

**FSA**  
**HANDBOOK**

---

Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops

---

For State and County Offices

SHORT REFERENCE

1-MASC

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



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Farm Service Agency  
Washington, DC 20250

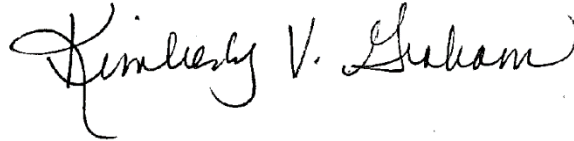
---

**Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops  
1-MASC**

**Amendment 1**

---

**Approved by:** Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



---

**Amendment Transmittal**

**A Reason for Issuance**

This handbook has been issued to provide policy and procedure for Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC).



# Table of Contents

Page No.

## Part 1 General Information and Administrative Provisions

1	Overview .....	1-1
2	Authority .....	1-2
3	General Information.....	1-3
4	Responsibilities.....	1-4
5	Internal Controls .....	1-11
6	Outreach.....	1-17
7	Public Information and Program Communications .....	1-18
8	Equitable Relief and Appeals.....	1-19
9	Misrepresentation, Scheme, or Device .....	1-20
10	NEPA Requirements.....	1-21
11	Conservation Compliance.....	1-22
12	Controlled Substance .....	1-22
13-24	(Reserved)	

## Part 2 Program Provisions and Eligibility

### Section 1 Payment Limitation, Payment Eligibility Forms, and AGI

25	Payment Limitation, Payment Eligibility Forms, and AGI .....	2-1
26-30	(Reserved)	

### Section 2 Eligibility Requirements

31	Eligibility .....	2-21
32	Changes in Farming Operations.....	2-31
33	FCIC Indemnities and NAP Payments .....	2-32
34-49	(Reserved)	

### Section 3 Application Process

50	Applying for MASC .....	2-51
51	Reviewing and Acting on FSA-1140's.....	2-54
52	Revised FSA-1140's and Signature Requirements.....	2-57
53-74	(Reserved)	

### Section 4 General Payment Provisions

75	Payments and Payment Rates .....	2-81
76	General Payment Provisions.....	2-82
77	Payment Limitation Provisions.....	2-84
78	Recording Payments .....	2-84

## Table of Contents (Continued)

### Exhibits

- 1 Reports, Forms, Abbreviations, and Redelegations of Authority
- 2 Definitions of Terms Used in This Handbook
- 3-9 (Reserved)
- 10 FSA-1140, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Application
- 11 FSA-1141, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) New Producer Expected Sales Worksheet
- 12 Example Letter Notifying of Incomplete FSA-1140
- 13 Example Letter Requesting Supportive Documentation

**Part 1 General Information and Administrative Provisions**

**1 Overview**

**A Handbook Purpose**

This handbook provides procedure for MASC, which is administered by DAFP through the Safety Net Division.

**B Related FSA Handbooks**

The following is a list of related FSA handbooks.

<b>IF the area of concern is about...</b>	<b>THEN see...</b>
OIG fraud referrals	9-AO.
State and county organization and administration	16-AO.
outreach	22-AO.
appeals	1-APP.
records management	32-AS.
file maintenance and disposition	32-AS Supplement.
signatures, powers of attorney, registers, name and address files, controlled substances, or estates	1-CM.
common payment reports	9-CM.
acreage reporting, acreage determinations, and spot checks	2-CP.
conservation compliance	6-CP.
requests for relief and finality rule provisions	7-CP.
issuing payments	1-FI.
refunds of overpayments, withholding payments, and offsets	58-FI.
assignments and joint payees	63-FI.
NRRS	64-FI.
providing public information	1-INFO.
Privacy Act operations	3-INFO.
NAP	1-NAP (Rev. 2).
web-based subsidiary files	3-PL (Rev. 2).
payment eligibility, payment limitation, and person determinations	6-PL.
referring FSA or RMA discrepancies and potential abuse cases to RMA Regional Offices on AD-2007	4-RM.

**2 Authority**

**A CCC Charter Act**

MASC is authorized by Section 5(e) of the CCC Charter Act (7 U.S.C. 714c(e)).

**B FR Documents**

Program provisions were published in a NOFA in the FR on December 10, 2024.

**C Limitations**

This handbook provides FSA’s internal operating guidelines issued by DAFP for carrying out MASC. 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.



### 3 General Information

#### A Assistance

MASC provides eligible specialty crop producers with marketing assistance payments to help them engage in activities that aid in either of the following:

- expanding domestic specialty crop markets
- developing new markets for their specialty crops in 2025.

#### B Funding

Payments will be issued using CCC funding and up to \$2 billion will be expended.

#### C Websites

The following websites provides resources for program administration:

- **FPAC-FSA-DAFP-Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crop - Home**
- **[www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/marketing-assistance-specialty-crops](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/marketing-assistance-specialty-crops)**.

#### D Signup

An eligible producer who had an ownership share interest and risk of production loss in 1 or more eligible specialty crops can file FSA-1140 in any USDA Service Center from **December 10, 2024, through January 10, 2025**. The recording county is responsible for acting on FSA-1140.

Using registers will not be a consideration. 1-CM register policy is not applicable.

#### E Modifying Provisions

Provisions in this handbook will **not** be revised without prior written approval from the National Office. Any requests for revisions or amendments must be sent to the MASC Program Manager, through DAFP, according to 1-CM.

#### F Authorized Forms

Using forms, worksheets, applications, or documents, other than those provided in this handbook or issued by the National Office, is **not** permitted.

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

## 4 Responsibilities

### A STC Responsibilities

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

- fully comply with all program provisions
- direct the program administration within the respective State
- ensure that State and County Offices follow program provisions
- thoroughly document all delegations and actions taken in the STC minutes
- conduct appeals according to 1-APP
- require reviews be conducted by DD's to ensure that County Offices comply with all program provisions according to paragraph 5

**Note:** STC's may establish additional reviews to ensure that program provisions are being properly administered.

- require all FSA-1140's executed by SED's, State Office employees, STC members, DD's, COC members, CED's, County Office employees, and their spouses be sent to STC, or designee, for review and action
- redelegate authority to an STC representative to review and approve routine FSA-1140's

**Note:** STC members:

- may approve or disapprove any FSA-1140 except those in which they have a monetary interest
- should recuse themselves from a determination on FSA-1140 in which they have a monetary interest.
- take any oversight actions necessary to ensure that PIIA provisions are met to prevent County Offices from issuing any improper payments.

## 4 Responsibilities (Continued)

### B SED Responsibilities

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

- fully comply with all program provisions
- ensure that County Offices follow program provisions
- thoroughly document all actions taken in the STC minutes
- conduct appeals according to 1-APP
- ensure that DD's or other designated employees conduct reviews according to paragraph 5

**Note:** SED's may establish additional reviews to ensure that program provisions are being properly administered.

- ensure that all County Offices publicize program provisions
- immediately notify the National Office MASC Program Manager of incomplete or incorrect procedures, specific problems, or findings
- report software problems to [https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/fsa-dafp-disaster/Payment\\_Issues/SitePages/Home.aspx](https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/fsa-dafp-disaster/Payment_Issues/SitePages/Home.aspx)
- take any oversight actions necessary to ensure that PIIA provisions are met to prevent County Offices from issuing any improper payments
- safeguard confidentiality of records according to 3-INFO.

**4 Responsibilities (Continued)**

**C DD Responsibilities**

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

- fully comply with all program provisions
- ensure that COC's and County Offices follow program provisions
- ensure that CED's or designated employees conduct reviews according to paragraph 5
- handle appeals according to 1-APP
- ensure that all County Offices publicize MASC provisions
- immediately notify SED or designated State Office employee of software problems, incomplete or incorrect procedures, specific problems, or findings
- take any oversight actions necessary to ensure that PIIA provisions are met to prevent County Offices from issuing any improper payments.

## 4 Responsibilities (Continued)

### D COC Responsibilities

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

- fully comply with all program provisions
- ensure that CED fully complies with all program provisions
- ensure that CED or designated employees conduct reviews according to paragraph 5
- review, approve, and disapprove FSA-1140's, and document in the COC minutes

**Note:** COC's may redelegate authority to CED to review and approve routine FSA-1140's. Redlegation of authority must be documented in the COC minutes. All adverse actions must go to COC's for review and action. CED may not redelegate authority to review or approve routine FSA-1140's to any other County Office employees.

- thoroughly document all delegations and actions taken in the COC minutes
- handle appeals according to 1-APP
- ensure that the County Office publicizes provisions
- take any oversight actions necessary to ensure that PIIA provisions are met to prevent the County Office from issuing any improper payments
- ensure that producers receive complete and accurate program information
- ensure that program provisions and other important items are publicized as soon as possible after information is received from the National Office, including but not limited to the following:
  - application period
  - payment limitation
  - basic participant eligibility criteria
- safeguard confidentiality of records according to 3-INFO.

**Note:** All applications executed by SED's, State Office employees, STC members, DD's, COC members, CED's, County Office employees, and their spouses must be sent to STC, or designee, for review and action.

## 4 Responsibilities (Continued)

### E CED Responsibilities

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

- fully comply with all program provisions
- ensure that all County Office employees fully comply with all program provisions
- if delegated, promptly review, approve routine FSA-1140's, and document in the COC minutes

**Note:** COC's may redelegate authority to CED to review and approve routine FSA-1140's. Redlegation of authority must be documented in the COC minutes. All adverse actions must go to COC's for review and action. CED may not redelegate authority to review or approve routine FSA-1140's to any other County Office employees.

- ensure that all applications executed by SED's, State Office employees, STC members, DD's, COC members, CED's, County Office employees, and their spouses must be sent to STC, or designee, for review and action
- according to paragraph 5, review at least five FSA-1140's and eligibility documentation for completeness and accuracy and obtain authority from DD before entering COC action

**Note:** COC action must be entered in the software immediately upon receipt of authority from DD.

- issue an adverse determination letter according to 1-APP
- take any oversight actions necessary to ensure that PIIA provisions are met to prevent County Offices from issuing improper payments
- conduct appeals according to 1-APP

## 4 Responsibilities (Continued)

### E CED Responsibilities (Continued)

- safeguard confidentiality of records according to 3-INFO
- immediately notify SED or designated State Office employee, through DD, of software problems, incomplete or incorrect procedures, specific problems, or findings
- ensure that producers receive complete and accurate program information.

**Note:** Because of limited resources, 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 the press, print and electronic media, FR documents, and radio and television announcements and through posting program information in USDA Service Centers.

### F PA Responsibilities

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

- fully comply with all MASC provisions
- immediately notify CED of software problems, incomplete or incorrect procedures, or specific problems
- ensure that all program eligibility requirements have been met by producers before issuing any payment to ensure that PIIA provisions are satisfied
- safeguard confidentiality of records according to 3-INFO.

## 4 Responsibilities (Continued)

### G Producer Responsibilities

The producer is responsible for being aware of program provisions and accurately reporting all required information as applicable on FSA-1140's.

Producers who are approved are required to retain documentation in support of their FSA-1140 for 3 years after the date of approval.

Participants receiving 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
- inspect, examine, and make copies of books, records, or other items for confirming the accuracy of the information provided by the participant.

Programs administered by DAFP require accurate information from producers. Producers must understand that failure to provide complete and accurate information and records may result in any or both of the following:

- FSA-1140 being disapproved, adjusted by COC, or approved but ineligible for payment
- producers being liable under any civil or criminal fraud statute or any statute or provision of law.

Producers may elect to participate by returning a completed FSA-1140 to FSA. Producers must do both of the following:

- submit or have on file all required forms listed in FSA-1140, Part A
- certify to the following by signing FSA-1140:
  - producer is in the business of farming at the time of FSA-1140
  - producer is entitled to an ownership share and shares in the risk of producing a specialty crop that will be sold in calendar year 2025
  - specialty crops are grown in the United States by the producer.



## 5 Internal Controls

### A CED Reviews

Before approving any FSA-1140's, CED is required to review 5 completed FSA-1140's for each Service Center as part of their supervisory responsibility. This review is to complete a quality check to:

- ensure that FSA-1140's and eligibility forms are completed correctly
- demonstrate that the County Office understands program policy
- ensure that the County Office is following the policy correctly.

**Note:** The reviews **must** include a combination of new and existing producers.

CED reviews will be completed using CCC-770 MASC. Upon completion, CED will certify to DD or State Office designee by email that FSA-1140's have been reviewed. Once DD has provided written approval, the COC actions may be entered.

**Note:** For purposes of CED reviews, all eligibility documents are required to be completed. After review of the five FSA-1140's, all eligibility documents are not required to be completed before approval.

### B DD Reviews

DD reviews based on a risk assessment. FSA-1140's for review will be selected after all FSA-1140's have been received by the National Office and must be completed by March 16, 2025.

DD reviews will verify that:

- FSA-1140's are complete according to policy
- FSA-1140's are signed by the producer or authorized representative
- Service Center has taken appropriate measure to ensure that FSA-1140's have been properly completed
- values on FSA-1140 are correct in the software based on the producer's documentation
- eligibility requirements are understood
- payments are proper.

5 Internal Controls (Continued)

B DD Reviews (Continued)

SED may establish additional reviews to ensure that program provisions are being properly administered.

DD or designee will review:

- the application package
- responses provided by CED or designee on CCC-770 MASC.

Upon completing reviews, DD or designee will:

- sign CCC-770 MASC
- provide written approval to the County Office that FSA-1140's selected for review can be paid
- enter results on the MASC Internal Control SharePoint site for each review completed.

**Note:** Instructions for entering the review results in the MASC Internal Control SharePoint site are in subparagraph C.

C Recording DD Reviews

DD review results must be recorded in the MASC Internal Control SharePoint site at **FPAC-FSA-DAFP-Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crop - Internal Controls - Home**.

## 5 Internal Controls (Continued)

### D CCC-770 MASC

PIIA requires federal agencies to evaluate programs to determine whether internal controls are sufficient to prevent improper payments. CCC-770 MASC was developed to address areas of concern to ensure that payments are issued properly.

CCC-770 MASC is required to be completed for **all** FSA-1140's and must be:

- second party reviewed by CED or designee
- reviewed by CED for 5 completed FSA-1140's filed in each Service Center.

CCC-770 MASC does not negate STC, SED, State Office, DD, COC, CED, and County Office responsibility for administering all program provisions.

CCC-770 MASC was developed by the National Office and is the only authorized checklist. County Offices must not use State- or local-generated checklists.

**Reminder:** County Offices cannot rely solely on CCC-770 MASC for administering the program. All program provisions must be met, not just items on CCC-770 MASC. CCC-770 MASC:

- is a tool to assist with program administration
- includes major areas where deficiencies have been identified, but is not, nor is it intended to be, inclusive of program provisions.

### E Retention

CCC-770 MASC must be retained in the producer's folder with their FSA-1140.

If a new CCC-770 MASC is initiated because of an update to FSA-1140, the original CCC-770 MASC must be retained, along with the new CCC-770 MASC.

**Note:** In cases involving multiple preparers, the preparer can use the "Remarks" section in item 22 to indicate which items they verified.

5 Internal Controls (Continued)

F Example of CCC-770 MASC

The following is an example of CCC-770 MASC.

<b>CCC-770 MASC</b> (12-10-24)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Commodity Credit Corporation		A. Recording State Name Code		B. Recording County Name Code	
	<b>MARKETING ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIALTY CROPS (MASC) CHECKLIST</b>					
	C. Producer Name			D. Application Number		
	<b>PART A - PROCESSING</b>					
<b>County Office Action</b>		<b>Handbook or Other</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>	
<b>General Eligibility</b>						
1. Has FSA-1140 been completed, signed by the applicant, and submitted by the application deadline?		1-MASC, paragraph 50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Does the applicant meet the definition of an eligible producer?		1-MASC, paragraph 30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Is valid signature authority on file for the applicant who signed FSA-1140 (if applicable)?		1-MASC, paragraph 50; 6-PL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Is the CCC-902 on file and signed by the person or an authorized representative(s) of the legal entity?		1-MASC, paragraph 25; 6-PL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Is the CCC-903 on file with a determination made by the COC, CED, or authorized representative, including review for substantive change and documented in the COC minutes?		1-MASC, paragraph 25; 6-PL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Was CCC-901 completed to identify any embedded entity member information (if applicable)?		1-MASC, paragraph 25; 6-PL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. If the producer is a foreign person or entity, was the producer properly recorded in business file (if applicable)?		1-MASC, paragraph 30; 1-CM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Conservation Compliance</b>						
8. Did the applicant and all affiliated persons certify compliance with HELC/WC provision on an AD-1026 and is the certification properly loaded in 2025 Subsidiary?		1-MASC, paragraph 11; 6-CP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Adjusted Gross Income</b>						
9. Did the applicant file a CCC-941 Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information, and is the certification properly loaded in 2025 Subsidiary?		1-MASC, paragraph 25; 6-PL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Has CCC-942 Certification of Income from Farming, Ranching and Forestry Operations been filed according to policy, and properly loaded in 2025 Subsidiary (if applicable)?		1-MASC, paragraph 25, 6-PL, 3-PL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>FSA-1141 Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) New Producer Expected Sales Worksheet</b>						
11. Has FSA-1141 been completed according to policy with all specialty crop sales listed, and supporting documentation received? (if applicable)		1-MASC, paragraph 30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>COC or Designee Determination</b>						
12. If COC has provided redelegation of approval authority, was that redelegation of approval authority properly established and recorded in the COC minutes prior to any action taken by the designee (if applicable)?		1-MASC, paragraph 51 & Exhibit 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Has the COC or designee verified that all applicable items on FSA-1140 were completed according to policy, and the certification has been completed by the producer or a legal representative in Part D?		1-MASC, paragraph 30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

5 Internal Controls (Continued)

F Example of CCC-770 MASC (Continued)

<b>CCC-770 MASC</b> (12-10-24)		Page 2 of 3		
14. Has the COC or designee reviewed the documentation supporting the FSA-1141 (if applicable)?	1-MASC, paragraph 30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Has COC or designee completed their determination in Part E on FSA-1140, and recorded their determination in the MASC software?	1-MASC, paragraph 50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>COC Adverse Decisions</b>				
16. If the COC made adjustment(s) on the FSA-1140 in Part C Item 12, did the COC request documentation from the producer to support their adjustment and is the COC's decision for the adjustment(s) thoroughly recorded in the COC minutes?	1-MASC, paragraph 51	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. If the COC disapproved FSA-1140 in Part E, was the adverse decision thoroughly recorded in the COC minutes?	1-MASC, paragraph 51	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. If the COC disapproved FSA-1140 in Part E, what day was the producer notified and provided appeal rights? Date Notified: _____	1-MASC, paragraph 51; 1-APP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>PART B - CERTIFICATION</b>				
<i>I, the undersigned, certify the above items have been verified or updated accordingly.</i>				
19A. Signature of Preparer	19B. Title/Relationship of Representative	19C. Date (MM/DD/YYYY)		
<b>PART C - CONCURRENCE</b>				
<i>I, the undersigned, certify the above items have been verified or updated accordingly. Concur <input type="checkbox"/> Do Not Concur <input type="checkbox"/></i>				
20A. CED or Designee Signature for Spot-check			20B. Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	
<i>I, the undersigned, certify the above items have been verified or updated accordingly. Concur <input type="checkbox"/> Do Not Concur <input type="checkbox"/></i>				
21A. CED or Designee Signature for Spot-check			21B. Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	
22. Remarks				

5 Internal Controls (Continued)

F Example of CCC-770 MASC (Continued)

**CCC-770 MASC** (12-10-24) Page 3 of 3

**Non-Discrimination Statement:** *In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.*

*Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.*

*To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint | USDA](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).*

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

## 6 Outreach

### A Conducting Program Outreach

Program outreach efforts require the process of expanding awareness and delivery of FSA programs and services to the widest possible customer base. Targeted program outreach activities should be presented to nonparticipating, but potentially eligible, persons.

Examples of outreach and educational activities include, but are not limited to, presenting information at:

- meetings
- conferences
- workshops
- expos
- field days.

Conduct County Office outreach activities with potential producers and stakeholder organizations who work with farmers and ranchers who would benefit from MASC. Examples may include the following:

- farmers and ranchers, including underserved producers
- land grant colleges and universities
- nonprofit community-based organizations
- agricultural associations and organizations
- other USDA and federal agencies
- COC and STC members
- Tribal, State, and local government entities.

County Office Outreach Coordinators should work closely with the State Office Outreach Coordinator for assistance with planning strategic targeted program outreach activities. Program materials available for County Offices to use are available on the FSA Outreach SharePoint site under “Farm Programs”, “Ad Hoc Programs” at <https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/FPAC-FSA-SOC/SitePages/Outreach%20Program%20Toolkits%20Page.aspx>.

### B Tracking Program Outreach Efforts

Employees will conduct outreach efforts according to 22-AO.

SED’s, DD’s, and COC’s should ensure that program provisions are explained in all conducted outreach activities in efforts to increase program participation from producers, including underserved farmers and ranchers. All offices are required to record outreach activities in the Outreach Tracking and Information System upon completion.

## 7 Public Information and Program Communications

### A Background

Program information, including signup and eligibility, is publicized in a variety of ways as resources allow including, but not limited to, the following:

- press releases
- print media
- electronic media, including GovDelivery newsletters, bulletins, and SMS text alerts
- FR
- direct mailings (may be limited by FSA resource availability)
- radio and television announcements
- posting program information in the USDA Service Center.

County Offices should work closely with the State Communications Coordinator for assistance with:

- publicizing the program with targeted media outlets
- promoting through GovDelivery and other broadcast outlets.

### B Agency Responsibilities

SED's, DD's, and COC's will ensure that:

- program provisions are publicized
- offices maintain a record of program publicity efforts, including postings in Service Centers.

**Note:** Conduct all public communications and media efforts according to 1-INFO.



## 8 Equitable Relief and Appeals

### A Equitable Relief

Equitable relief provisions in 7-CP are applicable.

### B Appealable Decisions

Participants have the right to appeal when:

- FSA has issued a determination on an application for benefits
- there is a question of fact or some dispute as to the correct application of a rule, regulation, or generally applicable provision for that application.

**Note:** Follow 1-APP for appealable determinations.

### C Nonappealable Matters

Cases that have no disputes of fact and generally applicable provisions are not appealable according to 1-APP. Nonappealable matters include, but are not limited to, the following:

- responses to inquiries about eligibility
- eligibility criteria
- signature requirements
- payment calculations
- payment rates
- deadlines
- national payment factors.

## 9 Misrepresentation, Scheme, or Device

### A Impact or Ramification of Misrepresentation, Scheme, or Device

A participant who is determined to have deliberately misrepresented any fact affecting a program determination to receive benefits for which the participant would not otherwise be entitled:

- will not be entitled to program payments
- must refund all such payments received, plus interest.

**Note:** Interest will run from the date of the original disbursement by CCC.

A participant will refund to CCC all program payments, received by this participant with respect to all contracts or applications, as may be applicable, if the participant is determined to have knowingly misrepresented any fact affecting a program determination.

A person is ineligible to receive program payments for any crop year if it is determined by STC, COC, or FSA official that the person has:

- adopted any scheme or other device that tends to defeat the MASC purpose
- made any fraudulent representation with respect to MASC
- misrepresented any fact affecting a program determination.

### B Other Amounts Owed

If FSA determines that a violation according to subparagraph A occurs, the person or persons are liable for refunds of all amounts paid with applicable interest from the date of disbursement to any such person or persons.

### C Joint and Several Liability

All producers sharing in payments are jointly and severally liable to refund any unearned payments.

## 10 NEPA Requirements

### A Background

NEPA requires that federal agencies 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 about resources that are potentially affected.

FSA's environmental compliance program 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 Environmental Compliance

The National Office has determined that all applicable environmental review requirements are met for MASC. NOFA published in the FR serves as documentation of the programmatic environmental compliance decision. County Offices are not required to complete or file FSA-850.

## 11 Conservation Compliance

### A Applying Provisions

A program participant is subject to applicable 6-CP conservation compliance provisions for crop year or program year 2025. It is **not** necessary to delay issuing payments pending NRCS’s HEL or wetland determinations. AD-1026 requires a producer to refund program payments if an NRCS determination results in the discovery of a HELC or WC violation.

Some producers may already have AD-1026, with a selection in item 5 B continuous certification, without establishment of farm records, for eligibility of the reinsured crop insurance premium subsidy to federal crop insurance policies administered by RMA. These producers who are now seeking MASC benefits no longer meet the first bullet of item 5 B, “does not participate in any USDA program that is subject to HELC and WC compliance except Federal Crop Insurance”.

Therefore, MASC participants may need to file a new AD-1026 with Part B evaluations by answering questions on AD-1026, items 6 and 7 along with establishment of farm records according to 6-CP, Part 3.

## 12 Controlled Substance

### A Applicability

Controlled substance provisions apply for program year 2025 according to 1-CM.

## 13-24 (Reserved)

**Part 2 Program Provisions and Eligibility**

**Section 1 Payment Limitation, Payment Eligibility Forms, and AGI**

**25 Payment Limitation, Payment Eligibility Forms, and AGI**

**A Payment Limitation**

The total amount of payments that a person or legal entity (excluding general partnerships and joint ventures) may receive is \$900,000, except as provided in subparagraph B.

The payment limitation applies to program year 2025.

<b>IF the applicant is...</b>	<b>THEN the payment limitation is...</b>
an individual	\$900,000.
a legal entity	\$900,000.
a joint operation	\$900,000 for each eligible, first-level member.

**B Attribution of Payments**

Payments to persons and legal entities will be limited according to the rules for attribution in 7 CFR 1400.105 and 6-PL.

**C AGI Requirements**

Policy for AGI, as found in 6-PL, is applicable for program benefits.

To be eligible for payment, a person or legal entity (including members, stockholders, or partners of the legal entity) must have an average AGI for program year 2025 that does not exceed the \$900,000 limitation, unless the person’s or legal entity’s average adjusted gross farm AGI is at least 75 percent of their average AGI.

The 3 base years used to compute the average AGI and average adjusted gross farm AGI are 2021, 2022, and 2023.

CCC-941 must be completed by all applicants, including members, stockholders, or partners of the legal entity.

Applicants exceeding the \$900,000 limitation may complete CCC-942 and obtain a certification from a licensed certified public accountant or attorney verifying that the person’s or legal entity’s average adjusted gross farm income is at least 75 percent of their average AGI.

**25 Payment Limitation, Payment Eligibility Forms, and AGI (Continued)**

**D Payment Eligibility Forms**

The automated CCC-902 will be completed according to 6-PL to collect:

- names, addresses, and TIN's for the person or legal entity (and its members)
- member information for legal entities, including joint operations
- citizenship status for the person or legal entity (and its members)
- contributions of foreign persons.

**Notes:** The manual CCC-902I (Parts A and B), CCC-902E (Parts A, B, and C), and CCC-901 (if applicable) may be used to collect the required information for MASC. Information collected on manual forms **must** be loaded in Business File according to 3-PL (Rev. 2).

Applicants who are foreign persons or foreign entities, as defined in 6-PL, must complete CCC-902 to collect contributions of foreign persons.

CCC-903 will be used to document COC payment limitation, producer eligibility, and foreign person eligibility determinations.

**E HELC and WC Eligibility Forms**

The applicant and all affiliates will complete AD-1026 according to paragraph 11.

**F Deadline for Filing Eligibility Documents**

Applicants **must** file all identified eligibility documents by January 8, 2026.

Failure to timely provide all eligibility forms may result in no payment or a reduced payment.

**26-30 (Reserved)**

## Section 2 Eligibility Requirements

### 31 Eligibility

#### A Eligible Producer

To be eligible for MASC, a producer must be in the business of farming at the time of application and be entitled to an ownership share and share in the risk of producing a specialty crop that will be sold in calendar year 2025.

To be considered in the business of farming at the time of application, a producer must have an active business operation with assets and resources needed to grow, harvest, and market a specialty crop in calendar year 2025.

In addition, a producer must be 1 of the following:

- U.S. citizen
- resident alien, which for purposes of MASC means “lawful alien” as defined in 7 CFR 1400.3
- partnership organized under State law
- corporation, LLC, or other organizational structure organized under State law
- 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)
- foreign person or foreign entity who meets all requirements as described in 7 CFR Part 1400.

**Notes:** The regulations in 7 CFR Part 1400, subpart E, are applicable to foreign persons and legal entities (foreign and domestic) containing members, stockholders, or partners who are not U.S. citizens or resident aliens who own more than 10 percent of the legal entity.

Ownership interest does not mean interest as a landowner. In this context, ownership interest means as owners of the crop with both control of and title to the crop.

31 Eligibility (Continued)

**B Ineligible Producers**

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

- Federal, State, and local governments, including public schools as defined in 6-PL
- persons or legal entities who did not have an ownership interest in an eligible specialty crop
- persons and legal entities who are not in the business of producing a specialty crop at the time of application
- producers who previously grew a specialty crop but have ceased operation at the time of application; for example, producers who have sold the land and equipment needed to produce a crop, deceased producers, or dissolved entities.

**Note:** If an applicant has ceased operation after completing FSA-1140 but before payment, FSA-1140 is still valid.



**31 Eligibility (Continued)****C Verifying Producer Eligibility**

COC has the authority to request documentation to verify producer eligibility and take whatever action is necessary to ensure that payments are:

- proper
- for the person or legal entity determined to be the producer of the specialty crops.

If requested by COC, the producer must provide, within 15 calendar days, acceptable evidence that the producer grew and harvested the crop and was in the business of farming at the time of application. This evidence may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- acreage reports
- land use records, such as lease agreements or ownership records
- field inspection or certification records, such as reports from organic certification inspections or other third-party inspections
- shipping or transportation receipts
- packaging or processing records
- photographic evidence
- federal crop insurance records
- NAP records
- labor records
- records of agricultural inputs, such as seed, fertilizer, and pesticides
- contemporaneous harvest records
- invoices for custom harvesting.

**Note:** Applicants are subject to review at any time, before or after payments are made, as well as spot check.

**31 Eligibility (Continued)****D Eligible Specialty Crops**

Eligible specialty crop means a crop that is produced in the United States as part of a commercial operation.

Only the following are considered eligible specialty crops:

- fruits, including dried fruits
- vegetables, including dry edible beans and peas, mushrooms, and vegetable seeds
- tree nuts
- nursery crops
- Christmas trees
- floriculture
- culinary and medicinal herbs and spices
- honey
- hops
- maple sap
- tea
- turfgrass
- grass seed.

Common examples of specialty crops can be found at  
[https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/USDA\\_Specialty\\_Crop\\_Definition.pdf](https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/USDA_Specialty_Crop_Definition.pdf).

31 Eligibility (Continued)

**E Ineligible Crops**

Ineligible crops include crops that do not meet the definition of an eligible specialty crop as specified in subparagraph D.

The following table provides examples of ineligible crops and is not all inclusive.

<b>Field and Grain Crops</b>	<b>Oilseed Crops</b>	<b>Forage, Hay, and Cover Crops</b>	<b>Other Specific Crops</b>	<b>Other Products</b>
Amaranth (for grain)	Camelina	Alfalfa	Cotton	Aquatic animal species (such as fish and shellfish)
Barley (including malting barley)	Canola	Birdsfoot trefoil	Cottonseed	Dairy products
Buckwheat	Crambe	Clover	Hemp	Eggs
Corn (other than sweet corn)	Flax	Grasses	Kochia (prostrata)	Livestock products
Millet	Flaxseed	Hay	Lespedeza	Tofu
Oats	Linseed	Mixed forage	Milkweed	
Quinoa	Mustard seed	Perennial peanuts	Peanuts	
Rice	Rapeseed	Sunn hemp	Primrose	
Rye	Safflower	Vetch	Seed of ineligible crops (other than grass seed)	
Sorghum	Sesame		Sugar beets	
Triticale	Soybeans		Sugarcane	
Wheat	Sunflower seed		Tobacco	
Wild rice			Crops with an intended use of fallow, forage, grazing, green manure, or left standing	

**31 Eligibility (Continued)**

**F Eligible Sales**

Eligible specialty crop sales only include sales of commercially marketed raw specialty crops grown in the United States by the producer.

Sales of specialty crops purchased for resale may be included only if there is a change in characteristic because of the time held; for example, a 2-inch plant that was sold as an 18-inch plant after 4 months.

Eligible producers who market their specialty crops through a subscription- or membership-based service, such as a community-supported agriculture model, may include the portion of membership or subscription fees received for specialty crops in their eligible sales.

Producers will enter their total eligible sales based on either of the following:

- actual 2023 or 2024 sales (subparagraph G)
- expected 2025 sales for new producers only (subparagraph I).

## 31 Eligibility (Continued)

**G Actual 2023 or 2024 Sales**

For producers who grew and had sales of specialty crops in either the 2023 or 2024 calendar year, the total specialty crop sales certified on FSA-1140 will be equal to either of the following, as elected by the producer:

- actual 2023 calendar year sales of specialty crops, plus FCIC indemnities and NAP payments for these specialty crops for the 2023 crop year
- actual 2024 calendar year sales of specialty crops, plus FCIC indemnities and NAP payments for these specialty crops for the 2024 crop year.

To be considered a 2023 or 2024 calendar year sale, the producer must have received payment for the specialty crop during the applicable calendar year.

The portion of sales derived from adding value to a specialty crop (such as sorting, processing, or packaging) is not included with eligible sales.

**Example 1:** Leonardo is a winemaker who grows PNO grapes to process into wine and does not sell the grapes. In 2023, Leonardo sold wine that used 500 tons of grapes. The NCT price for PNO grapes is \$552.50 per ton. Leonardo will use \$552.50 per ton multiplied by 500 tons to determine the total sales of \$276,250 for calendar year 2023.

**Example 2:** Donatello grows cucumbers that are sold to a market as both raw cucumbers and processed pickles. Total specialty crop sales are derived from the market sale for the raw value of the cucumbers. Donatello would use the quantity of raw cucumbers and cucumbers processed into pickles multiplied by the price of raw cucumbers sold at the market to calculate the total specialty crop sales of all cucumbers.

**Example 3:** Michealangelo grows almonds that he sells through a tree nut pool. The nuts are hulled, processed, and sold by the pool up to 18 months after harvest. Michealangelo would use the proportion of pooled sales associated to his production that is received by the pool in the 2023 or 2024 calendar year, adjusted to reasonable historic raw value of the nut. These sales do not include the value added from hulling and processing.

**Example 4:** TMNT Farms offers a community-supported agriculture membership for their field-grown vegetables; the membership also includes a share of their meats, eggs, and cheese. TMNT Farms will only include the membership fees associated with the field-grown vegetables.

**31 Eligibility (Continued)****G Actual 2023 or 2024 Sales (Continued)**

**Example 5:** Splinter grew and sold 10,000 watermelons in 2023 but did not plant anything in 2024. In 2025, Splinter plans to grow 120 acres of watermelons. Because Splinter previously farmed a specialty crop in an eligible sales year, the 2023 specialty crop sales will be used.

A conversion factor of 37.44 percent converts maple syrup sales to maple sap sales; therefore, producers may use a factor of 37.44 percent if they do not know the operation's conversion factor.

**Example:** Producer A sold 100 gallons of syrup and received \$2,500 in calendar year 2019. To calculate the raw value of sap that was used to produce the syrup, the conversion factor of 0.3744 will be used.  $\$2,500 \times 0.3744 = \$936$ ; therefore, Producer A will certify to a total of \$936 for their sales.

**H Verifying Total Specialty Crop Sales**

If requested by FSA, producers must provide documentation to substantiate their reported 2023 or 2024 calendar year sales and federal crop insurance indemnities. Acceptable documentation must show the crop, quantity sold, and dollar amount received. Acceptable documentation to substantiate total specialty crop sales includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- sales receipts
- sales records
- ledgers of income
- contract or sales agreements
- income statements of deposit slips
- register tapes with supporting documentation acceptable to FSA
- purchase orders
- third-party processor or distributor statements
- contemporaneous diaries that are determined acceptable by USDA, and other sales documents indicating the crop was sold

## 31 Eligibility (Continued)

**H Verifying Total Specialty Crop Sales (Continued)**

- FCIC indemnity transaction statements for payments received
- IRS Schedule F accompanied by documentation to support that reported amounts are from sales of specialty crops
- NAP transaction statements.

**Note:** The NAP Estimated Calculated Payment Report may determine the amount attributed to the eligible specialty crop for processed payments according to 3-NAP.

**I Expected 2025 Sales**

New producers may use an estimate of their 2025 calendar year specialty crop sales, instead of actual 2023 or 2024 calendar year sales, if the producer:

- began producing specialty crops in 2023 or 2024 but did not have sales because of the immaturity of the crop
- began producing specialty crops in 2024 but did not have a complete year of sales
- is beginning to grow specialty crops in 2025.

A new producer must have either of the following:

- legally binding sales contract or purchase agreement for the specialty crop
- evidence that, at the time of application, a specialty crop has been planted and is expected to be harvested and sold in calendar year 2025.

**Example 1:** Raphael began growing pineapples in 2024; however, the crop will not be ready for harvest and sale until 2025. Therefore, Raphael did not have any specialty crop sales in calendar year 2024. Raphael would use expected 2025 sales.

**Example 2:** Shredder LLC started farming near the end of 2024 when they planted their first crop of cold season vegetables. Shredder LLC experienced some sales; however, they did not have a full year of sales. Shredder LLC has a purchase agreement for crops that will be grown. Shredder LLC can use their expected 2025 sales.

## 31 Eligibility (Continued)

## I Expected 2025 Sales (Continued)

**Example 3:** Casey purchased land that included a pecan grove in late 2024. Casey has never commercially produced pecans, nor did he have 2024 pecan sales on the land he purchased. If he meets the eligible producer requirement, expected 2025 sales may be used. MASC eligibility requires that producers must be in the business of farming at the time of application and entitled to an ownership share and share in the risk of producing a specialty crop that will be sold in calendar year 2025. Casey must provide documentation demonstrating the pecan grove will be used and maintained as a commercial operation to be considered an eligible producer.

New producers **must** submit FSA-1141 and provide documentation to substantiate their expected 2025 calendar year sales by the program deadline.

Acceptable documentation for new producers must show the producer is in business of farming at the time of application and intends to produce a specialty crop in calendar year 2025.

Expected sales must be based on realistic projections that are supported by acceptable documentation demonstrating the producer's ability to achieve the expected sales and their ability to grow, harvest, and market the expected yield or inventory.

For new producers who have entered into a legally binding sales contract or purchase agreement for the sale of specialty crop, their expected 2025 specialty crop sales must be based on the terms of their contract or agreement regarding the total sale amount or the price and amount of inventory or production.

For new producers who are growing a specialty crop intended for sale in 2025 who do not have a contract or agreement, their expected 2025 specialty crop sales must be based on their specialty crop acreage or inventory that is planted at the time of application and published yields and prices, such as RMA-established data, FSA-established NCT data, NASS data, or published local data sources.

If requested by FSA, producers must provide documentation to verify producer eligibility and their ability to grow, harvest, and market the expected yield or inventory, according to subparagraph C.

**Reminder:** Eligible sales include only sales of raw commodities grown by the producer. Any portion of sales derived from adding value to or marketing of the commodity (such as sorting, processing, packaging), or costs for any other activity necessary for a consumer-ready sale that occurs off the farm, must not be included in the sales amount.



31 Eligibility (Continued)

**J Complete Year of Sales**

A complete year of sales means an entire calendar year that is inclusive of all specialty crops produced in a producer’s operation. A producer may have a complete year of sales even if sales typically occur only during a part of the year; for example, for a producer that only grows strawberries, a complete year of sales may only consist of May through July when the crop has matured and is sold.

An incomplete year occurs when a new producer had sales in 2024, but did not experience a full year of sales. For example, a producer began farming mid-way through 2024, planting only fall season vegetables and had associated sales. The producer did not have sales for winter, spring, or summer season specialty crops, as the producer began production after this time. This producer is continuing production in 2025, but will be growing specialty crops the entire year, not only the fall season. Since this producer did not have a complete year of sales, they are considered a new producer and may use expected 2025 sales if all eligibility criteria are met.

32 Changes in Farming Operations

**A Changes in Farming Operations From 2023 or 2024 to 2025**

A producer’s farming operation may have undergone a structural change in its business operations from 2023 or 2024 to 2025, but not to the extent the farming operation is a new operation described in subparagraph 31 I.

The following table provides situations that **would not** be considered a new farming operation.

<b>IF...</b>	<b>THEN...</b>
an individual conducted a farming operation in 2023 or 2024 and created an LLC in 2025 (using the SSN of the person or an employee identification number) wholly owned by the individual	LLC would be the applicant and the allowable specialty crop sales for 2023 or 2024 would be that of the individual person.
a producer conducted a farming operation in 2023 or 2024 as an individual person and created a revocable trust (using the SSN of the person or an employee identification number) where the person is the sole grantor or beneficiary	the revocable trust would be the applicant and the allowable specialty crop sales to count for 2023 or 2024 would be that of the individual person.
a producer conducted a farming operation in 2023 or 2024 as an individual person and started to farm as a sole proprietorship in 2025	the sole proprietorship would be the applicant and the allowable specialty crop sales to count for 2023 or 2024 would be that of the individual person.

32 Changes in Farming Operations (Continued)

A Changes in Farming Operations From 2023 or 2024 to 2025 (Continued)

IF...	THEN...
a non-family legal entity conducted its farming operation in 2023 or 2024, and the legal entity’s membership changed beginning in 2025 (increased or decreased members or shares) and did not change its TIN	the applicant would be the legal entity. The eligible specialty crop sales would be the entity’s 2023 or 2024 gross sales. All eligibility documents must be updated.
a new non-family legal entity will begin farming in 2025  <b>Note:</b> Some of the members of the new entity were part of a farming operation in 2023 or 2024 that operated under a different TIN.	the applicant will be the new entity using the new TIN. The eligible specialty crop sales may use specialty crop 2023 or 2024 gross sales for the shares of the members of the prior entity. The entity may use new producer rules and calculated expected sales if all new producer eligibility criteria can be met.
a legal entity, owned 50/50 by mom and dad, conducted its operation in 2023 or 2024 and in 2025, the legal entity was reorganized, adding family members described in 6-PL, and obtained a new TIN	the new 2025 legal entity would be the applicant. Because the entity is wholly owned by family members, the change in TIN is not recognized as a new legal entity and the specialty crop sales to count would be the 2023 or 2024 specialty crop sales of the 2023 or 2024 entity.
a legal entity changes to a joint operation or vice versa, and the members holding an ownership interest do not change	the new legal entity or joint operation would be the program applicant and the allowable specialty crop sales to count for 2023 or 2024 would be that of the prior year entity or joint operation.

33 FCIC Indemnities and NAP Payments

A Including FCIC Indemnity and NAP Payments

FCIC indemnities and NAP payments for the 2023 or 2024 crop year may be included for 2023 or 2024 sales, if they were received by the producer on or before January 10, 2025. Only the portions of the payment associated with specialty crops are eligible.

Apiculture indemnities received are not eligible to be included as the policy covers colonies, not the actual honey production.

**Note:** Only reinsured FCIC payments are eligible. Private policies, such as rain and hail, are not considered reinsured and are ineligible.

34-49 (Reserved)

**Section 3 Application Process****50 Applying for MASC****A Submitting Application Submission**

Producers will submit 1 application for their entire operation nationwide by January 10, 2025. The application will include all eligible specialty crop sales for the year elected by the producer.

A producer may submit an application package using any of the following methods:

- in person, when available
- by mail
- electronically by:
  - FAX
  - email with a scanned or photocopy of signed FSA-1140 attached
  - other authorized method, such as Box or OneSpan.

**B Application Package**

A complete application package includes the following:

- FSA-1140
- FSA-1141 if the applicant is a new producer
- documentation to support the expected sales on FSA-1141, if the applicant is using expected sales.

**Note:** See Exhibits 10 and 11 for completing FSA-1140 and FSA-1141.

**50 Applying for MASC (Continued)****C Signing and Certifying FSA-1140**

By signing FSA-1140, Part D, the individual is:

- applying for a payment for the producer listed in Part B
- certifying all the information provided on FSA-1140 is true and correct
- agreeing:
  - to comply with, and acknowledging the applicant is subject to, all provisions published in NOFA
  - that they are in the business of farming at the time of application
  - that they are entitled to an ownership share and share in the risk of producing a specialty crop that will be sold in calendar year 2025
  - that a MASC payment will only be made with respect to sales for specialty crops grown in the United States by the producer
  - to provide USDA access to all documents and records necessary to verify the accuracy of the information provided in this FSA-1140, including those in the possession of a third party, such as a warehouse operator, processor, or packer
  - that FSA-1140 may be disapproved if the producer fails to provide a complete application package or any information requested by FSA within 15 calendar days of the request
  - to comply with payment limitation, AGI limitation, and other applicable rules by submitting any additional required forms
- acknowledging that providing false certification to FSA is cause for disapproval of FSA-1140 and is punishable by imprisonment, fines, and other penalties.

**50 Applying for MASC (Continued)****D Signature Requirements**

A complete FSA-1140, including the applicant's signature, **must** be received no later than the application deadline.

**Note:** See 1-CM for signature requirements.

If a new signature is obtained on FSA-1140, for any reason, the date in Part E must be equal to or greater than the producer's signature date.

**E Recording Receipt of FSA-1140's and Accessing FSA-1140's**

Once software is available, offices must make every effort to process FSA-1140's in the MASC software and have the producer sign FSA-1140. If the MASC software is not available, a manual FSA-1140 must be completed.

Enter all signed manual FSA-1140's submitted to the County Office into the MASC software accurately, as completed by the producer. The County Office will date-stamp FSA-1140 upon receiving FSA-1140 signed in Part D by the producer.

If FSA-1140 is submitted to a County Office that is not the producer's recording County Office, the receiving County Office will date-stamp the signed FSA-1140 and send a copy by email or FAX to the recording County Office.

**F Incomplete FSA-1140's**

COC cannot act on FSA-1140 until the applicant has completed FSA-1140 and signed Part D.

**Note:** Incomplete applications or applications that are not signed do not require action by FSA. Applicants will receive decisions by FSA only on complete applications.

County Offices will notify an applicant, using the example letter in Exhibit 12, that their application package is incomplete.

## 51 Reviewing and Acting on FSA-1140's

### A Redelegation of Authority

COC may redelegate authority to CED to approve routine FSA-1140's; however, CED **cannot** further redelegate authority to PA.

Routine cases include:

- FSA-1140's for producers who produced specialty crops in 2023 or 2024, and the certification of total sales is not questionable, therefore, not requiring additional documentation

**Note:** The redelegated authority allows CED to request additional documentation, but cannot act on FSA-1140 because it is no longer considered routine.

- new producers where documentation is according to policy and supports the total sales amount certified.

All adverse actions are **not** considered routine and must go to COC for action, including FSA-1140's requiring COC adjustments.

### B Reviewing for Reasonableness

All FSA-1140's are subject to spot check. COC's may request documentation from an applicant who establishes the producer's eligibility if they have reason to question the producer's certification. COC may request supporting documentation in writing to:

- verify the producer's certification that they will or did grow and harvest the crop
- substantiate total specialty crop sales
- substantiate total specialty crop expected sales.

**Notes:** See paragraph 31 for examples of supporting documentation.

See Exhibit 13 for an example letter that may be used to request supporting documentation.

If supporting documentation is requested, submit the documentation within 15 calendar days from the request, or COC will disapprove FSA-1140.

**Important:** COC has flexibility in determining reasonableness and will not establish any form of "tolerance" or "majority" when making this determination. COC will document the results of the review in the COC minutes.

51 **Reviewing and Acting on FSA-1140's (Continued)**

**C Acting on FSA-1140's**

The recording County Office's COC, or CED if delegated, will act on all completed and signed FSA-1140's submitted.

**D Approving FSA-1140's**

Before approving FSA-1140's, COC or CED, if delegated, must ensure that:

- all program eligibility requirements are met
- person or legal entity is determined to be eligible, according to paragraph 31
- signature requirements are met on signed FSA-1140, Part D, according to 1-CM
- production, sales, revenue, and inventories are certified and, as applicable, are reasonable
- FSA-1140 was received or postmarked, according to 1-CM, **by January 10, 2025.**

If all program eligibility requirements are met and COC or delegate has determined the information on FSA-1140 is reasonable and accurate, COC or delegate will approve FSA-1140 and thoroughly document approval in the COC minutes.

**Note:** Completing eligibility forms (AD-1026, CCC-902, CCC-941, etc.) is not a condition of COC, or CED, approving FSA-1140. Failure to timely provide all eligibility forms may result in no payment or a reduced payment. County Offices must immediately update the Business File and Subsidiary record when eligibility forms are filed.

## 51 Reviewing and Acting on FSA-1140's (Continued)

### E COC Adjusting or Disapproving FSA-1140's

If it is determined that any of the information, as certified on FSA-1140, is not reasonable or is questionable, evidence may be requested from the participant, according to subparagraph B.

If evidence provided by the participant differs from the information certified, COC's have authority to make adjustments. See subparagraph 4 G on producer responsibilities.

COC will disapprove FSA-1140 if **any** of the following occur:

- program eligibility requirements are not met
- person or legal entity applying is determined not to be an eligible producer according to paragraph 31
- information on FSA-1140 or supporting documentation provided by the participant is not accurate or reasonable
- COC has evidence that the applicant did not have a reported ownership share interest in the eligible specialty crop
- signature requirements were not met, according to 1-CM, by not signing FSA-1140, Part D

**Note:** If FSA-1140 or FSA-1141 was completed but never signed by the producer or someone on behalf of the producer, take **no** action on FSA-1140. It is not considered filed unless it is signed.

- FSA-1140, with FSA-1141 and supporting documentation if required, was submitted or postmarked **after** January 10, 2025.

If COC disapproves or adjusts FSA-1140 for any reason, COC must:

- notify the participant of the adjustment or disapproval
- provide the participant applicable appeal rights, according to 1-APP
- thoroughly document reasons for the adjustment or disapproval in the COC minutes.



## 52 Revised FSA-1140's and Signature Requirements

### A Revised FSA-1140's

FSA-1140's can be revised any time before the program deadline. Revisions after the deadline are authorized only if it is because of an activity completed by USDA, not the producer.

A reason for revision may be because sales reported on FSA-1140 were incorrect or entered in error and discovered by the County Office through subsequent review or spot check.

For any revision to FSA-1140, thoroughly document the reason for the revision in the COC minutes and provide the producer a copy of the revised FSA-1140.

FSA-1140's that are revised or submitted after the signup deadline will be considered late filed. Requests for programmatic relief must be submitted through the DAFP SharePoint correspondence site at <https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/FPAC-FSA-DAFPReliefCorrespondence/Lists/DAFP%20State%20Memo%20Submission/State%20View.aspx?viewid=3f061cad%2D5b05%2D4b5a%2Da4fc%2D144d1fd16ff3>.

### B Revisions That Require New Signature and Approval

Any revision to a previously submitted FSA-1140 that would increase the calculated payment amount requires a new producer signature and new approval date entered, if applicable. This includes revisions to add or modify:

- producer information in Part B
- amount of crop insurance indemnities or NAP payment included in total specialty crop sales
- year selected by the producer.

**Note:** A new producer signature on FSA-1140 is required.

### C Revisions That Do Not Require New Signature

A revision that adversely affects FSA-1140 does not require a new producer signature. Notify the participant in writing of the revision, provide the participant applicable appeal rights according to 1-APP, and thoroughly document the reason for the revision in the COC minutes.

**Note:** A revised FSA-1140 must have a new approval date entered.

**52 Revised FSA-1140's and Signature Requirements (Continued)**

**D Withdrawing FSA-1140's**

A producer may withdraw FSA-1140 at any time after submission by:

- requesting a withdrawal in writing
- submitting the request to the recording County Office.

The County Office must date-stamp the written request and remove all producer signatures and COC action dates from the software.

**53-74 (Reserved)**

## Section 4 General Payment Provisions

### 75 Payments and Payment Rates

#### A General Payment Information

Payments are based on 5 payment gradations associated with their total specialty crop sales. The sales range and percent payment factor in the following table will be used to calculate payments. The sales ranges have been established; however, after the end of the application period, FSA will determine a percent payment factor for each range.

Sales Range	Percent Payment Factor
Up to \$49,999	a
\$50,000-\$99,999	b
\$100,000-\$499,999	c
\$500,000-\$999,999	d
All sales over \$1 million	e

To calculate a producer's MASC payment, FSA will:

- multiply the amount of sales in each range in this table by the corresponding percent payment factor for that range
- calculate the sum of the results for each sales range.

For example, if a producer reported \$450,000 of total specialty crop sales for their elected year, FSA would calculate a payment equal to the sum of the following:

- \$49,999 (amount of sales in the first range) multiplied by percent payment factor a
- \$50,000 (amount of sales in the second range) multiplied by percent payment factor b
- \$350,001 (amount of sales in the third range) multiplied by percent payment factor c.

#### B Issuing Payments

FSA will issue payments after the end of the application period. If demand for the program exceeds available funding, payments may be prorated and the payment limitation may be lowered. If the proration and payment limitation reduction are necessary, the reduction and lowered payment limitation will apply to all participants. If additional funding remains available after payments are issued and any appeals and requests for equitable relief have been resolved, FSA may issue an additional payment.

**76 General Payment Provisions**

**A Introduction**

The payment process is an automated process that determines the following:

- whether the producer is eligible to receive payment
- payment amount that can be sent to NPS for disbursement
- overpayment amount that will be updated to the Pending Overpayment Report.

**B Frequency of Payment Processing**

Once authorized, payments are processed nightly for the following:

- FSA-1140's for which an approval is updated in the software during the workday
- changes made to FSA-1140 or eligibility values that could affect the producer's payment or overpayment amount determination.

**C Obtaining FSA-325 for Deceased, Disappeared, or Incompetent Producers**

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

**D Administrative Offset**

Payments are subject to administrative offset.

**76 General Payment Provisions (Continued)****E Assignments and Joint Payments**

A producer may assign the payment according to 63-FI, provided CCC-37 is submitted by the applicant before payment is made. 63-FI includes policy for assignments and joint payment authorizations.

**F Bankruptcy**

Bankruptcy status does **not** exclude a producer from requesting benefits.

**Important:** Contact the OGC Regional Attorney for guidance on issuing payments on all bankruptcy cases.

**G Payments Less Than \$1**

Payments will be issued in dollars and cents so all payment amounts will be sent to NPS.

**H Prompt Payment**

Prompt payment does not apply.

**I Sequestration**

Sequestration will be applied to the total amount of funding available for MASC. It will **not** be applied after individual payment amounts are calculated.

**J General Payment Policy**

See 9-CM, Part 2 for general payment policy for the following:

- eligible ID types and business types
- payment eligibility
- payment limitation and attribution of payments
- joint operations and entities
- general provisions for overpayments.

**77 Payment Limitation Provisions****A Payment Eligibility and Limitation Information for Payments**

MASC has its own per person or legal entity payment limitation separate from other programs. The per person or legal entity payment limitation for MASC:

- is provided in paragraph 25
- will be attributed through direct attribution.

As each payment is processed, the available payment limitation for the person or legal entity will be reduced until:

- all payments are issued for the person or legal entity
- maximum payment limitation has been attributed to a person or legal entity.

The payment process reads the web-based eligibility system for 2025 to determine whether a producer or member is eligible to be paid. If the producer or member is ineligible to be paid:

- payment will not be issued or will be reduced
- producer or member will be listed on the Nonpayment Report with the applicable message.

**78 Recording Payments****A Recording State and County Office Responsibility for Payments**

Recording State and County Offices for the producer will complete the payment.

**Note:** The recording State and County Offices for a producer are identified in the Subsidiary Eligibility System.

Reports, Forms, Abbreviations, and Redelegations of Authority

Reports

None.

Forms

This table lists the forms referenced in this handbook.

Number	Title	Display Reference	Reference
AD-2007	FSA/RMA Compliance Referral Form		1
AD-1026	Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification (Includes Form AD-1026 Appendix)		11, 25, 51
CCC-37	Joint Payment Authorization		76
CCC-770 MASC	Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Checklist	5	
CCC-901	Member's Information		25
CCC-902	Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility 2009 and Subsequent Program Years		25, 51
CCC-902E	Farm Operating Plan for an Entity		25
CCC-902I	Farm Operating Plan for an Individual		25
CCC-903	Worksheet for Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitation Determinations		25
CCC-941	Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information		25, 51
CCC-942	Certification of Income from Farming, Ranching and Forestry Operations		25
FSA-325	Application for Payment of Amounts Due Persons Who Have Died, Disappeared, or Have Been Declared Incompetent		76
FSA-578	Report of Acreage		Ex. 11
FSA-850	Environmental Screening Worksheet		10
FSA-1140	Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Application	Ex. 10	3-5, 31, 50-52, 76, Ex. 11-13
FSA-1141	Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) New Producer Expected Sales Worksheet	Ex. 11	31, 50, 51, Ex. 10
IRS Schedule F	Profit or Loss From Farming		31

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

Abbreviations Not Listed in 1-CM

This table lists all abbreviations not listed in 1-CM.

Approved Abbreviations	Term	Reference
FPAC	Farm Production and Conservation	3, 5, 6
MASC	Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops	Text and Exhibits
NOFA	Notice of Funding Availability	2, 10, 50
PA	Program Analyst	4, 51
PIIA	Payment Integrity Information Act	4, 5

Delegations of Authority

This table lists the delegations of authority in this handbook.

Delegation	Reference
In routine cases, COC may redelegate, in writing, to CED the authority to review and approve FSA-1140.  The re delegation <b>must</b> define what COC considers routine.	4, 51



## Definitions of Terms Used in This Handbook

### Crop Year

Crop year means:

- for insured crops, the crop year as defined according to the applicable federal crop insurance policy
- for NAP-covered crops, the crop year as defined in 7 CFR 1437.3.

### Eligible Producer

Eligible producer means a producer who is in the business of producing a specialty crop at the time of application and is entitled to an ownership share and shares in the risk of producing a specialty crop that will be sold in calendar year 2025. In addition, a producer must be 1 of the following to be eligible:

- U.S. citizen
- resident alien, which for purposes of MASC means “lawful alien” as defined in 7 CFR 1400.3
- partnership organized under State law
- corporation, LLC, or other organizational structure organized under State law
- 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)
- foreign person or foreign entity who meets all requirements as described in 7 CFR Part 1400.

### Eligible Specialty Crop

Eligible specialty crop means a crop that is produced in the United States as part of a commercial operation.

### Farming Operation

Farming operation means a business enterprise engaged in the production of agricultural products, commodities, or livestock, operated by a person, legal entity, or joint operation. A person or legal entity may have more than 1 farming operation if the person or legal entity is a member of 1 or more legal entities or joint operations.

**Definitions of Terms Used in This Handbook (Continued)****Federal Crop Insurance**

Federal crop insurance means an insurance policy reinsured by FCIC administered by RMA under the provisions of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501-1524), as amended. It does not include private plans of insurance.

**Federal Crop Insurance Indemnity**

Federal crop insurance indemnity means the payment to a participant for crop losses covered under federal crop insurance administered by RMA according to the Federal Crop Insurance Act.

**Floriculture**

Floriculture means the commercial production of flowers and cut greenery that are field-grown or grown in a controlled environment, including those planted in containers or other growing mediums.

**Fruit**

Fruit means the edible reproductive body of a seed plant or tree nut (such as apple, orange, and almond), in which fruit means the harvestable or harvested part of a plant developed from a flower.

**Hemp**

Hemp means the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis, that is grown under an official certification or license issued by the applicable governing authority that permits the production of hemp.

**Inventory Crops**

Inventory crops mean crops do not lend themselves to yield calculations or expected yield loss because of their unique nature. Also known as value loss crops, such as nursery, Christmas trees, mushrooms, etc.

**Definitions of Terms Used in This Handbook (Continued)****Legal Entity**

Legal entity means a corporation, joint stock company, association, limited partnership, LLC, irrevocable trust, estate, charitable organization, general partnership, joint venture, or other similar organization 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.

**Misrepresentation, Scheme, or Device**

Misrepresentation, scheme, or device means, but is not limited to:

- concealing any information having a bearing on the application of any of the rules governing MASC
- submitting false information to a CCC representative, including, but not limited to, COC, STC, or authorized agent or employee thereof
- creating fictitious entities for the purpose of concealing the interest of a person in a farming operation.

**Nursery Crop**

Nursery crop means decorative or nondecorative plants grown in a container or controlled environment for commercial sale.

**Ownership Interest**

Ownership interest means to have either a legal ownership interest or a beneficial ownership interest in a legal entity. For the purposes of administering MASC, a person or legal entity that owns a share or stock in a legal entity that is a corporation, LLC, limited partnership, or similar type entity where members hold a legal ownership interest and share in the profits or losses of this entity are considered to have an ownership interest in this legal entity. A person or legal entity that is a beneficiary of a trust or heir of an estate who benefits from the profits or losses of this entity is also considered to have a beneficial ownership interest in this legal entity.

**Definitions of Terms Used in This Handbook (Continued)**

**Specialty Crop**

Specialty crop means:

- fruits, including dried fruits
- vegetables, including dry edible beans and peas, mushrooms, and vegetable seed
- tree nuts
- nursery crops
- Christmas trees
- floriculture
- culinary and medicinal herbs and spices
- honey
- hops
- maple sap
- tea
- turfgrass
- grass seed.

**Vegetable**

Vegetable means the edible part of an herbaceous plant (such as cabbage or potato) or fleshy fruiting body of a fungus (such as white button or shiitake) grown for an edible part, in which vegetable means the harvestable or harvested part of any plant or fungus whose fruit, fleshy fruiting bodies, seeds, roots, tubers, bulbs, stems, leaves, or flower parts are used as food and includes mushrooms, sprouts, and herbs (such as basil or cilantro).

**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.

**FSA-1140, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Application**

**A Completing FSA-1140**

The following table provides instructions for completing a manual FSA-1140.

**Note:** For County Offices, enter the data for all FSA-1140's received in the County Office into the MASC application system to print the completed FSA-1140 for the applicant.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Instructions</b>
<b>For County Office Use Only</b>	
1	The County Office will enter the recording State and State code.
2	The County Office will enter the recording county and county code.
3	The County Office will enter the program year.  <b>Note:</b> Only "2025" will be applicable.
4	The application number will be assigned by the automated system.
<b>Part A – Producer Agreement</b>	
The producer should review this information carefully. The producer is agreeing to the items listed in this part by signing in Part D.	
<b>Part B – Producer Information</b>	
5	Enter the producer's name.  <b>Note:</b> Customers must apply based on the TIN to receive payment. Businesses that operate together but use separate TIN's must apply separately.
6	Enter additional information, if applicable.
7A	Enter the producer's first line of their mailing address.
7B	Enter the producer's second line of their mailing address.
7C	Enter the city for the producer's mailing address.
7D	Enter the State for the producer's mailing address.
7E	Enter the postal ZIP Code for the producer's mailing address.
8A	Enter the primary phone number for the producer and indicate if it is a home or cell number.
8B	Enter the alternate phone number for the producer and indicate if it is a home or cell number.
9	Enter the producer's email address.

FSA-1140, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Application (Continued)

A Completing FSA-1140 (Continued)

Item	Instructions
<b>Part C – Sales</b>	
10	<p>Select the applicable year of the total specialty crop sales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023</li> <li>• 2024</li> <li>• 2025 (new producer only).</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Only check 1 year.</p> <p>New producers only include producers who meet 1 of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• began producing specialty crops in 2023 or 2024 but did not have sales because of the immaturity of the crop</li> <li>• began producing specialty crops in 2024 but did not have a complete year of sales</li> <li>• are beginning to grow specialty crops in 2025.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> New producers must also submit FSA-1141 and supporting documentation by the application deadline.</p>
11	<p>Enter the total specialty crop sales for the applicable year selected in item 10.</p> <p>Eligible specialty crop sales only include sales of commercially marketed raw specialty crops grown in the United States by the producer. The portion of sales derived from adding value to a specialty crop (such as sorting, processing, or packaging) is not included with eligible sales.</p> <p>Sales of specialty crops purchased for resale may be included only if there is a change in characteristic because of the time held; for example, a 2-inch plant that was sold as an 18-inch plant after 4 months.</p> <p>To be considered a 2023 or 2024 calendar year sale, the producer must have received payment for the specialty crop during the applicable calendar year. Producers who select “2023” or “2024” in item 10 will include federal crop insurance indemnities and NAP payments for specialty crops for the 2023 or 2024 crop year, respectively, in total specialty crop sales.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> New producers will enter the amount from FSA-1141, item 12.</p>
12	<p>COC will enter the adjustment to total specialty crop sales if determined to be different than the number provided in item 11.</p>

**FSA-1140, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Application (Continued)**

**A Completing FSA-1140 (Continued)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Instructions</b>
<b>Part D – Producer Certification</b>	
13A	Producer or authorized representative submitting FSA-1140 must sign certifying to information entered in Parts A through C.
13B	Enter title or relationship to the producer when signing in a representative capacity.  <b>Note:</b> If not signing in a representative capacity, this field should be left blank.
13C	Enter the date the producer or authorized representative signs FSA-1140.
<b>Part E – County Committee (COC) Determination</b>	
14	COC or their representative will sign.
15	Enter the date COC or their representative signs FSA-1140.
16	COC or their representative will check “Approved” or “Disapproved”.

**FSA-1140, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Application (Continued)**

**B Example of FSA-1140**

The following is an example of FSA-1140.

OMB Approved No: 0503-0028 OMB Expiration Date: 10/31/2027						
<b>FSA-1140</b> (12-10-24)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farm Service Agency	<b>FOR COUNTY OFFICE USE ONLY</b>				
<b>MARKETING ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIALTY CROPS (MASC) APPLICATION</b>		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">                     1. Recording State  <i>Name                      Code</i> </td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">                     2. Recording County  <i>Name                      Code</i> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">                     3. Program Year                 </td> <td style="text-align: center;">                     4. Application Number                 </td> </tr> </table>	1. Recording State <i>Name                      Code</i>	2. Recording County <i>Name                      Code</i>	3. Program Year	4. Application Number
1. Recording State <i>Name                      Code</i>	2. Recording County <i>Name                      Code</i>					
3. Program Year	4. Application Number					
<b>INSTRUCTIONS:</b> Return this completed form to your County FSA Office.						
<b>PART A – PRODUCER AGREEMENT</b>						
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will make MASC payments to eligible producers who meet the requirements of the program. The following information is needed for USDA to determine if the producer is eligible to receive a MASC payment. By submitting this application, the producer agrees:						
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To comply with, and acknowledges the applicant is subject to, all provisions published in the Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) published by FSA. A copy of this document may be found at: <a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov/marketing-assistance-specialty-crops">www.fsa.usda.gov/marketing-assistance-specialty-crops</a>.</li> <li>2. That they are in the business of farming at the time of application and are entitled to an ownership share and share in the risk of producing a specialty crop that will be sold in calendar year 2025.</li> <li>3. That a MASC payment will only be made with respect to sales for specialty crops grown in the United States by the producer.</li> <li>4. To provide USDA access to all documents and records necessary to verify the accuracy of the information provided in this application, including those in the possession of a third-party, such as a warehouse operator, processor or packer.</li> <li>5. That the application may be disapproved if the producer fails to provide a complete application, or any information requested by FSA within 15 days of the request.</li> <li>6. To comply with payment limitation, adjusted gross income limitation, and other applicable rules by submitting the following forms required by the NOFA:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FSA-1141, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) New Producer Expected Sales Worksheet, and supporting documentation by the MASC application deadline, if applicable</li> <li>• CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility</li> <li>• CCC-901, Member Information for Legal Entities, if applicable</li> <li>• CCC-941, Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information</li> <li>• CCC-942, Certification of Income from Farming, Ranching and Forestry Operations, if applicable</li> <li>• AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification</li> <li>• AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet, if applicable.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>						
<b>PART B – PRODUCER INFORMATION</b>						
5. Producer's Name ( <i>Person or Legal Entity</i> )		6. Information Line	DATE STAMP			
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		



FSA-1140, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Application (Continued)

B Example of FSA-1140 (Continued)

FSA-1140 (12-10-24)		Page 2 of 2
<b>PART C – SALES</b>		
10. Year <input type="checkbox"/> 2023 <input type="checkbox"/> 2024 <input type="checkbox"/> 2025 (new producer only)	11. Total Specialty Crop Sales \$	<b>FOR COUNTY OFFICE USE ONLY</b> 12. COC Adjusted Sales \$
<b>PART D – PRODUCER CERTIFICATION</b>		
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 information provided is true and correct.		
13A. Producer's Signature (By)	13B. Title/Relationship of Representative	13C. Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
<b>PART E – COUNTY COMMITTEE (COC) DETERMINATION</b>		
14. COC or Designee Signature	15. Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	16. Determination <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved
<p><b>Privacy Act Statement:</b> 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 the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714c(e)). The information will be used to determine eligibility for program benefits. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, and 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 for program benefits. Payments may be made under the program to which the form applies only to the extent permitted by applicable authorities.</p> <p><b>Public Burden Statement (Paperwork Reduction Act):</b> Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 60 minutes per response, including reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, completing (providing the information), and reviewing the collection of information. You are not required to respond to the collection, or USDA may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden by emailing to: <a href="mailto:askusda@usda.gov">askusda@usda.gov</a> (OMB NO. 0503-0028).</p> <p><b>Non-Discrimination Statement:</b> In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.</p> <p>Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.</p> <p>To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <a href="https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint">https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint</a> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: <a href="mailto:mailto:program.intake@usda.gov">mailto:program.intake@usda.gov</a>.</p> <p>USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.</p>		



**FSA-1141, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) New Producer Expected Sales Worksheet**

**A Completing FSA-1141**

The following table provides instructions for completing a manual FSA-1141.

Item	Instructions
1	<p>Enter the producer's name.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Customers must apply based on the TIN to receive payment. Businesses that operate together but use separate TIN's must apply separately.</p> <p>This is the same as FSA-1140, item 5.</p>
2	<p><b>Agency Use Only</b></p> <p>Enter the application number. This is the same as FSA-1140, item 4.</p>
<p><b>Part A – 2025 Expected Sales for New Producers</b></p>	
3	<p>Enter the specialty crop. Include the type, if applicable.</p> <p>Enter 1 specialty crop and type per row.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> Examples of eligible specialty crops are sweet corn, green peppers, snap peas, romaine lettuce, butternut squash, and table honey.</p> <p><b>A type is a scientifically recognized subspecies of a crop having a particular characteristic or set of characteristics.</b></p>
4	<p>Enter the intended use for the specialty crop entered in <b>item 3</b>.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Fresh, processed, etc.</p>
5	<p>Enter the expected acres for the specialty crop entered in <b>item 3</b>.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Leave this item blank for inventory crops.</p>
6	<p>Enter the expected yield per acre for the specialty crop entered in <b>item 3</b>.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Leave this item blank for inventory crops.</p>
7	<p>Enter the expected production or inventory for the specialty crop entered in <b>item 3</b>.</p> <p>To calculate expected production for yield-based crops, multiply the expected acres in item 5 by the expected yield per acre in item 6.</p> <p>For inventory or dollar value crops, enter the expected inventory to be sold in 2025.</p>

**FSA-1141, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) New Producer Expected Sales Worksheet (Continued)**

**A Completing FSA-1141 (Continued)**

Item	Instructions
<b>Part A – 2025 Expected Sales for New Producers (Continued)</b>	
8	Enter the unit of measure for the specialty crop entered in <b>item 3</b> .  <b>Examples:</b> LBS, bushels, each, etc.
9	Enter the expected price per unit of measure for the specialty crop entered in <b>item 3</b> .
10	Enter the total expected sales for the specialty crop entered in <b>item 3</b> .  For all crops, multiply the expected production or inventory in item 7 by the expected price per unit of measure in item 9.
11	Enter the documents that provided the information used to determine the expected sales.  <b>Examples:</b> 2024 FSA-578, NCT, 2025 Business Plan, etc.
12	Sum the total expected sales for eligible specialty crops from all rows in <b>item 10</b> .
<b>Part B – Producer Certification</b>	
13A	Review this information carefully. The producer must sign FSA-1141 certifying to information entered in Part A.  <b>Note:</b> The producer or authorized representative submitting FSA-1140 must sign certifying to information entered on FSA-1141.
13B	Enter title or relationship to the producer when signing in a representative capacity.  <b>Note:</b> If not signing in a representative capacity, this field should be left blank.
13C	Enter the date the producer or authorized representative signs FSA-1141.

**FSA-1141, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) New Producer Expected Sales Worksheet (Continued)**

**B Example of FSA-1141**

The following is an example of FSA-1141.

<b>FSA-1141</b> (12-10-24)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farm Service Agency				OMB Approved No: 0503-0028 OMB Expiration Date: 10/31/2027				
<b>MARKETING ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIALTY CROPS (MASC) NEW PRODUCER EXPECTED SALES WORKSHEET</b>						1. Producer's Name (Person or Legal Entity)				
						2. Application Number				
<b>PART A – 2025 EXPECTED SALES FOR NEW PRODUCERS</b>										
3. Crop/Type	4. Intended Use	5. Expected Acres	6. Expected Yield/Acre	7. Expected Production or Inventory <i>(for yield-based crops, item 5 x item 6)</i>	8. Unit of Measure	9. Expected Price/Unit	10. Expected Sales <i>(item 7 x item 9)</i>	11. Reference Documents		
						\$	\$			
						\$	\$			
						\$	\$			
						\$	\$			
						\$	\$			
						\$	\$			
						\$	\$			
						\$	\$			
						\$	\$			
						\$	\$			
						\$	\$			
<b>12. Total Expected Sales</b> <i>(sum amounts in Item 10; enter amount in item 11 on Form FSA-1140)</i>							\$			
<b>PART B – PRODUCER CERTIFICATION</b>										
<i>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 information is true and correct. I understand that I must provide documentation to FSA prior to the MASC application deadline to support my total expected specialty crop sales.</i>										
13A. Producer's Signature (By)				13B. Title/Relationship of Representative				13C. Date (MM/DD/YYYY)		
							DATE STAMP			

# FSA-1141, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) New Producer Expected Sales Worksheet (Continued)

## B Example of FSA-1141 (Continued)

<b>FSA-1141</b> (12-10-24)	Page 2 of 2
<b>General Form Instructions</b>	
A new producer will complete FSA-1141 to certify to their expected sales for the 2025 calendar year and enter that amount in item 11 on FSA-1140.	
A new producer is an applicant who:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Began producing specialty crops in 2023 or 2024 but did not have sales due to the immaturity of the crop;</li><li>• Began producing specialty crops in 2024 but did not have a complete year of sales; or</li><li>• Is beginning to grow specialty crops in 2025.</li></ul>	
To be eligible for MASC, a new producer must have one of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A legally binding contract or agreement wherein the producer has agreed to sell a specialty crop during calendar year 2025; or</li><li>• Evidence that, at the time of application, a specialty crop has been planted and is expected to be harvested and sold in the 2025 calendar year.</li></ul>	
All new producers must provide acceptable documentation that shows the producer is in the business of farming at time of application and intends to sell a specialty crop in the 2025 calendar year. Expected 2025 sales must be based on realistic projections that are supported by acceptable documentation demonstrating the producer's ability to achieve the expected sales and their ability to grow, harvest, and market the expected yield or inventory.	
For new producers who have entered into a legally binding sales contract or purchase agreement for the sale of their specialty crop, their 2025 expected specialty crop sales must be based on the terms of their contract or agreement regarding the total sale amount or the price and amount of inventory or production.	
For new producers who are growing a specialty crop intended for sale in 2025 who do not have a contract or agreement, their expected 2025 specialty crop sales must be based on their specialty crop acreage or inventory that is planted at the time of application and published yields and prices such as Federal Crop Insurance Corporation-established data, FSA-established National Crop Table data, and National Agricultural Statistic Service data, or published local data sources.	
<p><b>Privacy Act Statement:</b> 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 the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714c(e)). The information will be used to determine eligibility for program benefits. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, and 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 for program benefits.</p>	
<p><b>Public Burden Statement (Paperwork Reduction Act):</b> Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 60 minutes per response, including reviewing instructions, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, completing (providing the information), and reviewing the collection of information. You are not required to respond to the collection of information, unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0503-0028, and the collection is voluntary. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden by emailing to: <a href="mailto:askusda@usda.gov">askusda@usda.gov</a> (OMB NO. 0503-0028).</p>	
<p><b>Non-Discrimination Statement:</b> In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.</p>	
<p>Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.</p>	
<p>To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <a href="https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint">https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint</a> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: <a href="mailto:program.intake@usda.gov">program.intake@usda.gov</a>.</p>	
<p>USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.</p>	

**Example Letter Notifying of Incomplete FSA-1140**

The following is an example of a letter notifying of an incomplete FSA-1140.

Date

TMNT Farms  
28 Union St  
Anytown, USA 12345-9876

Dear Mr. Yoshi:

This letter is in response to your application for the Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC).

FSA has received form FSA-1140; however, we have determined that your application package is incomplete. Applications not having all required forms (such as the FSA-1141) or fields completed are considered incomplete and, if not completed by the end of the signup period, the application will be considered withdrawn and will not be acted upon by the COC.

Please contact us at your earliest convenience if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

CED





### **Example Letter Requesting Supportive Documentation**

The following is an example letter for requesting supporting documentation.

Dear Mr. Splinter:

This letter is in response to your FSA-1140, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Application.

FSA has received your application; however, we have determined that additional information is required for processing.

Supporting documentation is requested to verify information certified as follows: *(County Office will specify which entries need additional documentation: item from producer agreement, total specialty crop sales, expected specialty crop sales).*

Please submit the requested information no later than [insert date (15 days from the date of letter)].

If the requested supportive documentation is not received during that timeframe, your application will be disapproved.

Please contact us at your earliest convenience if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

CED

