

FSA
HANDBOOK

Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers Program

For State and County Offices

SHORT REFERENCE

1-ASCF

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC 20250.

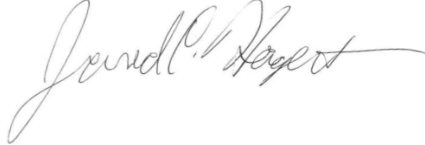
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC 20250

**Assistance for Specialty Crop
Farmers Program
1-ASCF**

Amendment 1

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



Amendment Transmittal

A Reason for Issuance

This handbook has been issued to provide policy and procedures for the Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF) Program.

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Part 1 Basic Information

1 Overview

A Background

FSA is announcing the availability of ASCF, which will provide a 1-time bridge payment to eligible applicants of an eligible specialty crop for the 2025 crop year in response to temporary trade market disruptions and increased production costs.

B Handbook Purpose

This handbook provides FSA's internal operating guidelines issued by DAFP for carrying out ASCF. Handbook provisions are considered interpretive of notices and rules published in the FR. Whenever an unintended conflict appears to exist between any handbook provision and the pertinent applicable provisions published in the FR, the provisions published in the FR will apply.

C Authority and Responsibility

DAFP has the authority and responsibility for ASCF.

D Sources of Authority

Following are the sources of authority for ASCF:

- Section 5b of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act
- Rule published June 1, 2026.

E Modifying Provisions

Provisions in this handbook **must not** be revised without prior approval from the National Office. Requests for revisions or amendments must be sent to the applicable program manager through the Safety Net Division following 1-CM (Rev. 3), subparagraph 1021 D.

1 Overview (Continued)

F Related FSA Handbooks

Related FSA handbooks include the following:

- 22-AO for outreach
- 1-APP for appeals
- 32-AS and 32-AS Supplement for records management
- 1-CM for common provisions
- 10-CM for farm, tract, and crop data
- 2-CP for acreage and compliance provisions and determinations
- 6-CP for HELC and WC provisions
- 7-CP for finality rule and equitable relief provisions
- 1-FI for issuing payments
- 58-FI for managing debts and claims
- 62-FI for reporting data to IRS
- 63-FI for assignments and joint payments
- 64-FI for establishing and reporting receipts and receivables in NRRS
- 2-INFO for handling information available to the public in FOIA
- 3-INFO for safeguarding individual privacy from misuse of federal records and public access to these records
- 3-PL (Rev. 2) for web-based subsidiary files for 2009 and subsequent years
- 6-PL for payment limitation and payment eligibility provisions.

1 Overview (Continued)

G Forms

Forms, worksheets, applications, and other documents other than those provided in this handbook or issued by the National Office will **not** be used for ASCF.

Any document that collects data from an applicant or handler, regardless of whether their signature is required, is subject to the Privacy Act and information collection procedures, including clearance of these documents by the following offices:

- National Office program area
- MSD, Directives, Forms, and Records Management Branch, Forms Management Section
- OMB.

Forms, worksheets, and documents developed by State or County Offices **must** be submitted to the National Office for review and approval according to 1-CM.

Important: State or County Office-developed forms, worksheets, or other documents will **not** be used for ASCF unless approved by the National Office.

2 Outreach

A General Information

Program outreach is a critical component of FSA's objective to ensure that access of information and programs to interested and potential applicants is provided. FSA outreach activities are National, State, and County Office informational and educational efforts made to promote program benefits and eligibility criteria. Employees are required to conduct outreach activities on programs that align with FSA's FY outreach goals, which includes ASCF.

The following types of outreach activities may be conducted to market ASCF:

- informational meetings
- program workshops and conferences
- stakeholder meetings
- electronic applicant newsletters
- press releases
- web announcements and other broadcast media formats.

Example: Radio and television public service announcements.

Outreach efforts are designed to increase participation from potential and current agricultural applicants. Outreach efforts are not guaranteed to reach all applicants. Employees are encouraged to work with partners to assist with outreach efforts.

State and County Office outreach coordinators will engage closely with partnering stakeholder organizations, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, associations, and other USDA agencies to participate in and support collaborative outreach activities to promote ASCF.

Notes: All State and County Office eligible outreach activity types are required to be recorded in the Outreach Tracking and Information System to report the County Office's outreach accomplishments that support FSA's strategic outreach goals.

As resources permit, COC will ensure that specific program provisions are publicized and maintain a record of all public information efforts, including posting in Service Centers, according to public information and program policies.

2 Outreach (Continued)

B ASCF Websites

The following table lists websites that provide information used to administer ASCF.

| Website | Link |
|----------------------|---|
| ASCF Public Website | http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ascf |
| ASCF SharePoint Site | https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/FPAC-FSA-DAFP-FBA/SitePages/Home.aspx |

3 NEPA Requirements

A Background

NEPA of 1969, as amended, requires federal agencies to consider all potential environmental impacts before implementing activities that have the potential to significantly impact the human environment. All environmental processes must be fully completed before an action can be approved. Agencies must consult with and obtain comments from federal agencies that manage or have expertise on resources that are potentially affected. FSA’s environmental compliance program’s mission is to use all practicable means to ensure FSA compliance with all applicable environmental laws, regulations, and procedures. FSA uses an environmental review process to determine the appropriate level of NEPA analysis and documentation required.

B Programmatic Determination of Environment Compliance

The National Office has determined that ASCF does not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively. Therefore, FSA-850 will not be completed.

4 Erroneous Information and Misrepresentation

A Impact of Providing Erroneous Information and Misrepresentation

If an application for an ASCF payment resulted from erroneous information reported by the applicant, the payment will be recalculated and the applicant must refund the excess payment to USDA. If the error was the applicant's error, the refund must include interest to be calculated from the date of the disbursement to the applicant.

If corrections to the ownership interest in the crop are made and result in a lower payment, the applicant must refund the difference with interest from date of disbursement.

Required refunds must be resolved according to debt settlement regulations in 7 CFR Part 3.

B Perjury

In either applying for or participating in ASCF, or both, the applicant is subject to laws against perjury and any penalties and prosecution resulting therefrom, with these laws including, but not limited to, 18 U.S.C. 1621. If the applicant willfully makes and represents as true any verbal or written declaration, certification, statement, or verification that the applicant knows or believes not to be true, in the course of either applying for or participating in ASCF, or both, then the applicant is guilty of perjury and, except as otherwise provided by law, may be fined, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both, regardless of whether the applicant makes this verbal or written declaration, certification, statement, or verification within or not within the United States.

C Joint and Several Liability

All persons and legal entities with a financial interest in an operation or in an application for payment determined to have been paid incorrectly are jointly and severally liable for any refund, including related charges, that is determined to be due to CCC for any reason.

5 Responsibilities

A STC Responsibilities

Within the authorities and limitations in this handbook and FR, STC's will:

- direct the administration of ASCF
- ensure that State and County Offices follow all ASCF provisions
- thoroughly document all actions taken in the STC meeting minutes
- handle appeals according to 1-APP and 7 CFR Parts 11 and 780
- ensure that the State Office representative conducts reviews according to paragraph 96 to ensure that County Offices comply with ASCF provisions

Note: STC's may establish additional reviews to ensure that ASCF is administered according to ASCF provisions.

- take oversight actions necessary to prevent County Offices from issuing improper payments
- approve or disapprove CCC-556 except those in which an STC member has a monetary interest
- comply with all ASCF provisions.

5 Responsibilities (Continued)

B SED Responsibilities

Within the authorities and limitations in this handbook and FR, SED's will:

- ensure that County Offices follow all ASCF provisions
- ensure that County Office employees and COC's are adequately trained
- thoroughly document all actions taken in the STC meeting minutes
- handle appeals according to 1-APP
- handle requests for equitable relief according to 7-CP
- ensure that SED designee conducts payment reviews according to paragraph 97 and payment reviews are certified to the National Office

Note: SED's may establish additional reviews to ensure that ASCF is administered according to ASCF provisions.

- ensure that SED designee records all internal control results according to this handbook
- ensure that ASCF provisions are publicized
- immediately notify the National Office of software problems, incomplete or incorrect procedures, specific problems, or findings
- take oversight actions necessary to ensure that PIIA provisions are met to prevent County Offices from issuing improper payments
- comply with all ASCF provisions.

5 Responsibilities (Continued)**C DD Responsibilities**

Within the authorities and limitations in this handbook and FR, DD's will:

- ensure that COC's and County Offices follow ASCF provisions
- ensure that CED directs the County Office to follow all ASCF provisions
- ensure that CED's or designated employees conduct reviews according to paragraph 97
- ensure County Offices complete and record selected spot checks according to paragraph 98
- handle appeals according to 1-APP
- immediately notify SED or designated State Office employee of software problems, incomplete or incorrect procedures, specific problems, or findings
- ensure that all County Offices publicize ASCF provisions
- take oversight actions necessary to ensure that PIIA provisions are met to prevent County Offices from issuing improper payments
- ensure that FSA assists applicants by providing as much ASCF information as possible in a variety of ways.

D COC Responsibilities

Within the authorities and limitations in this handbook and FR, COC's will:

- fully comply with all ASCF provisions
- ensure that CED's fully comply with all ASCF provisions
- ensure that CED's or designated employees conduct reviews according to paragraph 97
- ensure all selected spot checks are completed according to paragraph 98

5 Responsibilities (Continued)

D COC Responsibilities (Continued)

- review and take action on CCC-556's

Note: COC may redelegate authority to CED to review and approve routine CCC-556's. Redlegation of authority must be documented in the COC meeting minutes. All adverse actions must go to COC for review and action. CED may not redelegate authority to review or approve routine CCC-556's to other County Office employees.

- thoroughly document all actions taken in the COC meeting minutes
- handle appeals according to 1-APP
- ensure that applicants receive complete and accurate ASCF information
- ensure that the County Office publicizes ASCF provisions
- take oversight actions necessary to ensure that PIIA provisions are met to prevent County Offices from issuing improper payments.

E CED Responsibilities

Within the authorities and limitations in this handbook and FR, CED's will:

- fully comply with all ASCF provisions
- ensure that all County Office employees fully comply with all ASCF provisions
- if delegated, promptly review and approve routine CCC-556's and document in the COC meeting minutes

Note: All adverse actions must go to COC for review and action. CED may not redelegate authority to review or approve routine CCC-556's to other County Office employees.

- conduct reviews according to paragraph 97
- conduct selected spot checks according to paragraph 98

5 Responsibilities (Continued)

E CED Responsibilities (Continued)

- handle appeals according to 1-APP
- thoroughly document all actions taken in the COC meeting minutes
- immediately notify SED or designated State Office employee, through DD, of software problems, incomplete or incorrect procedures, specific problems, or findings
- take oversight actions necessary to ensure that PIIA provisions are met to prevent County Offices from issuing improper payments
- ensure that applicants receive complete and accurate ASCF information.

Notes: Publication may or may not be by direct mail or on an individual basis. FSA meets its publication responsibilities by making broad program announcements in press releases, print and electronic media, FR documents, radio and television announcements, and through posting program information in USDA Service Centers.

COC's will:

- ensure that ASCF provisions are publicized
- maintain a record of all publicity efforts.

F Program Analyst Responsibilities

Within the authorities and limitations in this handbook and FR, program analysts will:

- fully comply with all ASCF provisions
- immediately notify CED of software problems, incomplete or incorrect procedures, or specific problems
- ensure that all ASCF eligibility requirements have been met by applicants before issuing payments to ensure that PIIA provisions are satisfied
- ensure that applicants receive complete and accurate ASCF information.

5 Responsibilities (Continued)

G Applicant Responsibilities

Applicants are responsible for being aware of ASCF provisions and accurately certifying to all required information, as applicable, on CCC-556.

Applicants approved for participation in ASCF are required to retain documentation in support of their CCC-556 for 3 years after the date of approval. Applicants receiving ASCF payments or any other person who provides this information to USDA must permit authorized representatives of USDA or GAO, during regular business hours, to enter the agricultural operation and inspect, examine, and allow representatives to make copies of books, records, or other items for confirming the accuracy of the information provided by the applicant.

Programs administered by DAFP require accurate information from applicants. Applicants must understand that failure to provide complete and accurate information may result in any or all of the following:

- CCC-556 disapproved or COC adjusted
- the applicant or applicants determined ineligible for FSA programs for the applicable program year or multiple years
- the applicant or applicants held liable under civil or criminal fraud statute or other statute or provision of law.

6 ASCF General Provisions and Policies

A Equitable Relief and Finality Provisions

Equitable relief and finality provisions in 7-CP apply.

B Controlled Substance Provisions

Controlled substance provisions apply according to 1-CM.

C Administrative Offsets

ASCF payments issued by FSA are subject to administrative offsets.

D Assignments and Joint Payments

An applicant entitled to an ASCF payment may:

- assign the payment according to 63-FI
- use joint payment authorizations according to 63-FI.

The assignment code for ASCF is “**25ASCF**”.

E Obtaining FSA-325 for Deceased, Disappeared, or Incompetent Applicants

Follow 1-CM provisions for applicants who have died, disappeared, or been declared incompetent.

F Sequestering ASCF Payments

Sequestration does not apply.

7 Customer Records

A Overview

Applicants seeking ASCF benefits must have a customer record established in CRM Business Partner that includes a valid TIN.

B Collecting Customer Data

Applicants who are:

- new customers must complete AD-2047 to provide information that positively identifies the customer
- existing customers may update their profile by completing AD-2047, as needed.

The customer information must be recorded in CRM Business Partner according to 11-CM.

C Farm Record

Applicants are required to be associated with a farm to be eligible for ASCF.

8-23 (Reserved)

Part 2 ASCF Eligibility Policy and Provisions

24 ASCF Eligibility Requirements

A Applicant Eligibility

To be eligible for ASCF, the applicant must:

- have reported acreage of eligible specialty crops to FSA on FSA-578 by April 24, 2026
- be 1 of the following:
 - citizen of the United States
 - resident alien, which for purposes of ASCF means “lawful alien” as defined in 7 CFR 1400.3
 - partnership organized under State law consisting solely of citizens of the United States or resident aliens possessing a valid I-551
 - corporation, LLC, or other organizational structure organized under State law consisting solely of citizens of the United States or resident aliens possessing a valid I-551
 - Indian Tribe or Tribal organization, as defined in section 4(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

24 ASCF Eligibility Requirements (Continued)**B Ineligible Applicants**

The following persons or legal entities are **ineligible**:

- applicants who did not have acreage of an eligible specialty crop reported in their name
- applicants who are not a citizen of the United States or resident alien, including entities with members who are not citizens of the United States or resident aliens possessing a valid I-551
- States, including agencies, divisions, or political subdivisions thereof, except as provided in 6-PL, paragraph 310
- federal agencies, with the exception of BIA

Note: BIA may apply for ASCF for eligible applicants on tribal and allotted land.

- applicants who have been suspended or debarred or otherwise excluded from participating in federal programs according to 1-CM.

C Deceased Applicants

If CCC-556 involving a deceased producer or closed estate is signed by an authorized individual, payments will be issued using the TIN of the eligible individual or individual's estate, as applicable.

Note: See 1-CM for guidance on deceased, missing, or incompetent applicants.

D Dissolved Entities

If a producer is a general partnership or joint venture that was dissolved, all members of the general partnership or joint venture at the time of dissolution, or their representatives, must sign CCC-556 and required forms.

Note: See 1-CM for guidance on dissolved entities.

25 Eligible Acreage

A Eligible Commodities, Types, Intended Uses, Pay Groups, and Payment Rates

The following table provides the eligible commodities, types, intended uses, pay groups, and payment rates for ASCF.

Note: Crops, types, or intended uses not listed in this table are not eligible for ASCF.

| Crop Name | Crop Code | Type Name | Intended Use | Pay Group | Payment Rate |
|---------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Almond | 0028 | | | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Apple | 0054 | All | FH, PR, RS | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Apricot | 0326 | | FH, PR, RS | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Aronia (Chokeberry) | 0143 | | FH, JU, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Artichokes | 0458 | | FH, PR, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Asparagus | 0104 | | FH, PR, RS, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Avocados | 0106 | | FH, PR | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Banana | 0173 | All | FH, LV, PR | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Beans | 0047 | Adzuki - ADZ | DE, FH, PR, SD | Beans and Peas | \$25 |
| | | Lupine (LUP) | | | |
| | | Mung - MUN | | | |
| | | Anasazi - ANA | | | |
| | | Baby Lima - BBL | | | |
| | | Black Turtle - BTU | | | |
| | | Butter - BUT | | | |
| | | Canario - Yellow - CAN | | | |
| | | Chinese String - CHI | | | |
| | | Cranberry - CRA | | | |
| | | Dark Red Kidney - DRK | | | |
| | | Fava/Faba - FAV | | | |
| | | Flat Small White - FSW | | | |
| | | Garbanzo/Chickpeas, Green - GCG | | | |
| | | Great Northern - GTN | | | |
| | | Green - GRN | | | |
| | | Green Baby French (Petite) GBF | | | |
| | | Jacobs Cattle - JAC | | | |
| | | Kentucky Blue - KEB | | | |
| | | Kintoki - KIN | | | |
| | | Large Lima - LGL | | | |
| | | Light Red Kidney - LRK | | | |
| | | Long - LON | | | |
| | | Marrow - MRW | | | |
| | | Mayocoaba - MYC | | | |
| | | Myothe - MYO | | | |
| | | October - OCT | | | |
| | | Papdai Valor - PAP | | | |
| Pea - PEA | | | | | |
| Pink - PNK | | | | | |
| Pinto - PNT | | | | | |
| Pole - PLE | | | | | |
| Pole Columbus - PLC | | | | | |

25 Eligible Acreage (Continued)

A Eligible Commodities, Types, Intended Uses, Pay Groups, and Payment Rates (Continued)

| Crop Name | Crop Code | Type Name | Intended Use | Pay Group | Payment Rate |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Beans (Continued) | 0047 | Roma - ROM | DE, FH, PR, SD | Beans and Peas | \$25 |
| | | Shelli - SHL | | | |
| | | Small Red - SMR | | | |
| | | Small White Navy - SMW | | | |
| | | Snap Wax - WAX | | | |
| | | Soldier - SOL | | | |
| | | Sulfur - SUL | | | |
| | | Tebo - TEB | | | |
| | | Tiger Eye Kidney - TIG | | | |
| | | Velvet - VEL | | | |
| | | White Adzuki - WHT | | | |
| | | White Half Runner - WHR | | | |
| | | White Kidney - WKD | | | |
| | | Wing - WIN | | | |
| | | Yardlong - YRD | | | |
| Yellow EYE - YEY | | | | | |
| Beets | 0642 | All | FH, LV, PR, SD, SE | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Blueberries | 0108 | Highbush - HBS | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| | | Rabbiteye - RAB | | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| | | Low Bush - LWB | | | |
| Breadfruit | 1290 | | FH | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Broccoflower | 0905 | | FH, PR, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Broccoli | 0110 | | FH, PR, SD, SE | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Broccolini | 0061 | | FH, PR, SD, SE | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Broccolo-Cavalo | 7073 | | FH, PR, RS, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Brussel Sprouts | 0112 | | FH, PR, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Cabbage | 0116 | Napa Cabbage - NAP | FH, PR, SD, SE | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| | | Choy Sum Cabbage - CHO | | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| | | Hybrid Cabbage - HYB | | | |
| | | Open Pollinated - OPN | | | |
| | | Red Cabbage - RED | | | |
| Savoy - SAV | | | | | |
| Cacao | 0182 | | FH, PR, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Canary Melon | 9998 | | FH, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Caneberries | 6000 | All | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Cantaloupe | 0759 | | FH, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Carrots | 0120 | All | FH, PR, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Cashew | 1291 | | | Tier 3 | \$65 |
| Cauliflower | 0124 | | FH, PR, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Celeriac | 0509 | | FH, PR, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Celery | 0126 | | FH, PR, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Cherimoya | 8045 | | FH | Tier 1 | \$650 |

25 Eligible Acreage (Continued)

A Eligible Commodities, Types, Intended Uses, Pay Groups, and Payment Rates (Continued)

| Crop Name | Crop Code | Type Name | Intended Use | Pay Group | Payment Rate |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Cherries | 0128 | Chockcherry - CHK | FH, PR | Tier 3 | \$65 |
| | | Sweet - SWT | | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| | | Tart - TRT | | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| | | Jamaica - JAM | | Tier 3 | \$65 |
| Chestnuts | 0375 | | FH, blank | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Chinese Bitter Melon | 9996 | | FH | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Citron | 0025 | | FH, PR | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Coconuts | 0175 | | FH | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Coffee | 0176 | All | PR | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Corn | 0041 | Sweet, Bicolor – SBI | FH, PR, SD | Tier 3 | \$65 |
| | | Sweet, White - SWH | | | |
| | | Sweet, Yellow/Golden Early – SYE | | | |
| | | Sweet, Yellow Golden Late – SYL | | | |
| Cranberries | 0058 | | FH, PR | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Crenshaw Melon | 9994 | | FH, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Cucumbers | 0132 | All | FH, PR, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Currants | 0325 | | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Dasheen | 0177 | All | FH | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Dates | 0496 | | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Eggplant | 0318 | All | FH, PR, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Figs | 0060 | All | FH | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Garlic | 0423 | All | FH, PR, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Gooseberries | 0424 | | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Grapefruit | 0030 | All | FH, PR | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Grapes - Fresh | 0053 | All | FH | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Grapes - Processed | | | PR | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Greens | 4000 | Shanghi Bok Choy – SHA | FH, PR, RS, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| | | Shum Choy – SHC | | | |
| | | Toc Choy – TOC | | | |
| | | Yu Choy – YUC | | | |
| Greens | 4000 | Collards – COL | FH, PR, RS, SD, SE | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| | | Common Kale – COM | | | |
| | | Flowering Kale - FLW | | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Greens | 4000 | Curly Endive – CUR | FH, PR, RS, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| | | Frizee/Belgian Endive – EDF | | | |

25 Eligible Acreage (Continued)

A Eligible Commodities, Types, Intended Uses, Pay Groups, and Payment Rates (Continued)

| Crop Name | Crop Code | Type Name | Intended Use | Pay Group | Payment Rate |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Greens | 4000 | Arugula – ARU | FH, PR, RS, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| | | Asian – ASI | | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| | | Chinese Mustard – CHN | | | |
| | | Chinese Spinach/Amaranth – CHI | | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| | | Cressie – CRE | | | |
| | | Dandelions – DAN | | | |
| | | Escarole – ESC | | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| | | Hanover – HAN | | | |
| | | Hybrid Mustard – HYB | | | |
| | | Mizuna/Japanese Mustard – MIZ | | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| | | Open Pollinated Mustard – OMS | | | |
| | | Orach – ORA | | | |
| | | Perilla/Shiso/Japanese Basil – PER | | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| | | Sorrell – SOR | | | |
| | | Suk Gat – SUK | | | |
| Turnip - TUR | | | | | |
| Greens | 4000 | Leaf Spinach – LEF | FH, PR, RS, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| | | Vine Spinach – VIN | | | |
| | | Water Spinach - WAT | | | |
| Greens | 4000 | Rape/Rapini/Chinese Broccoli – RAP | FH, PR, RS, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Greens | 4000 | Red Swisschard – RED | FH, PR, RS, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| | | Green Swisschard - GRN | | | |
| Guava | 0498 | | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Hazel Nuts | 0376 | | | Tier 3 | \$65 |
| Herbs | 5000 | BuChoo/Garlic Chives – BUC | FH, PR, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| | | Chives – CHI | | | |
| Herbs | 5000 | Parsley – PAR | FH, PR, RT, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Honeydew | 0758 | | FH, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Horseradish | 0090 | | FH, PR, RS, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Israel Melons | 9030 | | FH | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Kiwano (Horned Melon) | 0462 | | FH, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Kiwiberry | 9907 | | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Kiwifruit | 0463 | | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Kohlrabi | 0374 | | FH, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Korean Golden Melon | 9993 | | FH | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Kumquat | 0473 | | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| LabLab/Hyacinth Bean | 0070 | | ED, FH, SD | Beans and Peas | \$25 |
| Leeks | 0377 | | FH, SD, | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Lemons | 0035 | | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Lettuce | 0140 | All | FH, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |

25 Eligible Acreage (Continued)

A Eligible Commodities, Types, Intended Uses, Pay Groups, and Payment Rates (Continued)

| Crop Name | Crop Code | Type Name | Intended Use | Pay Group | Payment Rate |
|---------------------------|-----------|--|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Limes | 0036 | All | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Lychee | 8005 | | FH | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Macadamia Nuts | 0469 | | | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Mandarins/Tangerines | 0048 | All | FH, PR, RS | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Mangos | 0464 | | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Melongene | 8139 | | FH, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Mushrooms | 0403 | All | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Nectarines | 0250 | All | FH, PR, RS | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Okra | 0286 | | FH, PR, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Olives | 0501 | All | OL, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Onions | 0142 | All | FH, PR, SD, SE | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Orangelo/Spanish Chironja | 0020 | | FH, PR | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Oranges | 0023 | All | FH, PR, RS | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Papaya | 0181 | All | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Parsnip | 0338 | All | FH, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Passion Fruits | 0502 | | FH | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Peaches | 0034 | Cling Peaches - CLI | FH, PR, RS | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| | | Freestone Early Season - FSE | | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| | | Freestone Late Season - FSL | | | |
| | | Freestone Mid Season - FSM | | | |
| | | Freestone Peaches - FRE | | | |
| | | Semi-Freestone Cling - SFC | | | |
| | | Semi-Freestone Cling Earlies - SCE | | | |
| | | Semi-Freestone Cling Extra Early - SCP | | | |
| | | Semi-Freestone Cling Extra Late - SCX | | | |
| | | Semi-Freestone Cling Late - SCL | | | |
| Pears | 0144 | All | FH, PR, RS | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Peas | 0067 | Arvika/4010 – ARV | DE, FH, PR, SD | Beans and Peas | \$25 |
| | | Marrowfat – MAR | | | |
| | | Partridge – PAR | | | |
| | | Black Eye – BLE | | | |
| | | Butter – BUT | | | |
| | | Caley – CAL | | | |
| | | China – CHI | | | |
| | | Cow – COW | | | |
| | | Cream – CRM | | | |
| | | Crowder – CRO | | | |
| | | English/Garden – ENG | | | |
| | | Flat – FLT | | | |
| | | Mini – MIN | | | |

25 Eligible Acreage (Continued)

A Eligible Commodities, Types, Intended Uses, Pay Groups, and Payment Rates (Continued)

| Crop Name | Crop Code | Type Name | Intended Use | Pay Group | Payment Rate |
|------------------|-----------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Peas (Continued) | 0067 | Pigeon – PIG | DE, FH, PR, SD | Beans and Peas | \$25 |
| | | Pink Eyed – PNK | | | |
| | | Purple Hull – PHL | | | |
| | | Rondo – RON | | | |
| | | Snap – SNA | | | |
| | | Snow – SNO | | | |
| | | Southern Acre – SOA | | | |
| | | Speckled/Colored – SPK | | | |
| | | Sugar – SUG | | | |
| | | Umatilla - UMA | | | |
| | | Pecans | | | |
| Peppers | 0083 | Green Bell - GRN | FH, PR, SD, SE | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| | | Yellow - YEL | | Tier 2 | |
| | | Anaheim - ANA | | | |
| | | Banana - BAN | | | |
| | | Cayenne - CAY | | | |
| | | Chilaca - CHL | | | |
| | | Cubanells - CUB | | | |
| | | Fingerhots - FIN | | | |
| | | Fresno - FRS | | | |
| | | Gourmet Mini - GOU | | | |
| | | Green Chili - GRC | | | |
| | | Habanero - HAB | | | |
| | | Hot Cherry - HTC | | | |
| | | Hungarian Hot Wax - HHW | | | |
| | | Italian - ITA | | | |
| | | Jalapeno - JAL | | | |
| | | Long Johns - LNG | | | |
| | | Mini - MIN | | | |
| | | Oriental Red - ORD | | | |
| | | Oriental Sweet - ORS | | | |
| | | Paprika - PAP | | | |
| | | Pepino - PEP | | | |
| | | Pimento - PIM | | | |
| | | Poblano - POB | | | |
| | | Red Chili - RED | | | |
| | | Scratch Bonnet - SCB | | | |
| | | Serrano - SER | | | |
| | | Sport - SPT | | | |
| | | Sweet Cherry - SWC | | | |
| | | Tobasco - TOB | | | |

25 Eligible Acreage (Continued)

A Eligible Commodities, Types, Intended Uses, Pay Groups, and Payment Rates (Continued)

| Crop Name | Crop Code | Type Name | Intended Use | Pay Group | Payment Rate |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----------|--------------|
| Persimmons | 0465 | | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Pineapple | 0185 | All | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Pistachios | 0470 | | | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Plantain | 0186 | All | FH | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Plums | 0254 | All | FH, PR, RS | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Pomegranates | 0467 | | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Potatoes | 0084 | All | FH, PR, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Potatoes Sweet | 0156 | All | FH, PR, SD, SE | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Prunes | 0086 | | FH, PR, RS | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Pummelo | 0906 | | FH, PR | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Pumpkins | 0147 | All | FH, PR, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Quinces | 0468 | | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Radishes | 0148 | All | FH, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Raisins | 0037 | | | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Rhubarb | 0335 | | FH, PR, RS | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Rutabaga | 0339 | | FH, PR, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Salsify | 0532 | | FH, PR | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Shallots | 0533 | | FH, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Squash | 0155 | All | FH, PR | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Strawberries | 0154 | | FH, PR, RS, SE | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Tangelos | 0024 | All | FH, PR | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Tangors | 1302 | All | FH, PR | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Tangos | 0478 | | FH | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Taro | 0535 | All | FH, LV, PR | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Tomatillos | 7158 | | FH, PR | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Tomatoes | 0087 | All | FH, PR, RS SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Turnips | 0160 | All | FH, PR, SD | Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Walnuts | 0029 | All | | Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Watermelon | 0757 | All | FH, SD | Tier 2 | \$225 |

25 Eligible Acreage (Continued)

B Acreage Requirements

Eligible acreage must be:

- physically located in the United States or territories
- reported on FSA-578 for program year 2025 by April 24, 2026.

Acreage reported in CARS will be used to calculate eligible acreage. If determined acres are present on reported fields, the determined acreage will be used in the calculation.

C Acreage Reports

Applicants are required to file acreage reports for all specialty crops for which they are requesting ASCF benefits for program year 2025 by April 24, 2026. The automated CCC-556 will interface with CARS to pre-populate the producer's eligible acres on CCC-556.

Changes to the 2025 CARS data may adversely impact other program payments, such as ARC/PLC, LFP, NAP, or MAL's and LDP's.

Note: If acreage reports are on file before November 1, 2025, they must be certified according to 2-CP. Acreage on reports loaded in CARS before November 1, 2025, and not certified are not eligible for ASCF.

Acreage for specialty crops on a farm for ASCF purposes only can be bulk reported and loaded in CARS by crop, type, and intended use to capture the overall acreage of the crop on the farm instead of field by field. Average overall planting dates may be used. A map must be completed to show the actual location of the crops on the farm. Supplemental information for orchard crops regarding tree spacing and age is not required to be loaded.

D Late-Filed Acreage Reports

Acreage reports filed after April 24, 2026, are **not** accepted for the ASCF program, regardless of meeting 2-CP requirements.

Late-filed acreage reports filed before the subsequent year ARD for the crop may be processed according to 2-CP.

Using CIMS data to support a late-filed acreage report as timely filed according to 2-CP is not applicable to ASCF.

Note: Acreage reported after April 24, 2026, regardless if otherwise conforming to 2-CP requirements, is ineligible for ASCF.

25 Eligible Acreage (Continued)**D Late-Filed Acreage Reports (Continued)**

Acreage reports filed after the subsequent year ARD for the crop but before April 24, 2026, must meet the same farm visit verification or nonphysical evidence requirements for late-filed acreage reports under 2-CP. However, no fee will be assessed in these cases and the report will not be considered certified for all program purposes. A certification date will **not** be loaded in CARS since the report was filed after the subsequent year ARD and therefore does not fully conform to 2-CP requirements.

E Revised Acreage Reports

Revisions to acreage reports after April 24, 2026, are limited to share revisions for ASCF. Revisions to shares on reports filed by April 24, 2026, will be eligible for ASCF and must meet share revision requirements according to 2-CP. Any other revision will make acreage ineligible for ASCF.

Example: A timely filed acreage report is revised to change the crop type from summer squash to zucchini squash on April 30, 2026. Because the report was revised for purposes other than shares, the squash acreage is ineligible for ASCF.

F Acreage Report Corrections

Corrections to acreage reports, where the original report was filed by April 24, 2026, that follow correction policy in 2-CP are eligible for ASCF.

25 Eligible Acreage (Continued)

G Crop Status Codes

To be counted towards eligible acres on CCC-556, all acres must be reported in CARS using 1 of the crop status codes in the following table. For more information on crop status codes, see 2-CP.

Note: Crop status codes not listed in this table are **not** eligible for ASCF.

| Crop Status Code | IF the acreage reported (or determined if present) in CARS has the crop status code of... | THEN ASCF eligibility will be limited to... |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| I | initial-first crop, planted | the planted eligible specialty crop. |
| IF | initial crop, failed | the failed eligible specialty crop. |
| D | covered commodity followed by a different covered commodity – meets double-cropping definition | both plantings of the eligible specialty crops. |
| DF | double-cropped covered commodity followed by a different covered commodity, failed | both plantings of the eligible specialty crops. |
| E | covered commodity followed by FAV or wild rice, or vice versa – meets double-cropping definition | the planted eligible specialty crop. |
| EF | covered commodity followed by FAV or wild rice, or vice versa – meets double-cropping definition, failed | the failed eligible specialty crop. |
| F | FAV followed by a different FAV – meets double-cropping definition | the planted eligible specialty crop. |
| FF | FAV followed by a different FAV – meets double-cropping definition, failed | both plantings of the eligible specialty crops. |
| G | noncovered commodity or non-FAV followed by covered commodity or vice versa – meets double-cropping definition | the planted eligible specialty crop. |
| GF | noncovered commodity or non-FAV followed by covered commodity or vice versa – meets double-cropping definition, failed | the failed eligible specialty crop. |

25 Eligible Acreage (Continued)

G Crop Status Codes (Continued)

| Crop Status Code | IF the acreage reported (or determined if present) in CARS has the crop status code of... | THEN ASCF eligibility will be limited to... |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| H | noncovered commodity/non-FAV followed by FAV or vice versa – meets double-cropping definition | the planted eligible specialty crop. |
| HF | noncovered commodity/non-FAV followed by FAV or vice versa – meets double-cropping definition, failed | both plantings of the eligible specialty crops. |
| J | covered commodity followed by another covered commodity – does not meet approved double-cropping definition | both plantings of the eligible specialty crops. |
| JF | covered commodity followed by another covered commodity – does not meet approved double-cropping definition, failed | both plantings of the eligible specialty crops. |
| K | covered commodity followed by FAV/wild rice or vice versa – does not meet double-cropping definition | the planted eligible specialty crop. |
| KF | covered commodity followed by FAV/wild rice or vice versa – does not meet double-cropping definition, failed | the failed eligible specialty crop. |
| L | FAV followed by a different FAV – does not meet double-cropping definition | both plantings of the eligible specialty crops. |
| LF | FAV followed by a different FAV – does not meet double-cropping definition, failed | both plantings of the eligible specialty crops. |
| M | noncovered commodity or non-FAV followed by covered commodity or vice versa – does not meet double-cropping definition | the planted eligible specialty crop. |
| MF | noncovered commodity or non-FAV followed by covered commodity or vice versa – does not meet double-cropping definition, failed | the failed eligible specialty crop. |
| N | noncovered commodity/non-FAV followed by FAV or vice versa – does not meet double-cropping definition | both plantings of the eligible specialty crops. |
| NF | noncovered commodity/non-FAV followed by FAV or vice versa – does not meet double-cropping definition, failed | both plantings of the eligible specialty crops. |

25 Eligible Acreage (Continued)

G Crop Status Codes (Continued)

| Crop Status Code | IF the acreage reported (or determined if present) in CARS has the crop status code of... | THEN ASCF eligibility will be limited to... |
|------------------|--|--|
| O | noncovered commodity/non-FAV followed by a noncovered commodity/ non-FAV – meets double-cropping definition | both plantings of the eligible specialty crops. |
| OF | noncovered commodity/non-FAV followed by a noncovered commodity/ non-FAV – meets double-cropping definition, failed | both plantings of the eligible specialty crops. |
| P | Noncovered commodity/non-FAV followed by a noncovered commodity/non-FAV does not meet double-cropping definition | both plantings of the eligible specialty crops. |
| PF | Noncovered commodity/non-FAV followed by a noncovered commodity/non-FAV does not meet double-cropping definition, failed | both plantings of the eligible specialty crops. |
| R | Repeat of the same initial crop planted | both plantings of the eligible specialty crops. |
| RF | Repeat of the same initial crop planted, failed | both plantings of the eligible specialty crops. |

H Prevented Planted Acreage

Acreage that has been reported as prevented planted does **not** qualify for ASCF.

I Failed Acreage

Acreage being reported as failed must be reported before the disposition of the crop according to 2-CP. Failed acreage reports, for ASCF purposes only, are not allowed.

25 Eligible Acreage (Continued)

J Subsequent Acreage

Acreage of eligible specialty crops with the following subsequent acreage status codes are eligible for ASCF.

| | |
|---|----|
| D | DF |
| E | EF |
| G | GF |
| H | HF |
| J | JF |
| K | KF |
| L | LF |
| M | MF |
| N | NF |
| O | OF |
| P | PF |

26-40 (Reserved)

Part 3 Application Process**41 Signup****A ASCF Signup**

Applicants must submit a completed CCC-556 for their entire operation nationwide before the end of the application period. The application period for 2025 begins:

- June 1, 2026, for applicants that have a Login.gov account to file their application electronically
- June 8, 2026, for applicants to receive their application from the County Office.

The application period ends August 7, 2026, for both application types.

Note: Applicants cannot alter prefilled information on CCC-556. See paragraph 43 for policy on revising CCC-556.

B CCC-556 Planted Acreage

CCC-556 will prefill with the specialty crops, types, and reported acreages. The initial data load used acreage reporting information as of May 8, 2026. Applications with acreage reports modified after May 8, 2026, must be refreshed according to 2-ASCF before applicant signature.

C CCC-556 Controlled Environment Acreage

Applicants must manually enter the acreage for each specialty crop and type in a controlled environment. This is the only authorized manual entry by applicants on CCC-556.

41 **Signup (Continued)**

D CCC-556 Other Adjustments

An “Other Adjustment” will be used for acreage when an applicant is requesting:

- additional acreage on an application or an acreage report that:
 - was filed before November 1, 2025
 - did not have a signature loaded in CARS
 - the specialty crop was already on the application
- less acreage than what is on the application.

Note: All applications containing an “Other Adjustment” that increases acreage must be reviewed by SED designee before application approval.

Follow 2-ASCF for instructions on entering adjustments and SED designee reviews.

E Signing CCC-556

By signing CCC-556, the applicant listed on CCC-556 is:

- applying for an ASCF payment
- certifying that all information provided on CCC-556 is true and correct
- agreeing to comply with regulations in 28 U.S.C. and 18 U.S.C.

41 Signup (Continued)

F Required Forms

An application package includes the following for program year 2025:

- AD-1026 for applicants and all affiliates with farming interests
- AD-2047, if not previously filed
- CCC-901, if applicable and not previously filed
- CCC-902, if not previously filed
- CCC-941, if not previously filed
- CCC-556
- FSA-325, if applicable
- SF-3881, if not previously filed.

Note: Policy allowing hardship waivers of the EFT requirement applies to ASCF.
See 63-FI.

41 Signup (Continued)

G Submitting CCC-556

A producer may submit one CCC-556 nationwide using any of the following methods:

- in person
- by mail
- electronically by any of the following but not limited to:
 - online application at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ascf>
 - FAX
 - e-mail with a scanned or photocopy of the signed CCC-556
 - BOX and One-Span
 - other authorized method provided by supplemental notice or other guidance.

Note: See 1-CM for policy on signature and electronic filing.

Notes: Submitting CCC-556 online requires an active Level 2 eAuthentication account through Login.gov. Individual applicants can register for a Login.gov account at <https://login.gov/>.

Once an application has been submitted, it cannot be updated in the online application. Applicants must contact the County Office.

Applications submitted through BOX should use the following standard naming convention: “CCC-556 2025–Producer name–STCO (code)–application creation date-application number”.

Although CCC-556’s may be submitted to any County Office nationwide, if the receiving County Office is not the recording County Office, the receiving County Office must date-stamp CCC-556 and send it by e-mail, FAX, or BOX to the recording County Office listed on the producer’s CCC-556. A copy of CCC-556 will be maintained in the receiving County Office according to 1-CM.

41 Signup (Continued)

H Completing CCC-556

CCC-556 will be prefilled for the County Office and the applicant. The applicant applying for an ASCF payment will complete CCC-556, items 14 (if applicable), 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22.

| Item | Instructions |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Recording State - populated by the automated system. |
| 2 | Recording County - populated by the automated system. |
| 3 | Program Year - "2025" will be populated by the automated system. |
| 4 | Application Number - populated by the automated system. |
| 5A | Recording County FSA Office Name and Address - populated by the automated system using information from FSA records. |
| 5B | Recording County Phone Number - populated by the automated system using information from FSA records. |
| 5C | Recording County Fax Number - populated by the automated system using information is FSA records. |
| Part A – Applicant Information | |
| 6 | <p>Applicant Name - prepopulated with the full name of the producer applying for 2025 ASCF benefits using information from FSA records.</p> <p>Note: If changes are needed, contact the County Office listed in item 5A.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Address - the following items are prepopulated using information from FSA records:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • item 7A with the first address line • item 7B with the second address line, if applicable • item 7C with the city • item 7D with the State • item 7E with the ZIP Code. <p>Note: If changes are needed, contact the County Office listed in item 5A.</p> |
| 8 | <p>Phone Number - the following items are prepopulated using information from FSA records:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • item 8A with the primary phone number and indicate "Home" or "Cell" • item 8B with the alternate phone number and indicate "Home" or "Cell" (optional). <p>Note: If changes are needed, contact the County Office listed in item 5A.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Email Address - prepopulated with the producer's e-mail address (optional) using information from FSA records.</p> <p>Note: If changes are needed, contact the County Office listed in item 5A.</p> |

41 Signup (Continued)

H Completing CCC-556 (Continued)

| Item | Instructions |
|--|--|
| Part B – Applicant Eligible Specialty Crops and Acres | |
| 10 | Payment Group - prepopulated with the payment group using information related to specialty crops listed in item 11. |
| 11 | Specialty Crop - prepopulated with the eligible specialty crop using information from FSA records on the 2025 FSA-578's. |
| 12 | Type - prepopulated with specialty crop variety for acres of the specialty crop in item 11 using information from FSA records on the 2025 FSA-578's. |
| 13 | <p>2025 Planted Acres – prepopulated using information from FSA records on the 2025 FSA-278 with either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reported acres • determined acres, if present. <p>Note: Acreage is calculated using the applicant's shares reported for each specialty crop and type multiplied by the acreage for each field and added together for all fields nationwide.</p> |
| 14 | Controlled Environment Acreage - applicant will enter the acreage of each specified specialty crop that is physically located in a controlled environment. |
| 15 | Total Eligible Acres - the result of item 13 minus item 14. |
| 16 | <p>Other Adjustment</p> <p>Note: Contact the local FSA office for assistance to determine value, if applicable.</p> |
| 17 | COC Adjustment - for COC use only, leave blank. |

41 Signup (Continued)

H Completing CCC-556 (Continued)

| Item | Instructions |
|--|--|
| Part C – Applicant Certification | |
| 18 | Controlled Environment Certification - applicant will check “Yes” or “No” to verify all acreage physically located in a controlled environment is entered for each specialty crop and type. |
| 19 | Citizenship Certification - applicant will check “Yes” or “No” to verify if applicant or all members of an entity are a United States citizen or resident alien. |
| 20 | Applicant Signature - applicant requesting an ASCF payment must sign certifying to the information in Parts A and B. |
| 21 | Title/Relationship of Representative - if signing on behalf of an entity or another individual, enter the representative title or relationship to the entity or individual. Note: If not signing in the representative capacity, this field should be left blank. |
| 22 | Date - enter applicant signature date in “MM/DD/YYYY” format. |
| Part D – County Committee (COC) Determination | |
| 23 | COC or Designee Signature - COC or designee approving CCC-556 must sign. |
| 24 | Title/Relationship of Representative - enter the title of COC or designee who signed in item 23. |
| 25 | Date - enter the COC or designee signature date in “MM/DD/YYYY” format. |
| 26 | Determination - COC or designee will check “Approved” or “Disapproved”, as applicable. |

41 Signup (Continued)

I Example of CCC-556

The following is an example of CCC-556.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| CCC-556 (x-xx-28) | | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Commodity Credit Corporation | | OMB Approved No: 0503-0028 OMB Expiration Date: 10/31/2027 | | | |
| ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIALTY CROP FARMERS (ASCF) PROGRAM APPLICATION | | | | FOR COUNTY OFFICE USE ONLY | | | |
| | | 1. Recording State <i>Name Code</i> | | 2. Recording County <i>Name Code</i> | | | |
| | | 3. Program Year 2025 | | 4. Application Number | | | |
| | | 5A. Recording County FSA Office Name and Address | | | | | |
| | | 5B. Recording County Phone Number | | 5C. Recording County Fax Number | | | |
| PART A – APPLICANT INFORMATION | | | | | | | |
| 6. Applicant's Name <i>(Person or Legal Entity)</i> | | | | | | | |
| 7A. Address Line 1 | | | | 8A. Primary Phone Number <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell | | | |
| 7B. Address Line 2 | | | | 8B. Alternate Phone Number <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell | | | |
| 7C. City | | | 7D. State | 7E. Zip | 9. Email Address | | |
| PART B – APPLICANT ELIGIBLE SPECIALTY CROPS AND ACRES | | | | | | | |
| 10. PAYMENT GROUP | 11. SPECIALTY CROP | 12. TYPE | 13. 2025 PLANTED ACRES | 14. CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT ACREAGE | 15. TOTAL ELIGIBLE ACRES | 16. OTHER ADJUSTMENT | 17. COC ADJUSTMENT |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| DATE STAMP | | | | | | | |

41 Signup (Continued)

I Example of CCC-556 (Continued)

CCC-556 (x-xx-26) Page 2 of 4

Applicant's Name (Person or Legal Entity)

PART C – APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

18. I certify that all acreage that was physically located in a controlled environment has been entered for each specialty crop and type.

Yes No

19. I certify that if applying as an individual, that I am a citizen of the United States or a resident alien. If applying as a legal entity, including corporation, LLC, LP, trust, estate, general partnership, joint venture, or similar type entity, the entity is organized under State Law, and all members are a United States Citizen or resident alien. If applying as an Indian tribe or tribal organization, the tribe meets the definition according to the terms as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)

Yes No

The undersigned certifies and acknowledges that the applicable acreage on this form is accurate and represents only the applicant's share interest of the crop acreage of the applicable specialty crop. I hereby sign and acknowledge under penalty of perjury in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746 and 18 U.S.C. § 1621 that the foregoing is true and correct.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 20. Applicant's Signature (By) | 21. Title/Relationship of Representative | 22. Date (MM/DD/YYYY) |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|

PART D – COUNTY COMMITTEE (COC) DETERMINATION

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| 23. COC or Designee Signature | 24. Title/Relationship of Representative | 25. Date (MM/DD/YYYY) | 26. Determination |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVED |

***Privacy Act Statement:** The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a – as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is Section 5 of the CCC Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714c). The information will be used to determine eligibility to participate in and receive benefits under the Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers Program. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for USDA/FSA-2, Farm Records File (Automated). Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility to participate in and receive benefits under the Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers Program.*

***Public Burden Statement (Paperwork Reduction Act):** According to the Paperwork Reduction Act requirement, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0503-0028. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden by emailing to: askusda@usda.gov (OMB NO. 0503-0028).*

42 **Reviews and Approvals**

A Reviewing and Processing CCC-556

The recording county COC is responsible for acting on all CCC-556’s timely. The following table lists the actions COC or designee must take before approving CCC-556.

| Step | Action |
|------|---|
| 1 | Confirm the applicant has signed CCC-556 correctly. Follow 1-CM for the applicant’s signature. |
| 2 | Determine the applicant’s overall eligibility according to paragraph 24. |
| 3 | Confirm CCC-556 was received or postmarked by the end of the application period. |
| 4 | Confirm there are no entries in item 16. If an entry is loaded and increases acreage, SED designee has concurred with adjustment according to 2-ASCF. |

B SED Designee Reviews for Other Adjustments

If an Other Adjustment is used on CCC-556 and the acreage increases, SED designee is required to review the application before COC action is taken.

For Other Adjustments, SED designee must review acreage and verify:

- it was reported by April 24, 2026
- acreage was updated because of a correction or share revision only after May 8, 2026.

These reviews should include acreage that was timely filed by the April 24, 2026, deadline.

SED designee will notify the County Office when the review is completed and will provide the date and any discrepancies to be addressed. The review must be documented in the COC minutes.

42 **Reviews and Approvals (Continued)**

C Delegation of Authority

The authority to approve routine CCC-556’s may be redelegated in writing by COC to CED according to 16-AO, except forms and documents in which CED has a monetary interest.

Routine cases do not include CCC-556’s related to acreage report corrections or that have another adjustment that increases acreage.

| IF the applicant is... | THEN approval authority is... |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| federal or non-federal State or County Office employee | CED. |
| COC member | |
| DD | |
| SED | |
| STC member | |
| CED | COC. |
| any producer in a recording County Office | |

D Approval Process

If all program eligibility requirements are met and COC or delegate has determined that the information on CCC-556 is reasonable and accurate, COC or delegate will approve CCC-556 and thoroughly document approval in the COC meeting minutes.

Notes: COC may redelegate authority to CED to review and approve routine CCC-556’s. All adverse actions must go to COC for review.

Before approval, CCC-556’s with an “other adjustment” increasing acreage must be reviewed and concurred by DD or State Office designee. This review and concurrence will be entered in both the ASCF software and the COC minutes with whoever provided concurrence and the date.

Completing eligibility forms (such as AD-1026, CCC-901, CCC-902, and CCC-941) is not a condition of approval. However, these forms must be filed by August 9, 2027. Failure to timely provide all eligibility forms may result in no payment or a reduced payment.

42 Reviews and Approvals (Continued)**D Approval Process (Continued)**

If COC determines a COC adjustment is needed for the acreage on CCC-556, COC will:

- enter the adjustment in item 17
- document in the COC meeting minutes
- provide notification to the applicant (Exhibit 5).

If the acreage is decreased with the adjustment, proper appeal rights must be given.

Example: A producer late files an acreage report before the April 24, 2026, deadline. COC does not find the supporting documentation acceptable, and determined acres were not loaded into CARS. The decreased acreage is loaded into CCC-556, item 17 before COC signs the approval.

E Disapproval Process

The reasons for disapproval include but are not limited to:

- person or legal entity applying for ASCF is determined to be an ineligible producer according to subparagraph 24 A
- producer did not provide sufficient documentation to support the share of acreage claimed when requested by COC
- signature requirements were not met according to 1-CM
- CCC-556 was submitted or postmarked after the announced signup deadline.

If COC disapproves CCC-556, COC must:

- thoroughly document the reason for the disapproval in the COC meeting minutes
- notify the producer of the disapproval in writing
- provide applicable appeal rights according to 1-APP.

42 Reviews and Approvals (Continued)**F Letter Notifying Applicant of Disapproval**

Send a letter notifying the applicant that their CCC-556 has been disapproved and provide appeal rights (Exhibit 7). A Microsoft Word version of this letter is available as a template on the FBA [SharePoint](#) under the Specialty Crops folder.

G Withdrawing CCC-556

A producer:

- may withdraw CCC-556 any time after submission until the end of the application period

Note: Copies of all submitted CCC-556's must be kept in the file.

- must request a withdrawal in writing.

Notes: If the request is not submitted in the recording County Office, the non-recording County should immediately forward the request to the Recording County.

The County Office must date-stamp the request and provide a receipt for service to the applicant.

All actions must be thoroughly documented in the COC meeting minutes. Payment issued before withdrawing must be refunded.

43 Revising CCC-556**A CCC-556 Acreage Revisions**

CCC-556 may be revised through August 7, 2026. Revisions requested after August 7, 2026, will be considered a late-filed CCC-556. The only allowed manual revisions are to the Other Adjustment field for acreage that was reported before November 1, 2025, and did not meet 2-CP requirements. All other corrections to acreage must be completed through CARS with modifications to the applicant's FSA-578's.

If an applicant files a revised CCC-556:

- the original CCC-556 must be kept on file
- COC is required to review, document, and take action on the revision.

If a change is made on an applicant's FSA-578 and CCC-556 has already been filed, a revised CCC-556 must be created and signed by the applicant by August 7, 2026. Follow 2-ASCF for instructions on revised and suspended CCC-556's.

If a change is made and the producer does not request an updated CCC-556, the County Office should **not** automatically send the producer the updated CCC-556. New applications sent because of a revision or suspension must be returned by August 7, 2026. Late-filed revisions to applications will not be acted on and will not directly impact the original timely filed CCC-556.

44 Late-Filed CCC-556**A Registers**

Registers will be authorized according to 1-CM when deemed necessary. The County Office will maintain a copy of the ASCF register for future reference.

B CCC-556 Received After the Application Deadline

If CCC-556 is received after the application deadline, notify the applicant with appeal rights included in the example letter (Exhibit 8). Provide appeal rights according to 1-APP.

45-59 (Reserved)

Part 4 Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitation

60 Payment Eligibility

A Payment Eligibility Rules

The following payment eligibility rules apply to applicants:

- minor child
- foreign person
- conservation compliance
- controlled substance
- direct attribution
- substantive change
- notification of interest
- adjusted gross income.

B AGI Provisions

The \$900,000 AGI provisions in 6-PL, Part 8 are applicable.

C Deadline for Filing Eligibility Documents

Applicants must file all required and optional eligibility documents by August 9, 2027.

61 Payment Limitation

A Payment Limitation Rules

ASCF uses the payment limitation provisions of 6-PL. The total payments received, directly or indirectly, by a person or legal entity (except a joint venture or general partnership) for ASCF may not exceed \$250,000.

The following payment limitation rules apply to ASCF applicants:

- payments to persons and legal entities will be limited according to the rules for attribution in 7 CFR 1400.105 and 6-PL, Part 3

Note: The total amount of payment received, directly or indirectly, by a public school may not exceed \$250,000 per school. The total amount of combined payments to public schools in the same State may not exceed \$500,000. Other State or political subdivisions may not receive ASCF payments.

- substantive change
- payment limitation adjustments.

62-77 (Reserved)

Part 5 Payments

78 Payment Provisions

A Determined Payment Rates

The payment rates for each payment group are shown in the following table.

| Payment Group | Rate |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Tier 1 | \$650 |
| Tier 2 | \$225 |
| Tier 3 | \$65 |
| Beans & Peas | \$25 |

B Payment Calculations

Payments are calculated using the established payment rate for the applicable payment group multiplied by the eligible acres per specialty crop and type.

78 Payment Provisions (Continued)

C Payment Examples

Example 1: Basic calculation with only 1 farm and no controlled environment acres.

| | Eligible Specialty Crop | Type | (a) Planted Acres (Producer Share) | (b) Controlled Environment Acres | (c) Total Acres for Payment |
|----------|--------------------------------|-------------|---|---|--|
| Farm 100 | Apples | All | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| | Pumpkins | All | 500 | 0 | 500 |

| Eligible Specialty Crop | Type | (c) Total Acres for Payment | (d) Eligible Crop Payment Rate | (e) Calculated Payment Amount (c) x (d) |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--|---|--|
| Apples | All | 100 | \$225.00 | \$ 22,500.00 |
| Pumpkins | All | 500 | \$225.00 | \$112,500.00 |
| Producer Total Gross Payment | | | | \$135,000.00 |

78 Payment Provisions (Continued)

C Payment Examples (Continued)

Example 2: Basic calculation with more than 1 farm and no controlled environment acres.

The producer has Farm 100 in County A and Farms 200 and 300 in County B. The recording County Office is County B. The payment will be issued out of County B.

| | Eligible Specialty Crop | Type | (a) Planted Acres (Producer Share) | (b) Controlled Env. Acres | (c) Total Acres for Payment (a) – (b) |
|----------|-------------------------|--------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Farm 100 | Apples | All | 100.00 | 0 | 100.00 |
| | Pumpkins | All | 500.00 | 0 | 500.00 |
| Farm 200 | Beans | Lupine | 17.00 | 0 | 17.00 |
| | Beans | Long | 25.00 | 0 | 25.00 |
| Farm 300 | Pumpkins | All | 20.50 | 0 | 20.50 |
| Farm 400 | Apples | All | 45.25 | 0 | 45.25 |
| | Cabbage | Napa | 10.00 | 0 | 10.00 |

| Eligible Specialty Crop | Type | (c) Total Acres for Payment | (d) Eligible Crop Payment Rate | (e) Calculated Payment Amount (c) x (d) |
|------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Apples | All | 145.25 | \$225.00 | \$32,681.25 |
| Beans | Lupine | 17.00 | \$25.00 | \$425.00 |
| Beans | Long | 25.00 | \$25.00 | \$625.00 |
| Cabbage | Napa | 10.00 | \$650.00 | \$6,500.00 |
| Pumpkins | All | 520.50 | \$225.00 | \$117,112.50 |
| Producer Total Gross Payment | | | | \$157,343.75 |

78 Payment Provisions (Continued)

C Payment Examples (Continued)

Example 3: Basic calculation with more than 1 farm and controlled environment acres.

| | Eligible Specialty Crop | Type | (a) Planted Acres (Producer Share) | (b) Controlled Env. Acres | (c) Total Acres for Payment (a) – (b) |
|----------|-------------------------|----------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Farm 100 | Blueberries | Highbush | 25.00 | 0 | 25.00 |
| | Tomatoes | All | 50.00 | 32.50 | 17.50 |
| Farm 200 | Blueberries | Low Bush | 20.00 | 0 | 20.00 |
| | Tomatoes | All | 25.00 | 17.25 | 7.75 |
| Farm 300 | Blueberries | Highbush | 30.50 | 0 | 30.50 |

| Eligible Specialty Crop | Type | (c) Total Acres for Payment | (d) Eligible Crop Payment Rate | (e) Calculated Payment Amount (c) x (d) |
|------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Blueberries | Highbush | 55.50 | \$650.00 | \$35,750.00 |
| Blueberries | Low Bush | 20.00 | \$225.00 | \$4,500.00 |
| Tomatoes | All | 25.25 | \$225.00 | \$5,681.25 |
| Producer Total Gross Payment | | | | \$45,931.25 |

78 Payment Provisions (Continued)

C Payment Examples (Continued)

Example 4: Calculation with only 1 farm, controlled environment acres, and other adjustment.

| | Eligible Specialty Crop | Type | (a) Planted Acres (Producer Share) | (b) Controlled Environment Acres | (c) Total Acres for Payment |
|----------|--------------------------------|-------------|---|---|--|
| Farm 100 | Apples | All | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| | Tomatoes | All | 500 | 150 | 350 |

| Eligible Specialty Crop | Type | (c) Total Acres for Payment | (d) Other Adjustment | (e) Eligible Crop Payment Rate | (f) Calculated Payment Amount ((c) or (d)) x (e) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Apples | All | 100 | | \$225.00 | \$22,500.00 |
| Pumpkins | All | 350 | 600 | \$225.00 | \$135,000.00 |
| Producer Total Gross Payment | | | | | \$157,500.00 |

79 **Acreage Disputes for ASCF**

A Policy

Applicants are responsible for:

- determining shares on FSA-578 and acres on CCC-556
- submitting all necessary signatures or supportive and necessary documentation by deadlines.

Note: While FSA may assist applicants, FSA is **not** responsible for determining correct acreage or for ensuring that applicants meet ASCF requirements.

COC's must **not** be involved in, settle division of acreage disputes for, or act on disputed acreage for CCC-556's.

B Acreage Share Disputes

Acreage is considered in dispute when there is a disagreement on reported acre shares on FSA-578. A disagreement is evident by having conflicting CCC-556's on file or a producer disputing shares on FSA-578.

79 Division of Payment Disputes (Continued)

C Determining Disputes

To determine whether an acreage dispute exists, COC's **must**:

- determine whether available documentation supports who shares in acreage on the farm
- determine whether the documentation supports claimed acreage shares
- review lease agreements and use them as a guide in determining who shares in acreage on the farm and what the correct acreage shares should be, unless the lease agreement conflicts with other provisions of this handbook
- compare the previous and current year rental agreements to determine whether input expenses are similar or have changed for the type of acreage being rented.

Disputes may exist when the available evidence does **not** support claimed acreage shares.

Disputes generally do **not** exist when:

- the available evidence obviously supports who should share in acreage
- all provisions of this handbook are met.

Note: Follow 2-CP policy on revising shares because of disputes.

79 Division of Payment Disputes (Continued)

D Documenting a Dispute

If it is determined there is a disputed CCC-556, COC will follow these instructions.

| IF... | THEN notify... |
|---|---|
| <p>CCC-556's containing signatures of all applicants claiming a share of the acreage has been approved and are subsequently challenged by another CCC-556</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all applicants on approved CCC-556's that COC's approval of CCC-556 is withdrawn because of the dispute and will remain in a disputed status until documentation resolving the dispute is provided to COC • all applicants on previously approved CCC-556's, and on the challenging CCC-556, that there is a dispute of acreage and that COC will not approve CCC-556's that include the specific farm until the dispute is settled <p>Notes: Send the same letter to all parties concerning this action and copy all parties to this action.</p> <p>COC notification that it will not act on or approve CCC-556's with a dispute of acreage is not an adverse decision that allows an appeal or appealability review. Appeals or appealability reviews only occur if COC renders a decision to approve or disapprove CCC-556.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applicants on all CCC-556's that they are responsible for resolving the dispute of acreage and obtaining all necessary signatures of applicants by the end of the application period. |
| <p>conflicting CCC-556's show that there is a dispute of acreage and CCC-556's have not yet been approved</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all interested applicants that COC will not approve CCC-556's that include the specific farm until the dispute is settled <p>Notes: To the extent possible, send the same letter and copy all parties asserting shares, operators, landowners, etc., with this notification.</p> <p>COC notification that it will not act on or approve CCC-556's with a dispute of acreage will not be considered an adverse decision that allows an appeal or appealability review. Appeals or appealability reviews only occur if COC renders a decision to approve or disapprove CCC-556.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applicants on all CCC-556's that they are responsible for resolving the dispute of acreage and obtaining all necessary signatures of applicants by the end of the application period. |

79 Division of Payment Disputes (Continued)**E Payment When Disputes Are Resolved for ASCF**

Approval of CCC-556 once a dispute is resolved before the end of the application period will be handled the same as undisputed CCC-556's.

If a dispute is resolved after August 7, 2026, CCC-556 may be approved and payments issued accordingly **only** if CCC-556 was filed on or before August 7, 2026, with payment acres and required signatures for all CCC-556's in agreement.

Disputing parties requesting payment must have payment acres greater than zero to receive payment. Approved CCC-556 payment shares will be limited to not more than the payment acres requested on the disputed CCC-556.

Example: Applicants A and B both timely file CCC-556 requesting 100 percent of the farm's acreage. After August 7, 2026, Applicants A and B agree to shares of 50 percent each. COC may approve the contract for payment to Applicants A and B if CCC-556's requesting 50 acres for each producer are timely filed by both applicants with required signatures before August 7, 2026.

If there is a dispute that is preventing 1 or more applicants from signing, applicants are responsible for ensuring that, as a condition of CCC-556 eligibility, CCC-556 with all necessary signatures of applicants is submitted to FSA no later than the end of the application period to be considered for approval.

COC will render no determination or action on CCC-556's **not** having all necessary signatures and required supporting contractual documents. FSA cannot approve enrollments of parts of eligible acreage.

80-95 (Reserved)

Part 6 Reviews

96 SED Designee Pre-Payment Reviews

A SED Designee

SED's must appoint a designee to complete 5 pre-payment reviews for the State. This designee must be able to review applications that they do not have an interest in or have worked on.

B Pre-Payment Reviews

States will conduct 5 payment reviews before the County Office certifies and signs payments in NPS. These 5 reviews:

- are not required to be the first 5 applications in the State
- should **not** be from the same county
- **must** include different commodities.

SED designee will complete the SED Designee Pre-Payment Checklist (Exhibit 25) for each application reviewed and ensure:

- acreage values on CCC-556 match CARS
- manually calculated gross payment amount matches the ECPR.

A PDF version is available on the FBA State Office [SharePoint](#).

If issues are discovered, the SED designee must immediately report on the PDD Problem SharePoint and notify their State to hold certification and signing payments until further notice.

Note: If issues are discovered, State Offices will be notified by National Office immediately, and this process must be repeated after the issue is resolved.

If no issues are discovered, SED designee must notify County Offices within the State that payments can be certified and signed in NPS.

C Review Documentation

SED designee will report to the National Office that reviews are complete within 1 week of the start of payments. The certification will be completed on the [FBA State Office SharePoint](#) and all pre-payment review checklists must be attached to the certification as 1 file.

97 Payment Reviews

A CED Payment Reviews

CED payment reviews:

- ensure that CCC-556's and eligibility forms are completed correctly and documented in the COC minutes as applicable
- demonstrate that the County Office understands and is implementing ASCF policy correctly.

CED is required to review **completed CCC-556's** from the **first 5 applicants for each Service Center** as part of their supervisory responsibility to ensure that program integrity and accountability requirements are met.

The initial review completed by CED must include all documents required to issue payments, including eligibility documents. If the eligibility documentation is not available for 1 or more of the first 5 applicants, CED will select the next available completed CCC-556 payment until five CCC-556 payments are available for review. CED will complete the CED Payment Review Checklist (Exhibit 26). A PDF version is available on [FBA SharePoint](#) under the Specialty Crops folder.

During the initial review, CED will complete the CED Payment Review Checklist and do the following:

- ensure that CCC-556 is completed correctly
- review all signatures obtained, including representative signature authorities
- ensure that all required payment limitation and payment eligibility forms are on file and completed correctly
- review and ensure that all software components are loaded correctly and match paper versions, if applicable, for all documents.

Upon completion, CED will:

- certify to SED designee that the first 5 completed CCC-556 payments have been reviewed
- provide the application package for SED designee review.

Note: CED does not have to wait until all five CCC-556 payments have been reviewed to submit to SED designee.

Corrective actions must be taken within 30 calendar days and reported to DD to verify completion.

97 Payment Reviews (Continued)**B SED Designee Reviews**

An employee designated by SED will review CCC-556 payments from the first five CCC-556's paid in a Service Center to verify that:

- a signed CCC-556 was filed by the applicant or authorized representative of a legal entity
- all required eligibility documentation is on file and determination is documented in the COC minutes
- the applicant meets ASCF program requirements.

SED designee will complete the SED Designee Payment Review Checklist (Exhibit 27) for each Service Center and enter results into recording system. A PDF version is available on the FBA [SharePoint](#) under the Specialty Crops folder.

Note: DD or State Office designee will ensure that corrective actions needed are completed within 30 calendar days.

C State Office Reviews

SED will review all SED designee Payment Reviews for each Service Center and verify that:

- SED designee has reviewed the first 5 payments for each Service Center
- corrective actions identified in the reviews have been completed.

SED will provide a completed report to the National Office identifying all additional findings and corrective actions taken within 30 calendar days of SED designee reviews.

98 Spot Checks**A National Producer Selection**

A selection of applicants eligible to participate in ASCF will be made by the National Office using a statistical sampling method developed by EPAD. This selection is based on producer reported acreage data for ASCF eligible crops and includes at least 1 application per State, and no more than 5 applications per county. The selection list is posted on the FBA [SharePoint](#) under the Specialty Crops folder.

Note: Not all counties will have applicants selected for spot check. STC's and COC's can select additional applicants for review. All additional selections must be sent to the National Office to be added to the reporting system.

B Spot Check Documentation

Applicants will have 30 calendar days from the date of the letter to provide the requested information. Applicants may:

- pay for a measurement service per farm included in the CCC-556 acreage if crop residue can be verified
- provide documentation for each specialty crop and type on CCC-556.

If an applicant pays for a measurement service, the County Office will follow 2-CP to complete the measurement service.

If an applicant elects to provide documentation, the documentation must support the acreage and specialty crop and type on CCC-556.

98 Spot Checks (Continued)**B Spot Check Documentation (Continued)**

Examples of supporting documentation that may be used to support CCC-556 include the following:

- precision planting, spraying, or harvesting geospatial data or maps
- drone photos with location and notable physical boundaries
- other aerial or ground imagery with the ability to determine date, acres, and crop
- seed receipts showing the amount, variety, and date purchased
- receipts for cleaning, treating, etc., seed planted on the farm
- a written contract or documentation of an oral contract to produce a specific crop
- evidence accepted and approved by RMA or another USDA agency
- receipts showing number and units sold if the sale can be positively identified as sale of the crop for the farm for the year represented
- documentation of payment for custom harvesting indicating acreage, location, and crop year
- records showing the crop was fed to livestock.

Note: CIMS data is not acceptable documentation for a spot check and is not authorized.

C Producer Notification of Selection for Spot Check

The County Office will send a notification letter to applicants selected for a spot check within 30 days of application submission (Exhibit 28). A Microsoft Word version of this letter is available as a template on the FBA [SharePoint](#) under the Specialty Crops folder.

If an applicant is on the selection list and does not apply, notification of spot-checked is not required. Selected applicants that do not apply must be recorded as not participating at the conclusion of the application signup.

98 Spot Checks (Continued)**D Failure to Provide Acceptable Documentation for Spot Check**

Failure to timely provide acceptable documentation within 30 calendar days from notification will result in COC determining the participant ineligible for program benefits and the producer will be required to refund all payments issued under ASCF. COC must:

- thoroughly document the decision in the COC minutes
- notify the participant in writing of the ineligibility determination (Exhibit 29) within 30 days after their initial spot check documentation deadline
- afford appeal rights according to 1-APP.

Note: A Microsoft Word version of this letter is available as a template on the FBA [SharePoint](#) under the Specialty Crops folder.

E Conducting the ASCF Spot Checks

The County Office will complete the ASCF National Spot Check Checklist (Exhibit 30) for each applicant selected. A PDF version is available on the FBA [SharePoint](#) under the Specialty Crops folder.

The County Office will provide the results of the ASCF Spot Check Checklists and all documentation to COC within 30 calendar days of applicant providing documentation.

F Discrepancy in Acreage

The following instructions provide guidance when there is a discrepancy in acreage by commodity between the:

- acreage as reported on the CCC-556
- actual measurement or documentation as determined from the measurement service or documentation provided by the applicant.

98 Spot Checks (Continued)

F Discrepancy in Acreage (Continued)

| IF determined acreage is... | THEN COC... |
|--|--|
| equal to or greater than the reported acreage | has no action required. |
| less than but within 5 percent or 1 acre of the reported acreage | Note: Do not enter the determined acreage in the “COC Adjustment” fields. No additional payment will be issued. |
| more than 5 percent or 1 acre of the reported acreage | <p>must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determine the producer did not comply with ASCF provisions • adjust the acreage downward to the acreage determined from the measurement service or documentation provided by the applicant in the “COC Adjustment” field. <p>COC will also consider whether there is fraud or abuse according to subparagraph I.</p> |

G COC Action on Spot Checks

COC will:

- review all spot check findings, facts, and documentation
- issue an administrative determination of eligibility
- afford appeal rights according to 1-APP.

If a spot check finding results in a required adjustment, COC will enter the adjustment in on CCC-556, item 17.

Note: Make only downward adjustments resulting from a spot check.

Once administrative determination is made, the County Office will:

- notify the producer of the results of the spot check (Exhibit 31, Exhibit 32)
- load spot check results into recording system by announced deadline.

Note: A Microsoft Word version of these letters are available as a template on the FBA [SharePoint](#) under the Specialty Crops folder.

98 Spot Checks (Continued)

H Quality Reviews on Spot Checks

Once all spot check results have been loaded into the recording system, a quality review will be completed by an SED designee. The quality review samples will be provided by the National Office and must be completed and entered in the recording system by the announced deadline.

I Discovery of Fraud or Abuse

COC will follow 1-CM for applications suspected of fraud or abuse with intent to defeat the purpose of ASCF.

Reports, Forms, Abbreviations, and Redelegations of Authority

Reports

None.

Forms

This table lists all forms referenced in this handbook.

| Number | Title | Display Reference | Reference |
|---------|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| AD-1026 | Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification | | 41, 42 |
| AD-2047 | Customer Data Worksheet | | 7, 41 |
| CCC-556 | Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF) Program Application | 41 | Text |
| CCC-901 | Member's Information | | 41, 42 |
| CCC-902 | Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility 2009 and Subsequent Program Years | | 41, 42 |
| CCC-941 | Average Adjusted Gross Income | | 41, 42 |
| FSA-325 | Application for Payment of Amounts Due Persons Who Have Died, Disappeared, or Have Been Declared Incompetent | | 6, 41 |
| FSA-578 | Report of Acreage | | 24, 25, 41, 43, 79 |
| FSA-850 | Environmental Screening Worksheet | | 2 |
| SF-3881 | ACH Vendor/Miscellaneous Payment Enrollment Form | | 41 |

Reports, Forms, Abbreviations, and Delegations of Authority (Continued)

Abbreviations Not Listed in 1-CM

The following abbreviations are not listed in 1-CM.

| Approved Abbreviations | Term | Reference |
|------------------------|---|--------------------|
| ARC | Agriculture Risk Coverage | 25, Ex. 2 |
| ARD | acreage reporting date | 25 |
| CARS | Crop Acreage Reporting System | 25, 41, 42, 43, 96 |
| CIMS | Comprehensive Information Management System | 25, 98 |
| CRM | Customer Relationship Management | 7 |
| ECPR | Estimated Calculated Payment Report | 96 |
| EPAD | Economic and Policy Analysis Division | 98 |
| ASCF | Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers Program | Text |
| PIIA | Payment Integrity Information Act | 5 |
| PLC | Price Loss Coverage | 25, Ex. 2 |

Delegations of Authority

This table lists delegations of authority in this handbook.

| Delegation | Reference |
|---|-----------|
| COC may redelegate authority to review and approve CCC-556's to CED, in routine cases. Delegations must be documented in the COC meeting minutes. | 5, 42 |

Definitions of Terms Used in This Handbook

Application

Application means CCC-556.

Beans

Beans means only the following types of beans: Adzuki, Anasazi, baby lima, black turtle, butter, Canario, Chinese string, cranberry, dark red kidney, fava, flat small white, green garbanzo chickpeas, great northern, green, green baby French (petite), Jacob's cattle, Kentucky blue, kintoki, lablab (hyacinth), large lima, light red kidney, long, lupine, marrow, mayocoba, myothe, mung, October, papadi valor, pea, pink, pinto, pole, pole columbus, roma, shelli, small red, small white navy, snap wax, soldier, sulfur, tebo, tiger eye kidney, velvet, white adzuki, white half runner, white kidney, wing, yardlong, and yellow eye.

Caneberries

Caneberries means only the following types of caneberries: Apache, Arapaho, black raspberries, blackberries, boysenberries, cascadeberries, Chester blackberries, Chickasaw, Doyle blackberries, Estrella/yellow, evergreen blackberries, Kiowa/Ouachita, Kotata blackberries, loganberries, Maravilla, marionberries, Natchez, Navaho, olallieberries, Osage, Prime Ark 45, Prime-Jan, Prime-Jim, red raspberries, tayberries, and triple crown blackberries.

Controlled Environment

Controlled Environment means the use of structures that allow for the manipulation of various environmental factors instead of relying on nature for any period of time during the growing season. This manipulation can be either partially or fully controlled to optimize plant growth, improve consistency, grow without soil, extend the growing period, or to reduce risks from weather, pests, and disease. Examples of such factors are control over temperature, humidity, light levels, nutrient levels, and atmospheric composition such as CO2 concentration. The term "controlled environment" excludes the use of structures to produce seedlings prior to planting for production purposes.

Crop Year

Crop year means for crops other than mushrooms, the calendar year in which a specialty crop, or the majority of a specialty crop was intended for harvest. For mushrooms, October 1 through September 30.

Deputy Administrator

Deputy Administrator means FSA DAFP.

Definitions of Terms Used in This Handbook (Continued)

Determined Acreage

Determined acreage means acreage that is established by an FSA representative by 1 of the following:

- using official acreage
- digitizing areas on a photograph or other imagery
- making computations from scaled dimensions or ground measurements.

Legal Entity

Legal entity means an entity that is created under Federal or State law and that does either of the following:

- owns land or an agricultural commodity
- produces an agricultural commodity.

Legal entities include corporations, joint stock companies, associations, limited partnerships, LLC's, irrevocable trusts, estates, charitable organizations, general partnerships, joint ventures, and other similar organizations created under Federal or State law, including any such organization participating in a business structure as a partner in a general partnership, a participant in a joint venture, a grantor of a revocable trust, or a participant in a similar organization. A business operating as a sole proprietorship is considered a legal entity.

Melons

Melons means only the following types of melons: canary, cantaloupe, Crenshaw, honeydew, Israel, kiwano (horned), Korean golden, and watermelon.

Minor Child

Minor child means a person who is under 18 years of age as of June 1, 2024.

Peas

Peas means only the following types of peas: arvika/4010, black eye, butter, caley, China, cow, cream, crowder, English or garden, flat, marrowfat, mini, partridge, pigeon, pink eyed, purple hull, rondo, snap, snow, southern acre, speckled or colored, sugar, and Umatilla.

Producer

Producer means an owner, operator, landlord, tenant, or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing a crop and is entitled to share in the crop available for marketing from the farm, or would have shared had the crop been produced.

Definitions of Terms Used in This Handbook (Continued)

Secretary

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture.

Sweet Corn

Sweet Corn means only the following types of corn: sweet bicolor, sweet white, sweet yellow/golden early, and sweet yellow/golden late.

United States

United States means all 50 States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

Letter Notifying Applicant of Approval With Reduced Acreage

The following is an example of a letter for approving CCC-556 that COC has reduced acreage.



[State/County Name Here] State Office / County Service Center

Street Address

Street Address

City, State, ZIP Code

PHONE: xxx.xxx.xxxx

TO NAME

Street Address

City, State, ZIP Code

Month XX, 20XX

Dear Name Here,

This letter is in response to your 2025 Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF) program application.

FSA has reviewed your application and has approved it with a reduced acreage for [insert specialty crop and type]. This reduction was due to [insert description of basis for reduction].

If you believe we have not properly reviewed your application, you may appeal this determination to the County Committee by filing a written request no later than 30 calendar days after you receive this notice in accordance with the FSA appeal procedures found at 7 CFR Part 780. If you appeal to the County Committee, you have the right to an informal hearing which you or your representative may attend either personally or by telephone. If you appeal this determination to the County Committee, you may later appeal an adverse determination of the County Committee to the FSA State Committee or the National Appeals Division or request mediation. To appeal, write to the County Committee at the following address and explain why you believe this determination is erroneous.

Any County FSA Committee

1235 Street Name.

City, State 11111

If you do not timely file an appeal of this determination, this shall be the final administrative determination with respect to this matter in accordance with regulations at 7 CFR Part 780 and 7 CFR Part 11.

Sincerely,

Name


Title

Farm Service Agency

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Letter Notifying Applicant of Disapproval

The following is an example of a letter for disapproving CCC-556.

 **Farm Service Agency**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[State/County Name Here] State Office / County Service Center
Street Address
Street Address
City, State, ZIP Code
PHONE: xxx.xxx.xxxx

TO NAME
Street Address
City, State, ZIP Code

Month XX, 20XX

Dear Name Here,

This letter is in response to your 2025 Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF) program application.

FSA has reviewed your application and has disapproved it due to [insert description of basis for disapproval].

If you believe we have not properly reviewed your application, you may appeal this determination to the County Committee by filing a written request no later than 30 calendar days after you receive this notice in accordance with the FSA appeal procedures found at 7 CFR Part 780. If you appeal to the County Committee, you have the right to an informal hearing which you or your representative may attend either personally or by telephone. If you appeal this determination to the County Committee, you may later appeal an adverse determination of the County Committee to the FSA State Committee or the National Appeals Division or request mediation. To appeal, write to the County Committee at the following address and explain why you believe this determination is erroneous.

Any County FSA Committee
1235 Street Name.
City, State 11111

If you do not timely file an appeal of this determination, this shall be the final administrative determination with respect to this matter in accordance with regulations at 7 CFR Part 780 and 7 CFR Part 11.


Sincerely,

Name
Title

Farm Service Agency
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Letter Notifying Applicant of Disapproval for Late-Filed CCC-556

The following is an example of a letter for disapproving CCC-556 that was late-filed after the application deadline.

 **Farm Service Agency**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[State/County Name Here] State Office / County Service Center
Street Address
Street Address
City, State, ZIP Code
PHONE: xxx.xxx.xxxx

TO NAME
Street Address
City, State, ZIP Code

Month XX, 20XX

Dear Name Here,

This letter is in response to your 2025 Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF) program application.

FSA has reviewed your application and determined it was filed after the enrollment deadline of August 7, 2026. The County Committee has disapproved the application based on this reasoning.

If you believe we have not properly reviewed your application, you may appeal this determination to the County Committee by filing a written request no later than 30 calendar days after you receive this notice in accordance with the FSA appeal procedures found at 7 CFR Part 780. If you appeal to the County Committee, you have the right to an informal hearing which you or your representative may attend either personally or by telephone. If you appeal this determination to the County Committee, you may later appeal an adverse determination of the County Committee to the FSA State Committee or the National Appeals Division or request mediation. To appeal, write to the County Committee at the following address and explain why you believe this determination is erroneous.

Any County FSA Committee
1235 Street Name.
City, State 11111

If you do not timely file an appeal of this determination, this shall be the final administrative determination with respect to this matter in accordance with regulations at 7 CFR Part 780 and 7 CFR Part 11.

Sincerely,

Name
Title

Farm Service Agency
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

SED Designee Pre-Payment Review Checklist

The following questions are for SED Designee when reviewing five pre-payments.

ASCF SED Designee Pre-Payment Reviews

Complete this for 5 approved applications prior to authorizing payments to be certified and signed for the State.

| State Name: _____ | | | | | |
|--|------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| County Name: _____ | | | | | |
| Application ID: _____ | | | | | |
| Name of Reviewer: _____ | | | | | |
| Date of Review: _____ | | | | | |
| Review ____ of 5 | | | | | |
| 1. List Specialty Crops, Types, and Acreage of each below: | | | | | |
| Specialty Crop | Type | CARS Acreage | CCC-556 Planted Acreage | Difference | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| 2. List Specialty Crops, Types, Acreage, Payment Rate, Calculated Payment, and ECRP Payment for each commodity below: | | | | | |
| Specialty Crop | Type | Total Eligible Acreage | Payment Rate | Calculated Payment | ECPR Payment |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| 3. Were any discrepancies found? | | | | | Yes or No |
| 4. Does this amount match what is in NPS? | | | | | Yes or No |
| 4.1 If no, is the difference due to rounding? | | | | | Yes or No |
| Any Additional Comments: | | | | | |

CED Payment Review Checklist

The following questions are for CED when reviewing the first five CCC-555 payments.

| ASCF CED Reviews | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Complete this review on the first 5 payments per Service Center and send to SED Designee within 30 days. | |
| State: _____ County: _____ | |
| Producer Name: _____ Application Number: _____ | |
| Application Questions | |
| 1. Did applicant enter a value in item 14? | Yes or No |
| 1.1 If yes, was item 15 calculated correctly? | Yes or No |
| 2. Were there any adjustments entered in item 16? | Yes or No |
| 2.1 If yes, did the acreage increase over item 15? | Yes or No |
| 2.2 If yes, did STO designee review and accept acreage prior to COC approval? | Yes or No |
| 3. Were any adjustments entered in item 17? | Yes or No |
| 4. Has Applicant completed Part C of the CCC-556? | Yes or No |
| 5. Did applicant check "Yes" to question 18? | Yes or No |
| 6. Did applicant check "Yes" to question 19? | Yes or No |
| 7. Was valid signature authority on file for the producer who signed in item 20 of the CCC-556, if applicable? | Yes, No, or Not Applicable |
| 8. Has the CCC-556 been date stamped according to policy? | Yes or No |
| 9. If no adjustments were entered in items 16 or 17, did COC or designee act on CCC-556? | Yes or No |
| 10. If adjustments were entered in items 16 or 17, did COC sign and act on CCC-556? | Yes, No, Not Applicable |
| 11. Are delegations on file and recorded in COC minutes? | Yes or No |
| 11.1 Date of COC minutes or action between minutes | (MM/DD/YYYY) |
| 12. Does signed application values match all values loaded in ASCF software? | Yes or No |
| 13. Does the approval type match what is loaded? (electronic, signed, etc.) | Yes or No |
| 14. Is CCC-902 on file? | Yes or No |
| 14.1 Year 902 was filed? | |
| 15. Is there a completed, signed CCC-903 on file that records the US Citizen and minor child determinations for the 902? | Yes or No |
| 16. Have there been updates to the CCC-902 impacting citizenship or minor child status since originally filed? | Yes or No |
| 16.1 If yes, was a CCC-903 completed, signed, and determinations updated in software? | Yes or No |
| 17. Is AD-1026 on file for the applicant and all affiliates? | Yes or No |
| 17.1 If no, was the missing AD-1026 for the applicant or affiliate? | Applicant, Affiliate, Both |
| 18. Is a CCC-941 on file for the applicant for 2025? | Yes or No |
| County Executive Director Review Notes & Certification: | |
| County Executive Director Name | Completion Date |

SED Designee Payment Review Checklist

The following is the SED Designee Payment Review Checklist.

ASCF SED Designee Payment Reviews

Complete this review per Service Center and enter on SharePoint.

| | |
|--|--|
| State: _____ | |
| Service Center Name: _____ | |
| County Names: _____ | |
| Does this administrative office have applications administered out of it? | Yes or No |
| If no, what administrative office are applications administered out of? | |
| CED Review Questions | |
| 1. Has CED reviewed 5 payments per service center or all payments if less than 5? | Yes or No |
| 1.1 If no, how many reviews were completed? | |
| 1.2 Will additional reviews be completed? | Yes or No |
| If 1.2 is no, explain why no additional reviews will be completed. | |
| Comment: | |
| 2. Has CED provided all reviewed documentation to SED Designee within 30 days of payments? | Yes or No |
| 2.1 If no, how many applications did not have documentation provided? | |
| 2.2 What documentation was missing | Application Eligibility Documents Delegation or Minutes Other |
| Corrective Action: | Request missing documentation Other |
| Comment | |
| Application Question | |
| 3. Has the CCC-556 been date stamped according to policy on all 5 applications reviewed? | Yes or No |
| 3.1 If no, how many CCC-556s were not date stamped? | |
| Comment: | |

SED Designee Payment Review Checklist (Continued)

| State: _____ | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Service Center Name: _____ | |
| County Names: _____ | |
| COC Action Questions | |
| 4. Has COC or designee completed the CCC-556 Part D on all applications reviewed? | Yes or No |
| 4.1 If no, how many applications did not have Part D of the CCC-556 completed? | |
| Corrective Action: | Complete Part D for each Other |
| Comment: | |
| 5. Are COC delegations of authority on file and recorded in COC minutes? | Yes or No |
| 5.1 Date of COC minutes or action between minutes | (MM/DD/YYYY) |
| 5.2 If no, when will COC delegations be updated and placed in minutes? | (MM/DD/YYYY) |
| Comment: | |
| 6. Were there any adjustments entered in item 16? | Yes or No |
| 6.1 If yes, did it increase the acreage over item 15 for the specific crop? | Yes or No |
| 6.2 If 6.1 is yes, did STO designee review and accept acreage prior to COC approval? | Yes or No |
| 6.3 If 6.1 is yes, did COC act the CCC-556? | Yes or No |
| 6.4 If 6.3 is no, how many CCC-556's were not acted on by the COC? | |
| 7. Were there any adjustments entered in item 17? | Yes or No |
| 7.1 If yes, did COC act on the CCC-556? | Yes or No |
| 7.2 If 7.1 is no, how many CCC-556's were not acted on by the COC? | |
| For 7.2 Explain why COC did not act on CCC-556. | |
| Comment: | |

SED Designee Payment Review Checklist (Continued)

| |
|----------------------------|
| State: _____ |
| Service Center Name: _____ |
| County Names: _____ |

| Software Questions | |
|---------------------------|--|
|---------------------------|--|

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 8. Do the signed applications have all identical values as the applications loaded in the ASCF software? | Yes or No |
| 8.1 If no, how many applications did not match? | |
| 8.2 Select the reasons the application did not match: Controlled Environment Acreage Total Eligible Acres Other Adjustment COC Adjustment Item 18 Differs Item 19 Differs Applicant Signature Type Differs Applicant Signature Date Differs COC Action Differs COC Signature method differs (electronic, signed, etc.) COC Date Differs | |
| Comment: | |

| Payment Eligibility Questions | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
|--------------------------------------|--|


| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 10. Is a CCC-902 on File for all applications and loaded in Business File? | Yes or No |
| 10.1 If no, how many were not on file? | |
| Comment: | |
| 11. Is there a completed, signed CCC-903 on file that records the US Citizen and minor child determinations for all applications and determination dates loaded in Business File? | Yes or No |
| 11.1 If no, how many determinations were not complete? | |
| 11.2 Which determination was not made: | US Citizen Minor Child Both |
| Comment: | |
| 12. Have there been updates to the CCC-902s impacting citizenship or minor child status since originally filed? | Yes or No |
| Comment: | |

SED Designee Payment Review Checklist (Continued)

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| State: _____ | |
| Service Center Name: _____ | |
| County Names: _____ | |
| 13. Was a new CCC-903 determination needed for any 902 that was impacted by US Citizenship or minor child updates? | Yes, No, or Not Applicable |
| 13.1 If yes, was a CCC-903 completed, signed, and determinations updated in software? | Yes or No |
| Comment: | |
| 14. Is AD-1026 on file for participant and all affiliates with farming interest for all applications and updated in software? | Yes or No |
| 14.1 If no, how many AD-1026's were missing? | |
| 14.2 Were missing AD-1026 for applicant or affiliates? | Applicant, Affiliate, or Both |
| Comment: | |
| 15. Is a CCC-941 on file that matches the date loaded in the software for each participant for each application? | Yes or No |
| 15.1 If no, how many CCC-941s were missing? | |
| Comment: | |
| Payment Questions | |
| 16. Were all payments certified and signed in NPS within 30 days? | Yes or No |
| 16.1 If no, how many were not certified and signed? | |
| Comment: | |
| Additional Findings Questions | |
| 17. Were additional findings discovered that are not listed above? | Yes or No |
| 17.1 If yes, please list additional findings and corrective actions. | |
| Comments: | |
| 17.2 Date additional corrective actions are completed | |
| SED Designee Review: | |
| SED Designee | Completion Date |

Letter Notifying Applicant of Spot Check Selection

The following is an example of a letter for applicant notification of selection for spot check.

 **Farm Service Agency**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[State/County Name Here] State Office / County Service Center
Street Address
Street Address
City, State, ZIP Code
PHONE: xxx.xxx.xxxx

TO NAME
Street Address
City, State, ZIP Code

Month XX, 20XX

Dear Name Here,

This letter is to notify you that you have been randomly selected for spot check of your Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF) program application for 2025.

As a condition of applying and receiving an ASCF payment, you agreed to provide acceptable documentation in support of your specialty crops and acreage on the CCC-556. There are two options to choose from to provide this documentation:

- Pay for a measurement service per farm included on the CCC-556 acreage (if crop residue can be verified)
- Provide documentation for each specialty crop and type on the CCC-556

If you choose to provide documentation, the documentation must support the acreage and specialty crop and type on the CCC-556. Examples of supporting documentation may include, but are not limited to:

- precision planting, spraying, or harvesting geospatial data or maps
- drone photos with location and notable physical boundaries
- other aerial or ground imagery with the ability to determine date, acres, and crop
- seed receipts showing the amount, variety, and date purchased
- receipts for cleaning, treating, etc., for seed planted on the farm
- a written contract or documentation of an oral contract to produce a specific crop
- evidence that was accepted and approved by RMA or another USDA agency
- receipts showing number and units sold if the sale can be positively identified as sale of the crop for the farm for the year represented
- documentation of payment for custom harvesting indicating acreage, location, and crop year
- records showing the crop was fed to livestock

Farm Service Agency
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Letter Notifying Applicant of Spot Check Selection (Continued)

Please submit your documentation to the (Enter County) FSA office at the following address within 30 calendar days:

Any County FSA Office
Any street or PO Box
City, State, ZIP

You must respond to this request for evidence to support your specialty crop, type, and acreage certification on the CCC-556. Failure to timely submit a request for measurement services or provide documentation will result in program ineligibility for ASCF, requiring a full refund of all payments made, including interest from the date of disbursement.


Sincerely,

Name
Title

Farm Service Agency
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Letter Notifying Applicant of Failure to Provide Documentation for Spot Check

The following is an example of a letter for failure to provide documentation for spot check.



USDA Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[State/County Name Here] State Office / County Service Center
Street Address
Street Address
City, State, ZIP Code
PHONE: xxx.xxx.xxxx

TO NAME
Street Address
City, State, ZIP Code

Month XX, 20XX

Dear Name Here,

You were previously notified by letter dated (enter date), advising you were selected for spot check of your Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF) program application. You were provided 30 calendar days to provide acceptable documentation to the (enter county) FSA office. As of the date of this letter, FSA has not received documentation to support your commodity and acreage on the CCC-556.

As a result, you are determined ineligible for ASCF benefits. You will be notified by separate communication of any amount owed as a result of this determination of ineligibility for failing to respond to FSA's request for documents.

If you believe we have not properly reviewed your application, you may appeal this determination to the County Committee by filing a written request no later than 30 calendar days after you receive this notice in accordance with the FSA appeal procedures found at 7 CFR Part 780. If you appeal to the County Committee, you have the right to an informal hearing which you or your representative may attend either personally or by telephone. If you appeal this determination to the County Committee, you may later appeal an adverse determination of the County Committee to the FSA State Committee or the National Appeals Division or request mediation. To appeal, write to the County Committee at the following address and explain why you believe this determination is erroneous.

Any County FSA Committee
1235 Street Name.
City, State 11111

If you do not timely file an appeal of this determination, this shall be the final administrative determination with respect to this matter in accordance with regulations at 7 CFR Part 780 and 7 CFR Part 11.

Sincerely,

Name
Title

Farm Service Agency
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

National Spot Check Checklist

The following checklist must be completed for each designated Spot Check and provided to SED Designee upon completion of COC determination.

ASCF National Spot Checks

Complete this review per Spot Check and load into recording system.

| State: _____ | |
|---|---|
| Service Center Name: _____ | |
| County Name: _____ | |
| Producer Name & CCID: _____ | |
| Spot Check Application Questions | |
| 1. Was CCC-556 signed prior to August 7, 2026 | Yes or No |
| 1.1 If no, no additional action is needed. | |
| Comment | |
| 2. Was applicant notified by letter of spot check selection within 30 days of enrolled application? | Yes or No |
| 2.1 If yes, date of letter | |
| Comment | |
| Spot Check Documentation Question | |
| 3. Did applicant select measurement service or provide documentation? | Measurement Service, Documentation, No Response |
| Measurement Service Questions | |
| 4. Did applicant pay measurement fee according to 2-CP | Yes, No |
| 4.1 Was measurement fee entered in software accordingly? | Yes, No |
| 4.2 If yes, enter remittance number. | |
| 4.3 Date measurement service was completed | (MM/DD/YYYY) |
| 4.4 Did measurement service substantiate both the commodities and acreage certified on the CCC-556? | Yes, No |
| 4.5 If no, was the discrepancy the commodity or acreage? | Commodity, Acreage |
| 4.6 What Commodity(s) contained the discrepancy? | |
| 4.7 How many acres were over reported on the CCC-556 for the applicable commodity(s)? | |


National Spot Check Checklist (Continued)

| |
|-----------------------------|
| State: _____ |
| Service Center Name: _____ |
| County Name: _____ |
| Producer Name & CCID: _____ |

| Documentation Provided Questions | |
|---|--------------------|
| 5. If provide documentation was selected, what date was documentation received? | (MM/DD/YYYY) |
| 5.1 Did documentation provided substantiate both the commodities and acreage certified on the CCC-556? | Yes, No |
| 5.2 If no, was the discrepancy the commodity or acreage? | Commodity, Acreage |
| 5.3 What Commodity(s) contained the discrepancy? | |
| 5.4 How many acres are over reported on the CCC-556 for the applicable commodity(s)? | |
| COC Action Questions | |
| 6. If a discrepancy was found, has COC entered reduction in item 17 (COC Adjustment) of CCC-556 both on paper and in software? | Yes, No, N/A |
| 6.1 If no, when will adjustment be loaded in software? | (MM/DD/YYYY) |
| Note: Action in item 6 and 9 must be completed prior to submission of this checklist. | |
| 7. Has COC issued spot check determination letter | Yes or No |
| 7.1 If yes, what date was letter issued? | (MM/DD/YYYY) |
| 8. Are spot check review, documentation, and results recorded in COC minutes? | Yes or No |
| 8.1 Date of COC minutes or action between minutes | (MM/DD/YYYY) |
| 9. Was applicant paid prior to spot check being completed? | Yes or No |
| 9.1. If yes, discrepancy was found, and final determination letter issued, has applicant shown up on the ASCF Pending Overpayment Report? | Yes, No, N/A |
| 9.2 If yes enter the overpayment amount. | |
| 9.3 If yes, has pending overpayment been transferred to a receivable? | Yes or No |
| 9.4 If yes, enter the receivable ID number. | |
| Additional Comments: | |

Letter Notifying Applicant of Spot Check Results

The following is an example of a letter for applicant notification of completed spot check.

 **Farm Service Agency**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[State/County Name Here] State Office / County Service Center
Street Address
Street Address
City, State, ZIP Code
PHONE: xxx.xxx.xxxx

TO NAME
Street Address
City, State, ZIP Code

Month XX, 20XX

Dear Name Here,

Thank you for your participation in the Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF) program. You were notified on (insert date) that you were selected for a spot check for the specialty crops, types, and acreage certified on the CCC-556, ASCF application. Thank you for responding and providing the required documentation for review.

The spot check has been completed. The records you provided substantiated all of the specialty crop, types, and acres reported on the CCC-556. There will be no reduction in acres or refunds required.

If you have additional questions concerning this review, please contact us at the number above.


Sincerely,

Name
Title

Farm Service Agency
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Letter Notifying Applicant of Spot Check Results with Reduction Applied

The following is an example of a letter for applicant notification of completed spot check with a reduction applied.

 **Farm Service Agency**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[State/County Name Here] State Office / County Service Center
Street Address
Street Address
City, State, ZIP Code
PHONE: xxx.xxx.xxxx

TO NAME
Street Address
City, State, ZIP Code

Month XX, 20XX

Dear Name Here,

Thank you for your participation in the Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF) program. You were notified on (insert date) that you were selected for a spot check for the specialty crops, types, and acreage certified on the CCC-556, ASCF application. Thank you for responding and providing the required documentation for review.

The spot check has been completed. The records you provided did not substantiate all the specialty crops, types, and acreage certified on the CCC-556. The CCC-556 will be adjusted for (insert specialty crop and type or acres) determined not eligible for ASCF. You will be notified by separate letter of any amounts owed as a result of the adjustment.

If you believe we have not properly reviewed your application, you may appeal this determination to the County Committee by filing a written request no later than 30 calendar days after you receive this notice in accordance with the FSA appeal procedures found at 7 CFR Part 780. If you appeal to the County Committee, you have the right to an informal hearing which you or your representative may attend either personally or by telephone. If you appeal this determination to the County Committee, you may later appeal an adverse determination of the County Committee to the FSA State Committee or the National Appeals Division or request mediation. To appeal, write to the County Committee at the following address and explain why you believe this determination is erroneous.

Any County FSA Committee
1235 Street Name.
City, State 11111

If you do not timely file an appeal of this determination, this shall be the final administrative determination with respect to this matter in accordance with regulations at 7 CFR Part 780 and 7 CFR Part 11.

Sincerely,

Name
Title

Farm Service Agency
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

