

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC 20250

**Cotton Transition Assistance Program
1-CTAP**

Amendment 5

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



Amendment Transmittal

A Major Purpose

This amendment announces the beginning (July 6, 2015) and ending dates (September 30, 2015) of the 2015 CTAP signup. The 2015 CTAP is available for farms with cotton base acres (effective September 30, 2013, as adjusted) with cropland physically located in a county where STAX is not available for purchase in 2015.

B Reasons for Amendment

Paragraph 1 has been amended to provide a reference to Exhibit 5 for counties where STAX is unavailable in 2015.

Paragraphs 14, 331, 333, 353, 394, 398, 401, 426, and 445 have been amended to reference the beginning and ending dates for 2015 CTAP signup.

Paragraph 394 has been amended to specify the eligibility conditions and requirements of farms and producers for 2015 CTAP.

Paragraph 701 has been amended to clarify sequester rates for 2014 and 2015 CTAP.

Exhibit 5 has been added to list counties where STAX is unavailable for purchase in 2015.

Amendment Transmittal (Continued)

Page Control Chart		
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5	1-1, 1-2 1-13, 1-14 1-17 6-1, 6-2 6-7, 6-8 6-61 through 6-64 6-131, 6-132 6-132.5, 6-132.6 (add) 6-133, 6-134 6-137, 6-138 6-145 through 6-148 7-11, 7-12 7-51 through 7-54 12-107 through 12-160	5, pages 1-4 (add)

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Exhibits

1	Reports, Forms, Abbreviations, and Redelegations of Authority
2	Definitions of Terms Used in This Handbook
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4	Cotton Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) Fact Sheet
5	Counties Where STAX Is Unavailable for 2015
6-13	(Reserved)
14	CCC-510, Cash Rent Certification Statement
15, 16	(Reserved)
17	CCC-770 CTAP, CTAP Application Checklist
18	(Reserved)
19	FSA-911, Wetland Reserve Program Projected Base Acre Reduction Worksheet

Part 1 Basic Information

1 Overview

A Handbook Purpose

This handbook provides:

- policy and procedure to State and County Offices for administering CTAP
- instructions for using 2014 and future web-based CCC-957's.

B CTAP Purpose and Eligibility

The purpose of CTAP is to provide payments to producers of upland cotton (cotton) because of:

- repeal of direct payments
- inapplicability of ARC/PLC Programs to cotton
- delayed implementation of STAX.

CTAP in 2014 and 2015 is based on a farm's 2013 cotton base acres effective under the 2008 Farm Bill, as of September 30, 2013.

With respect to a farm's effective 2013 cotton base acres, as adjusted, CTAP payments will be issued to 2014 producers who apply and meet all program requirements. Payments will also be made available to eligible 2015 producers who apply and meet all other requirements and whose farms are administratively located in counties where STAX is **not** available.

Note: Under CTAP, there is no requirement that producers plant cotton to be eligible for payment; however, eligible producers must have adequate FSA-578 share interest in enough DCP cropland acres to cover their claimed interest in cotton base acres on CCC-957.

The CTAP payment rate is equal to the product obtained when multiplying, for the 2014 crop year, 60 percent and, for the 2015 crop year, 36.5 percent of the cotton base acres in effect for crop year 2013. The product obtained is the:

- transition assistance rate in effect for the particular crop year
- direct payment yield for cotton that had been established under the 2008 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 110-246).

CTAP payments will be issued to eligible cotton producers satisfying all program and payment eligibility requirements on or after October 1 of the crop year when the cotton, if planted, would have been ordinarily harvested.

--See Exhibit 5 for a list of counties where STAX is unavailable in 2015.--

1 Overview (Continued)

C Sources of Authority and Funding

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-79) (2014 Farm Bill) and 7 CFR Part 1412 provide authority for 2014 and 2015 CTAP.

CTAP is a CCC-funded program.

D Related Handbooks

The following handbooks are related to the CTAP application:

- 1-APP for appeals
- 1-CM for signature requirement, power of attorney, and maintaining the name and address file common provisions
- 10-CM for procedure to update farm, tract, and crop data through a maintenance application and for farm reconstitutions
- 2-CP for acreage and compliance provisions and determinations
- 4-CP for payment reductions and violations
- 6-CP for HELC and WC provisions
- 7-CP for finality rule and equitable relief provisions
- 1-DCP for implementing DCP and ACRE
- 2-DCP (Rev. 1) for automation
- 1-FI for issuing payments
- 3-FI for depositing remittances
- 6-FI for accounting payment process
- 58-FI for debts and claims
- 61-FI for handling prompt payment interest penalties

9 Basic Program Information (Continued)

E Deadlines

The following table lists some important deadlines.

Date	Event
Applicable date for crop and location in 2-CP	Acreage reporting date.
July 15, 2014	Final date to report 2013 production for 2013 ACRE farms.
August 11, 2014	2014 CTAP signup begins.
October 7, 2014	2014 CTAP signup ends.
October 7, 2014	Final date for all 2014 application matters, including successor-in-interest applications.
*--July 6, 2015	2015 CTAP Signup begins.
September 30, 2015	Final date for all 2015 application matters, including successor-in-interest applications.--*

10 Payments and Limitations

A CTAP Payment Calculation

Subject to a \$40,000 per person or legal entity limit for persons or legal entities actively engaged in farming and assuming all other payment eligibility or average AGI compliance is met, CTAP payments:

- for 2014 are equal to the product of multiplying 60 percent of the farm's upland cotton base acres (generic base acres) times the farm's direct payment yield for upland cotton times \$0.09 times the producer's share on the approved application
- in counties for which STAX is **not** available for upland cotton in 2015, are equal to the product of multiplying 36.5 percent of the farm's upland cotton base acres (generic base acres) times the farm's direct payment yield for upland cotton times \$0.09 times the producer's share on the approved application.

--See Exhibit 5 for a list of counties where STAX cannot be purchased in 2015. FSA will process CCC-957's from interested producers on farms with any cropland physically located in any of the counties listed in Exhibit 5. See paragraph 394.--

10 Payments and Limitations (Continued)

B Advance CTAP Payments

There are **no** advance payments authorized for CTAP.

C Refunds of CTAP Payments

A producer must refund any payment to CCC that exceeds the amount actually earned under the application, including the refund of unearned payments for a crop year resulting from another producer assuming an interest in the cotton base acres for the crop year. Interest on these refunds shall be assessed according to 2-DCP (Rev. 1).

Note: Interest only accrues from the date of disbursement in cases where COC determines misrepresentation, scheme, or device according to paragraph 335.

D Final CTAP Payments

Final CTAP payments will be made to eligible producers satisfying the requirements of this rule on or after October 1 of the crop year when upland cotton is or ordinarily would have been harvested.

E Payment Limitations

The provisions of 7 CFR Part 1400 about payment limits and payment eligibility requirements are applicable to CCC-957 as indicated by this regulation.

Payment or Benefit	Limitation per Person or Legal Entity per Crop Year, Program Year, or FY
CTAP payments for cotton	\$40,000
ARC/PLC, LDP, and marketing loan gain payments (for all commodities including cotton, except peanuts)	\$125,000

F Farm With 10 Base Acres or Less

CTAP payment eligibility of producers on farms is without regard to whether the farm has fewer than 10 base acres, including generic base acres.

Note: See paragraph 395.

13 General Signature Requirements

A Common Management Provisions

--Follow 1-CM for policy about signatures and using registers.--

14 Withdrawing CCC-957's

A Withdrawing CCC-957 During the Application Period

The CTAP application period for:

- 2014 ends October 7, 2014
- *--2015 ends September 30, 2015.--*

See:

- 2-DCP (Rev. 1) for instructions on canceling CCC-957 in the automated system
- subparagraph 394 D for withdrawing CCC-957
- subparagraph 445 C for withdrawing subsequent CCC-957's during the authorized late-filed application period.

15 Canceling CCC-957's

A Canceling CCC-957

CCC-957 will be canceled if there is a transfer or change in the interest of any producer or change in any of the cotton base acres on the farm occurring by either of the following:

- October 7, 2014, for 2014
- September 30, 2015, for 2015.

CCC-957 may be canceled for violations and other reasons.

16-63 (Reserved)

Part 6 CTAP Application**Section 1 General Information****331 Application Period****A Application Dates**

The annual application periods and deadlines for CCC-957's are for:

- 2014 CTAP, August 11, 2014, through October 7, 2014
- 2015 CTAP, July 6, 2015, through September 30, 2015.

B Farms With CRP-1

Farms with CRP-1's that expire, are voluntarily terminated, or early released from September 30, 2013, through September 30, 2015, may have 2015 CCC-957 or expand CCC-957 to the extent:

- base acres reduced under CRP-15 were released
- PFC acreage was reduced on CCC-505
- base acres were reduced on CCC-505.

Note: See subparagraph 67 C for adjustments to base acres and yields because of CRP-1 that expires, is voluntarily terminated, or is early released. See 10-CM for updating the farm maintenance system.

C Reconstitution of Enrolled Farms

Farms signed up during the prescribed application period are no longer considered to be signed up following a farm reconstitution. Farms resulting from a reconstitution are not deemed to have CCC-957 and, therefore, may not earn benefits associated with CTAP unless a timely application is made following the reconstitution.

Note: See paragraph 333 for applications on reconstituted farms.

332 Overview of CCC-957

A CCC-957

CCC-957 includes the following for a farm:

- base acres, payment acres, and direct payment yields for upland cotton
- producer payment shares
- signatures of the producer and CCC representative.

Note: CCC-957 is available at <http://fsaintranet.sc.egov.usda.gov/fsa/>.

B CCC-957 Instructions

Complete CCC-957 according to this table.

Item	Instruction
1	Enter the applicable program year. Note: This will be prefilled if generated in CTAP software.
2	Enter the State code for FSN in item 4. Note: This will be prefilled if generated in CTAP software.
3	Enter the county code for FSN in item 4. Note: This will be prefilled if generated in CTAP software.
4	Enter the applicable FSN. Note: This will be prefilled if generated in CTAP software.

332 Overview of CCC-957 (Continued)

C Example of CCC-957 (Continued)

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CCC-957 (06-12-14)		Page 3 of 3	
Items 7 through 11 specify the details for the CTAP payment shares, yields and payment acres for the farm in Item 4. <i>(Continuation)</i>			
8A. Owner or Producer's Name and Address <i>(Including Zip Code)</i>		9. Payment Share	
8B. Telephone No. <i>(Include Area Code)</i> :			
10A. Refused Payment Information: <input type="checkbox"/> All CTAP Payments are Refused		10B. Producers Initials	10C. Date Initialed <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>
11A. Producer's Signature (By)	11B. Title/Relationship of the Individual Signing in the Representative Capacity	11C. Date <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>	
8A. Owner or Producer's Name and Address <i>(Including Zip Code)</i>		9. Payment Share	
8B. Telephone No. <i>(Include Area Code)</i> :			
10A. Refused Payment Information: <input type="checkbox"/> All CTAP Payments are Refused		10B. Producers Initials	10C. Date Initialed <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>
11A. Producer's Signature (By)	11B. Title/Relationship of the Individual Signing in the Representative Capacity	11C. Date <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>	
8A. Owner or Producer's Name and Address <i>(Including Zip Code)</i>		9. Payment Share	
8B. Telephone No. <i>(Include Area Code)</i> :			
10A. Refused Payment Information: <input type="checkbox"/> All CTAP Payments are Refused		10B. Producers Initials	10C. Date Initialed <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>
11A. Producer's Signature (By)	11B. Title/Relationship of the Individual Signing in the Representative Capacity	11C. Date <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>	
<p>NOTE: <i>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 7 CFR Part 1427, the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714 et seq.), and the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-79). The information will be used to determine eligibility for participation in and receipt of benefits from the Cotton Transition Assistance Program. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for USDA/FSA-2, Farm Records File (Automated). Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for participation in and receipt of benefits from the Cotton Transition Assistance Program.</i></p> <p><i>This information collection is exempted from the Paperwork Reduction Act as specified in the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-79, Title I, Subtitle F, Administration).</i></p> <p><i>The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.</i></p>			
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333 Application Options on Reconstituted Farms

A Authorized Reconstitutions

Subject to the provisions of subparagraph B, the following reconstitutions are allowed, if FSA-155 is initiated by August 1 of the effective FY and all payments for the parent farm or farms made during the current FY, if applicable, have been refunded (or receivables have been established for unearned payments):

- divisions of all farms
- farm combinations in limited situations.

Note: CCC-957's may only be withdrawn according to paragraph 14.

B Application Signup and Eligibility and Options Following Reconstitutions

This table discusses application signup and eligibility options following reconstitutions.

IF...	*--THEN by September 30, 2015, or 30 calendar days following issuance of the notification of the completion of the reconstitution for 2015...--*
the parent farms of a reconstitution have a valid CCC-957 filed for * * * 2015	<p>resulting farms may likewise have CCC-957 signed by producers sharing in upland cotton base acres.</p> <p>Notes: Notification issued to the operator of record constitutes notice to all producers (OP, OW, and OT) on the farm regardless of whether copies of the notice are or are not actually sent to all producers.</p> <p>A valid CCC-957 must be effective and apply to a farm before CCC-957 can be signed.</p>
a reconstitution request is initiated according to 10-CM by *--August 1, 2015, for 2015--*	<p>producers sharing in upland cotton base acres on the farm can sign CCC-957.</p> <p>Note: Notification issued to the operator of record constitutes notice to all producers (OP, OW, and OT) on the farm regardless of whether copies of the notice are or are not actually sent to all producers.</p>

353 Approving CCC-957 (Continued)

B Payment Shares' Disapproval (Continued)

- notify OW, OP, and all other persons signing CCC-957 of the payment disapproval with 1 single decision letter sent to all persons and legal entities signing CCC-957

Note: The letter should show that it was sent to all producers signing CCC-957.

- document COC findings in the COC minutes and file a copy of the minutes in the farm folder
- provide applicable appeal rights.

***--Note:** A decision by COC **not** to act or render a decision on disputed share applications--* is **not** an adverse decision giving rise to any sort of appeal or appealability review.

C Revising CCC-957

Except as may be permitted according to paragraphs 397 and 398, revisions to CCC-957 ***--must not** be made after September 30, 2015, for the 2015 program year.--*

Note: See 2-DCP (Rev. 1) for County Office procedure for revising CCC-957.

D Completing CCC-770 CTAP

See Exhibit 17 for information about the following:

- completing CCC-770 CTAP's
- the required number of CCC-770 CTAP's to complete.

354 (Reserved)

Section 3 CCC-957 Requirements

394 CCC-957

***--A Farms and Producers Eligible for 2015 CTAP**

For 2015, CTAP is available only to producers and farms meeting all the following requirements or conditions, as applicable:

- farm **must** have upland cotton base acres according to paragraph 1
- farm **must** have cropland that is physically located in a county listed in Exhibit 5
- STAX was unavailable for purchase in 2015 for any of the cropland of the farm in the county shown in Exhibit 5
- producers **must** meet and satisfy all other provisions of this handbook.

FSA **cannot** approve CTAP applications for payment when filed by producers on farms that do **not** have cropland physically located in a county listed in Exhibit 5. If producers are insistent on filing CCC-957 for a farm **not** meeting the eligibility requirements of this paragraph, CED **must** respond by sending a single letter addressed to all the producers filing CCC-957 on that farm according to subparagraph F.--*

B CCC-957 Signatures

[7 CFR 1412.82] Eligibility and CTAP application.

(a) **Eligibility.** In addition to any general eligibility provisions in this part, to be eligible for CTAP the following conditions are required:

- (1) The producer is a person or legal entity who is actively engaged in farming and otherwise eligible for payment, as specified in 7 CFR part 1400;
- (2) The producer is on a farm that has cotton base acres that were in existence as of September 30, 2013, as adjusted;
- (3) The producer has an interest in the upland cotton base acres on the farm; and

(b) **Producer's share interest.** A producer's share interest in cropland on a farm must be equal to or greater than that producer's share interest in cotton base acres on the farm for that crop year, as reported on that farm's acreage report.

(c) **Application.** To apply, submit the application and supportive and necessary *--contractual documents to the FSA county office for 2015 CTAP, by September 30, 2015.--*

394 CCC-957 (Continued)

C Who Must Sign

CCC-957 must **not** be approved until all producers sharing in the upland cotton base acres on the farm have been identified and have had an opportunity to sign CCC-957. If there is a dispute that is preventing 1 or more producers from signing, producers are responsible for ensuring that, as a condition of CTAP payment eligibility, CCC-957 with all necessary *--signatures of producers with shares entered is submitted to FSA by October 7, 2014, for 2014 or September 30, 2015, for 2015 CTAP.--*

If all producers who have a share of upland cotton base acres have been identified and there is no dispute about producer shares or no dispute is known to exist or suspected to exist, COC is authorized to approve CCC-957 for those producers who signed CCC-957 for their represented share so that shares for which a valid signature have been entered on CCC-957 can be paid without regard to unsigned producer shares.

Note: In no case will CCC-957 containing a missing producer signature for a producer share be considered submitted for any purpose or determination on that missing signature producer's share. The producer's share that is **not** accompanied by a valid signature of the producer by the application deadline has made no application and is due no determination, nor does such a producer have any right to contest any determination made for OT's who did sign CCC-957.

COC will **not** consider or recommend equitable relief under any provision for a producer share missing a signature on CCC-957.

Notes: The failure of a producer to sign CCC-957 is **not** a failure to comply. There can be no compliance or compliance violation on a producer who has **not** signed or made an application.

Incomplete CCC-957's may be processed for producers who have entered valid shares according to subparagraph A.

D Cash Lease Signature Requirements

COC must determine whether a lease is considered a cash lease according to paragraph 352. If the lease is a cash lease, COC's will require any of the following if the landowner or landowners receive a zero share of the crop:

- written lease, rental arrangement, or other document signed by OW that proves that the producer has the land cash leased for FY

Notes: Keep a copy of the document in the County Office folder.

If the farm is a multiple-ownership farm, and none of the tracts owned by OW have DCP cropland on them, the signature of that landowner or proof of cash lease provisions do **not** apply.

394 CCC-957 (Continued)

D Cash Lease Signature Requirements (Continued)

- the landowner's signature or landowners' signatures on CCC-957

Notes: All OW's whose interest is **not** already represented by a written cash lease or CCC-510 must sign.

When spouses are joint OW's of a farm and proof of a cash lease is **not** provided, the signature of 1 spouse is sufficient for a "0" share, unless either spouse has previously notified FSA that spouses do **not** allow either spouse to sign for their joint interest.

- CCC-510, but only if the farm was cash leased by the producer in the previous FY and the producer was properly designated to receive payment on a program document for any FSA or CCC program that same year.

Exception: This provision is **not** applicable if an ownership change on the farm has occurred since the previous FY.

Note: See Exhibit 14 for additional information about using CCC-510.

E Withdrawing Application

--Eligible producers may withdraw from CCC-957 for the 2015 program year, by September 30, 2015.--

394 CCC-957 (Continued)

***--F Response to Producers on Ineligible Farms Filing CCC-957**

If producers on farm file a 2015 CCC-957 and the farm does not have any cropland physically located in one of the counties listed in Exhibit 5, CED will send a letter containing the following text (adjusted for names as applicable) letter to all the producers of the farm.

Dear *(enter name(s) of producer(s) on CCC-957)*:

This letter acknowledges receipt of a 2015 program year CCC-957, Cotton Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) Application for your farm.

For 2015, CTAP is only available to producers on farms having upland cotton base acres (effective as of September 30, 2013) and cropland physically located in a county or counties for which the Stacked Income Protection Plan of insurance (STAX) could not be purchased because it was not made available. A map of counties where STAX was made available can be found at <http://www.rma.usda.gov>. Additionally, a list of counties for which STAX was not made available in 2015 is available from this FSA office upon request.

Your application is for a farm that FSA records show has no cropland physically located in a county for which STAX was not available. Accordingly, the application cannot be processed for payment and is disapproved.

If you believe this determination is factually in error, you may appeal this determination to the County Committee by filing a written request no later than 30 calendar days after you receive this notice in accordance with the FSA appeal procedures found at 7 CFR Part 780. If you appeal to the County Committee, you have the right to an informal hearing which you or your representative may attend either personally or by telephone. If you appeal this determination to the County Committee, you may later appeal an adverse determination of the County Committee to the FSA State Committee or to the National Appeals Division, or request mediation. To appeal, write to the County Committee at the following address and explain why you believe this determination is erroneous. If you do not timely exercise the option to appeal to the County Committee, this shall be the final administrative determination with respect to this matter according to the regulations at 7 CFR Part 780.

(insert COC address)

Sincerely,

County Executive Director

--*

395 10-Acre Rule Exception Signature Requirements

A Inapplicability of 10-Acre Rule to CTAP

The 10-acre rule provision does **not** apply or impact any producer share eligibility for CTAP.

CTAP will be paid without regard to whether or not a farm has more or less than 10 base acres or generic base acres.

396 Revised CCC-957

A Processing Revised CCC-957's

If it is necessary to revise shares on an approved CCC-957 before September 30 of the program year and application period and before issuing payments, follow these steps.

Step	Action
1	Use automated procedures in 2-DCP (Rev. 1) to remove the COC approval date when producer signature requirements have not been met.
2	Use the automated procedure in 2-DCP (Rev. 1) to process share revisions.
3	Print a revised CCC-957 and obtain signatures for producers revising shares.
4	On the revised CCC-957, ENTER "See Attached" in the "Signature" block for OW's who previously designated shares and producers whose shares were not affected by a transfer or change in interest of land.
5	Attach the revised CCC-957 to the original CCC-957.

COC will approve payment shares on the revised CCC-957.

Note: COC CCC-957 approval date must reflect the date COC approves the revised CCC-957 for payment.

398 Succession-in-Interest

A Basic Rule

[7 CFR § 1412.87] Transfer of land and succession-in-interest.

(a) A succession in interest application for CTAP is required if there has been a change in the producer shares of upland cotton base acres in § 1412.82(a) for 2014 or 2015, as applicable, due to:

(1) A sale of land;

(2) A change of operator or producer, including a change in a partnership that increases or decreases the number of partners or changes who are partners;

(3) A foreclosure, bankruptcy, or involuntary loss of the farm;

(4) A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the upland cotton base acres relevant to the originally approved application; or

(5) Any other change determined by the Deputy Administrator to be a succession that will not adversely affect nor defeat the purpose of CTAP.

(b) A succession in interest to the CTAP application is not permitted if CCC determines that the change:

(1) Results in a violation of the landlord-tenant provisions specified in § 1412.55; or

(2) Adversely affects or otherwise defeats the purpose of CTAP.

(c) If a producer who is entitled to receive CTAP payments dies, becomes incompetent, or is otherwise unable to receive the payment, CCC will make the payment in accordance with part 707 of this title.

(d) A producer or owner of a farm is required to inform the county committee of changes in interest in base acres of upland cotton as specified in § 1412.82(b) on the farm not later than:

(1) August 1 of the fiscal year in which the change occurs if the change requires a reconstitution be completed in accordance with part 718 of this title; or

(2) September 30 of the fiscal year in which the change occurs if the change does not require a reconstitution be completed in accordance with part 718 of this title.

(e) In any case in which a CTAP payment has previously been made to a predecessor, such payment will not be paid to the successor, unless such payment has been refunded in full by the predecessor.

398 Succession-in-Interest (Continued)**A Basic Rule (Continued)**

After CCC-957 is approved, any of the following changes may occur and be considered a basis for successions-in-interest:

- a transfer or change in the interest of a producer on the farm
- sale of land
- foreclosure, bankruptcy, or involuntary loss of the farm
- change in participant shares to reflect changes in shares originally approved on CCC-957.

Notes: Successors are **not** eligible for payments in any FY in which they do **not** meet the provisions of paragraphs 12 and 352.

See paragraph 400 if a participant who is entitled to a payment dies, becomes incompetent, or disappears.

B Farm Reconstitutions

[7 CFR 1412.87] (d) A producer or owner of a farm is required to inform the county committee of changes in interest in base acres of upland cotton as specified in § 1412.82(b) on the farm not later than:

(1) August 1 of the fiscal year in which the change occurs if the change requires a reconstitution be completed in accordance with part 718 of this title; or

(2) September 30 of the fiscal year in which the change occurs if the change does not require a reconstitution be completed in accordance with part 718 of this title.

The provision of this regulation applies only if:

- *--an application was filed on the parent farm by September 30, 2015, for 2015 CTAP--*
- FSA-155 is initiated by August 1 of the applicable year.

Note: See paragraph 333.

400 Participants Who Are Deceased, Incompetent, or Have Disappeared**A Basic Rule**

An individual who has died, disappeared, or been declared incompetent, but meets the definition of “producer” for the program year, is eligible for payments if a completed CCC-957 submitted by the applicable application deadline was approved. However, if payment is **not** to be issued to the producer who is a participant, FSA-325 must be completed according to this paragraph. This situation is **not** considered a succession.

Note: See 1-CM.

B Requesting Payments

FSA-325 must be completed, according to 1-CM, by the individuals or entities requesting payments **earned** by a participant who has died, disappeared, or been declared incompetent. Payments shall be issued to the individuals or entities requesting payment using the deceased, missing, or incompetent participant’s ID number. A revised CCC-957 is **not** required to be completed when payments are issued under the deceased, missing, or incompetent participant’s ID number.

Note: CCC-957 must **not** be revised to show the estate ID number after September 30 of the applicable program year.

401 Reviewing CCC-957's Modified After End of Application Period**A Introduction**

Except as may be provided according to paragraphs 397 and 398, subparagraph:

- *--353 C specifies that revisions to CCC-957 must **not** be made after September 30, 2015, for the 2015 program year
- 394 A specifies that the final date for participants to provide all necessary signatures on CCC-957 is September 30, 2015, for the 2015 program year.--*

Note: See subparagraph 445 C for late-filed application provisions.

2-DCP (Rev. 1) provides procedure or updating producer signature and application date information in the automated system.

To accommodate the policy provisions about applications, CCC-957 software has been modified to:

- allow the application date to be entered after the program year's established application deadline
- ensure that the **actual** date entered is **not** later than the established late-filed application period.

401 Reviewing CCC-957's Modified After End of Application Period (Continued)

B Updates Affecting Application Date

The application date is automatically removed when any of the following changes are made to data in the Farm Records Management System:

- OP is changed
- other tenant with CCC-957 share is removed from the farm
- OW is added to a tract associated with the farm
- base acres are modified
- direct and/or counter-cyclical payment yields are modified
- out-of-balance condition is created because of changes to DCP cropland.

In addition, the application date will be removed if CCC-957 base acre shares are revised.

Updates to the Farm Records Management System for any of these reasons constitute a modification of existing CCC-957's; therefore, the application date is automatically removed from the Farm Records Management System when the update occurs.

401 Reviewing CCC-957's Modified After End of Application Period (Continued)**C State Office Review Process**

Except as provided in this handbook, subparagraph 353 C specifies that revisions to *-CCC-957's must **not** be made for the 2015 program year after September 30, 2015.--*

Therefore, the All Farms With Application Date Modifications After End of Application Period Report will be available to State Office specialists that identifies all CCC-957's with an application date that was updated during the previous month. This report is available to State and National Office users **only**. See 2-DCP (Rev. 1) for instructions for printing the report.

State Offices are required to review the All Farms With Application Date Modifications After End of Application Period Report detailing where the application date has been updated during the previous month. State Offices shall:

- conduct a review of CCC-957's listed on the monthly report to ensure that policy has been administered properly
- take corrective action, if applicable, with County Offices if CCC-957's were updated in error.

Note: SED's may delegate the review to DD's.

426 Eligible and Ineligible Land Uses for Base Acres (Continued)

F Land Enrolled in WRP (Continued)

Step	Action
5	<p>If CCC-505 is not filed by OW's of the farm within 30 calendar days according to step 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COC will initiate CCC-505 reducing the base acreage according to 10-CM • COC must not approve a revised CCC-957 unless all signature requirements are met by September 30, 2015, for 2015 <p>Note: For those farms for which applications were filed during the application period, signatures on revised CCC-957's must be received no later than September 30, 2015.--*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Office will notify the producers associated with the farm of the COC determination of the reduction of base acres • County Office will ensure that all provisions of 10-CM are met for updating the Farm Records Management System and notifying applicable producers of the revision to the farm records.

426 Eligible and Ineligible Land Uses for Base Acres (Continued)

G Land Under EWP Flood Plain Easements

Land under the EWP Flood Plain Easement is **not** eligible to be included as upland cotton base acres under CCC-957 or enrolled in the ARC/PLC Program beginning the date the EWP Flood Plain Easement is filed.

Exception: DCP cropland under EWP Flood Plain Easement may be eligible for CTAP or the ARC/PLC Program in FY the EWP Flood Plain Easement is filed, provided **both** of the following are met:

- written documentation from NRCS that allows the acreage to be planted to an annual crop for harvest in FY the easement is filed, is submitted

Note: Depending on the date the easement is filed, the applicable NRCS manual may **not** allow planting an annual crop in FY the easement is filed.

Important: Neither haying nor grazing is considered planting an annual crop.

- all other requirements to apply for CTAP or enroll the acreage in the ARC/PLC Program are met.

DCP cropland acreage under the EWP Flood Plain Easement must be recorded according to 10-CM. The date EWP Flood Plain Easement acreage is recorded in the automated system is dependent upon:

- date EWP Flood Plain Easement is filed
- whether NRCS allows the planting an annual crop for harvest in FY.

All land under the EWP Flood Plain Easement may **not** be DCP cropland. County Offices must ensure that land under the EWP Flood Plain Easement is recorded according to 10-CM.

Important: Placement of land under the EWP Flood Plain Easement may require the permanent reduction of base acres. Base acres shall **not** exceed DCP cropland plus double-cropped acres.

Note: Subparagraph I does not apply to land under EWP Flood Plain Easements.

Section 2 Producer Eligibility**444 General Information****A Eligible Producer**

Producers eligible to apply for CTAP on CCC-957 are:

- OW of a farm who has a share of application acreage and assumes all or part of the risk of producing a crop on upland cotton base acres
- a producer (other than OW) on upland cotton base acres with a share- or cash rent lease for the crop year covered by the FY contract.

Important: A producer on a farm with an interest in only nonbase acres and who has no share interest in any upland cotton base acres on the farm is **not** eligible to enter into CCC-957 on that farm.

Upland cotton base acres can be planted to FAV and wild rice without resulting in a payment reduction or contract violation.

Only producers who sign CCC-957 can be considered to have applied for a CTAP payment. Producers who have a reported share of any crops reported on FSA-578, but who may not have signed CCC-957, are **not** eligible for any CTAP payments unless they sign CCC-957.

B Terms of Application

Producers who apply for CTAP must fully comply with the terms and conditions of CCC-957, and in return will receive direct and counter-cyclical payments, if applicable.

444 General Information (Continued)

C Producer Agreement to Program Requirements

Before producers on a farm may receive CTAP payments, with respect to the farm, the producers must agree, during the crop year for which payments are made and in exchange for CTAP payments to:

- maintain compliance with HELC/WC provisions on all their land
- use acreage equal to the upland cotton base acres for an agricultural or conserving use
- timely submit a report of all cropland acreage on the farm on an annual basis.

445 Application

A Signup Dates

Eligible producers on a farm with established upland cotton base acres will have an opportunity to apply for CTAP on CCC-957 for each of the years 2014 and 2015 according to this table.

Year of CCC-957	Signup Dates
2014	*--Ending October 7, 2014
2015	July 6 through September 30, 2015--*

B CCC-957 Including Upland Cotton Base Acres on a Farm

Producers who apply for CTAP must apply for a share of all upland cotton base acres on the farm. CCC-957's that do **not** include all the upland cotton base acres of a farm is **not** allowed.

445 Application (Continued)

C Late-Filed CCC-957's

*--The CCC-957 application deadline for 2015 is September 30, 2015.

The following late-filed procedure applies for any 2015 CTAP application share for which a producer made an application after the 2015 deadline, the producer's late-filed application--* will be processed by either of the following methods:

- disapproved, with applicable appeal rights issued according to 1-APP
- if accompanied by a written explanation from the producer explaining the late-filing (required for any case for which relief is being contemplated), forwarded to DAFP through STC with recommendations for DAFP action

Note: Neither COC nor STC are under any obligation to recommend relief. COC or STC can disapprove the application and choose not forward a recommendation for relief of approval of the late-filed application to DAFP.

* * *

445 Application (Continued)

D Timeline for CCC-957's for 2015

The following table and legend provide the timeline for 2015 CCC-957's as provided in subparagraph C.

*--

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep

IF 2015 CCC-957's occur...	THEN application approval authority is...	AND authority to load software is the...
beginning of 2015 CTAP application period through September 30, 2015	COC or CED, if redelegated	County Office.
after September 30, 2015	DAFP, if COC and STC both choose to recommend approval of late-filed CCC-957 according to subparagraph C.	State Office.

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Note: None of these deadlines or late-filed application periods has any bearing on the ARC and PLC Programs.

701 Payment Processing (Continued)

D Sequestering CTAP Payments

Sequestration applies to CTAP payments. The sequestration percentage is determined based on the original approval date for the CTAP application.

Note: The original approval date is the first approval date entered in the system for the CTAP application.

CTAP payments will be sequestered according to the following.

*--IF the original approval date for the CTAP application is...	THEN the sequestration percent applied to the payment is...
before October 1, 2014, for 2014 CTAP	7.2 percent.
October 1, 2014, or after for 2014 and 2015 CTAP--*	7.3 percent.

702-720 (Reserved)

***--Counties Where STAX Is Unavailable for 2015**

The following is list of counties where STAX cannot be purchased for 2015 thus making the county eligible for 2015 CTAP.

State	County	FIPS Code
Alabama	Sumter	01119
Arkansas	Arkansas	05001
	Bradley	05011
	Clark	05019
	Cleveland	05025
	Dallas	05039
	Franklin	05047
	Hemstead	05057
	Independence	05063
	Lawrence	05075
	Sharp	05135
	White	05145
	Yell	05149
California	Butte	06007
	San Benito	06069
	San Joaquin	06077
	Sutter	06101
	Tehama	06103
Florida	Gulf	12045
	Okeechobee	12093
Georgia	Baldwin	13009
	Barrow	13013
	Butts	13035
	Carroll	13045
	Cherokee	13057
	Jackson	13157
	Jasper	13159
	Madison	13195
	Newton	13217
	Talbot	13263
	Walker	13295
	Wilkes	13317

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***--Counties Where STAX Is Unavailable for 2015 (Continued)**

State	County	FIPS Code
Kansas	Allen	20001
	Anderson	20003
	Barton	20009
	Chautauqua	20019
	Elk	20049
	Greenwood	20073
	Labette	20099
	Montgomery	20125
Kentucky	Fulton	21075
	Graves	21083
	Webster	21233
Louisiana	Acadia	22001
	Ascension	22001
	Bienville	22005
	Claiborne	22027
	East Baton Rouge	22033
	East Feliciana	22037
	Iberville	22047
	St Tammany	22103
	Washington	22117
	Webster	22119
	West Baton Rouge	22121
	West Feliciana	22125
Maryland	Worcester	24047
Mississippi	Amite	28005
	Clarke	28023
	Franklin	28037
	Hancock	28045
	Jasper	28061
	Kemper	28069
	Lauderdale	28075
	Neshoba	28099
	Newton	28101
	Pike	28113
	Simpson	28127
	Smith	28129

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***--Counties Where STAX Is Unavailable for 2015 (Continued)**

State	County	FIPS Code
Missouri	Barton	29011
	Bollinger	29017
	Dade	29057
	Jasper	29097
Nebraska	Kearney	31099
New Mexico	Otero	35035
North Carolina	Catawba	37035
	Davie	37059
	Moore	37125
	Randolph	37151
	Vance	37181
Oklahoma	Creek	40037
	Hughes	40063
	Johnston	40069
	LeFlore	40079
	Logan	40083
	McCurtain	40089
	McIntosh	40091
	Major	40093
	Okmulgee	40111
	Pittsburg	40121
	Sequoyah	40135
	Wagoner	40145
	South Carolina	Beaufort

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***--Counties Where STAX Is Unavailable for 2015 (Continued)**

State	County	FIPS Code
Tennessee	Decatur	47039
	Grundy	47061
	Henry	47079
	Marshall	47117
	Maury	47119
	Montgomery	47125
	Warren	47177
	Wayne	47181
Texas	Angelina	48005
	Crocket	48105
	Gillespie	48171
	Grimes	48185
	Hamilton	48193
	Harris	48201
	Harrison	48203
	Hemphill	48211
	Jack	48237
	Liberty	48291
	Mason	48319
	Mills	48333
	Montague	48337
	Palo Pinto	48363
	Presidio	48377
	Rains	48379
	Rusk	48401
	Wise	48497
Virginia	Amelia	51007
	Campbell	51031
	Essex	51057
	Lancaster	51103
	New Kent	51127
	Northumberland	51133
	Chesapeake City	51550

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