

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC 20250

**Cotton Transition Assistance Program
1-CTAP**

Amendment 7

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



Amendment Transmittal

A Reason for Amendment

Paragraph 1 has been amended to reflect that CTAP payments will be made to eligible 2015 producers whose farms are physically located in counties where STAX is not available.

Page Control Chart		
TC	Text	Exhibit
	1-1, 1-2	

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 physically 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 is equal to 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 multiplied by:~~

- the transition assistance rate in effect for the particular crop year, and
- the 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