted for commercial purposes) trees, bushes, or vines for commercial purposes, or have a production history, for commercial purposes, of planted or existing trees, bushes, or vines;

(2) Have suffered eligible losses of eligible trees, bushes, or vines occurring between January 1, 2008, and September 30, 2011, as a result of a natural disaster or related condition;

(3) Meet the risk management purchase requirement as specified in § 760.104 or the waiver requirements in § 760.105 or § 760.107; and

(4) Have continuously owned the stand from the time of the disaster until the time that the TAP application is submitted.

§ 760.505

7 CFR Ch. VII (1–1–16 Edition)

(b) A new owner of an orchard or nursery who does not meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section may receive TAP payments approved for the previous owner of the orchard or nursery and not paid to the previous owner, if the previous owner of the orchard or nursery agrees to the succession in writing and if the new owner:

(1) Acquires ownership of trees, bushes, or vines for which benefits have been approved;

(2) Agrees to complete all approved practices that the original owner has not completed; and

(3) Otherwise meets and assumes full responsibility for all provisions of this part, including refund of payments made to the previous owner, if applicable.

(c) A producer seeking payment must not be ineligible under the restrictions applicable to citizenship and foreign corporations contained in §760.103(b) and must meet all other requirements of subpart B of this part.

(d) Federal, State, and local governments and agencies and political subdivisions thereof are not eligible for payment under this subpart.

§ 760.505 Application.

(a) To apply for TAP, a producer that suffered eligible tree, bush, or vine losses that occurred:

(1) During calendar years 2008, 2009, or 2010, prior to May 7, 2010, must provide an application for payment and supporting documentation to FSA no later than July 6, 2010.

(2) On or after May 7, 2010, must provide an application for payment and supporting documentation to FSA within 90 calendar days of the disaster event or date when the loss of trees, bushes, or vines is apparent to the producer.

(b) The producer must submit the application for payment within the time specified in paragraph (a) of this section to the FSA administrative county office that maintains the producer's farm records for the agricultural operation.

(c) A complete application includes all of the following:

(1) A completed application form provided by FSA;

(2) An acreage report for the farming operation as specified in part 718, subpart B, of this chapter;

(3) Subject to verification and a loss amount determined appropriate by the county committee, a written estimate of the number of trees, bushes, or vines lost or damaged that is certified by the producer or a qualified expert, including the number of acres on which the loss occurred; and

(4) Sufficient evidence of the loss to allow the county committee to calculate whether an eligible loss occurred.

(d) Before requests for payment will be approved, the county committee:

(1) Must make an eligibility determination based on a complete application for assistance;

(2) Must verify actual qualifying losses and the number of acres involved by on-site visual inspection of the land and the trees, bushes, or vines;

(3) May request additional information and may consider all relevant information in making its determination; and

(4) Must verify actual costs to complete the practices, as documented by the producer.

§ 760.506 Payment calculations.

(a) Payment to an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower for the cost of replanting or rehabilitating trees, bushes, or vines damaged or lost due to a natural disaster, in excess of 15 percent damage or mortality (adjusted for normal damage or mortality), will be calculated as follows:

(1) For the cost of planting seedlings or cuttings, to replace lost trees, bushes, or vines, the lesser of:

(i) 70 percent of the actual cost of the practice, or

(ii) The amount calculated using rates established by the Deputy Administrator for the practice.

(2) For the cost of pruning, removal, and other costs incurred for salvaging damaged trees, bushes, or vines, or in the case of mortality, to prepare the land to replant trees, bushes, or vines, the lesser of:

(i) 50 percent of the actual cost of the practice, or

(ii) The amount calculated using rates established by the Deputy Administrator for the practice.

(b) An orchardist or nursery tree grower that did not plant the trees, bushes, or vines, but has a production history for commercial purposes on planted or existing trees and lost the trees, bushes, or vines as a result of a natural disaster, in excess of 15 percent damage or mortality (adjusted for normal damage or mortality), will be eligible for the salvage, pruning, and land preparation payment calculation as specified in paragraph (a)(2) of this section. To be eligible for the replanting payment calculation as specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, the orchardist or nursery grower who did not plant the stock must be a new owner who meets all of the requirements of § 760.504(b) or be considered the owner of the trees under provisions appearing elsewhere in this subpart.

(c) Eligible costs for payment calculation include costs for:

(1) Seedlings or cuttings, for tree, bush, or vine replanting;

(2) Site preparation and debris handling within normal horticultural practices for the type of stand being re-established, and necessary to ensure successful plant survival;

(3) Pruning, removal, and other costs incurred to salvage damaged trees, bushes, or vines, or, in the case of tree mortality, to prepare the land to replant trees, bushes, or vines;

(4) Chemicals and nutrients necessary for successful establishment;

(5) Labor to plant seedlings or cuttings as determined reasonable by the county committee; and

(6) Labor used to transplant existing seedlings established through natural regeneration into a productive tree stand.

(d) The following costs are not eligible:

(1) Costs for fencing, irrigation, irrigation equipment, protection of seedlings from wildlife, general improvements, re-establishing structures, and windscreens.

(2) Any other costs not listed in paragraphs (c)(1) through (c)(6) of this section, unless specifically determined eligible by the Deputy Administrator.

(e) Producers must provide the county committee documentation of actual costs to complete the practices, such as receipts for labor costs, equipment rental, and purchases of seedlings or cuttings.

(f) When lost stands are replanted, the types planted may be different from those originally planted. The alternative types will be eligible for payment if the new types have the same general end use, as determined and approved by the county committee. Payments for alternative types will be based on the lesser of rates established to plant the types actually lost or the cost to establish the alternative used. If the type of plantings, seedlings, or cuttings differs significantly from the types lost, the costs may not be approved for payment.

(g) When lost stands are replanted, the types planted may be planted on the same farm in a different location than the lost stand. To be eligible for payment, site preparation costs for the new location must not exceed the cost to re-establish the original stand in the original location.

(h) Eligible orchardists or nursery tree growers may elect not to replant the entire eligible stand. If so, the county committee will calculate payment based on the number of qualifying trees, bushes, or vines actually replanted.

(i) If a practice, such as site preparation, is needed to both replant and rehabilitate trees, bushes, or vines, the producer must document the expenses attributable to replanting versus rehabilitation. The county committee will determine whether the documentation of expenses detailing the amounts attributable to replanting versus rehabilitation is acceptable. In the event that the county committee determines the documentation does not include acceptable detail of cost allocation, the county committee will pro-rate payment based on physical inspection of the loss, damage, replanting, and rehabilitation.

(j) The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes, or vines for which a producer may receive payment under this part for losses that occurred between January 1, 2008, and

§ 760.507

September 30, 2011, will not exceed 500 acres.

§ 760.507 Obligations of a participant.

(a) Eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers must execute all required documents and complete the TAP-funded practice within 12 months of application approval.

(b) Eligible orchardist or nursery tree growers must allow representatives of FSA to visit the site for the purposes of certifying compliance with TAP requirements.

(c) Producers who do not meet all applicable requirements and obligations will not be eligible for payment.

Subpart G—Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program

SOURCE: 74 FR 68490, Dec. 28, 2009, unless otherwise noted.

§ 760.601 Applicability.

(a) This subpart specifies the terms and conditions of the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE).

(b) Assistance in the form of SURE payments is available for crop losses occurring in the crop year 2008 through September 30, 2011, caused by disaster as determined by the Secretary. Crop losses must have occurred in crop year 2008 or subsequent crop years due to an eligible disaster event that occurs on or before September 30, 2011.

(c) SURE provides disaster assistance to eligible participants on farms in:

(1) Disaster counties designated by the Secretary, which also includes counties contiguous to such declared disaster counties, if the participant incurred actual production losses of at least 10 percent to at least one crop of economic significance on the farm; and

(2) Any county, if the participant incurred eligible total crop losses of greater than or equal to 50 percent of the normal production on the farm, as measured by revenue, including a loss of at least 10 percent to at least one crop of economic significance on the farm.

(d) Subject to the provisions in subpart B of this part, SURE payments

7 CFR Ch. VII (1–1–16 Edition)

will be issued on 60 percent of the difference between the SURE guarantee and total farm revenue, calculated using the National Average Market Price as specified in this subpart.

[74 FR 68490, Dec. 28, 2009, as amended at 76 FR 54075, Aug. 31, 2011]

§ 760.602 Definitions.

(a) The following definitions apply to all determinations made under this subpart.

(b) The terms defined in parts 718, 1400, and 1437 of this title and subpart B of this part will be applicable, except where those definitions conflict with the definitions set forth in this section. In the event that a definition in any of those parts conflicts with the definitions set forth in this subpart, the definitions in this subpart apply. Any additional conflicts will be resolved by the Deputy Administrator.

Actual crop acreage means all acreage for each crop planted or intended to be planted on the farm.

Actual production history yield means the average of the actual production history yields for each insurable or noninsurable crop as calculated under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (FCIA) (7 U.S.C. 1501–1524) or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) as set forth in part 1437 of this title, respectively. FSA will use the actual production history yield data provided for crop insurance or NAP, if available, in the SURE payment calculation.

Actual production on the farm means, unless the Deputy Administrator determines that the context requires otherwise, the sum obtained by adding:

(1) For each insurable crop on the farm, excluding value loss crops, the product obtained by multiplying:

(i) 100 percent of the per unit price for the crop used to calculate a crop insurance indemnity for the applicable crop insurance if a crop insurance indemnity is triggered. If a price is not available, then the price is 100 percent of the NAP established price for the crop, times

(ii) The relevant per unit quantity of the crop produced on the farm, adjusted for quality losses, plus

(2) For each noninsurable crop on the farm, excluding value loss crops, the product obtained by multiplying: