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

Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops 1-MASC	Amendment 2

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs

Jamie A White

Amendment Transmittal

A Reasons for Amendment

Subparagraph 2 A has been amended to correct the CCC Charter Act reference.

Subparagraph 2 B has been amended to update the NOFA revision publication date.

Subparagraph 3 B has been amended to update funding allocation.

Subparagraph 3 D has been amended to add a note for timely filed applications that were provided an extension for required documentation.

Subparagraphs 5 B and C have been amended to remove the DD review deadline and clarify that DD reviews and instructions will be provided in a forthcoming notice.

Subparagraph 5 D has been added to provide quality review information.

Subparagraph 75 A had been amended to update program payment factors.

Subparagraph 75 B has been removed.

Exhibit 10 has been amended to update the non-discrimination statement on FSA-1140.

Exhibit 11 page 4 has amended to update the non-discrimination statement on FSA-1141.

Page Control Chart		
TC	**Text**	**Exhibit**
	1-1 through 1-4 1-11, 1-12 2-81, 2-82	10, page 5 11, pages 3-4

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.

IF the area of concern is about…	THEN see…
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, and January 8, 2025.--

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 $2.65 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**.

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.

***--Note**: If a County Office was closed for any period of time on January 10, 2025, because of inclement weather and an application was received timely, the deadline was extended for the submission of required documents for applications using 2025 expected sales.--*

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.

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 are based on a risk assessment. FSA-1140's for review will be selected by the National Office after all FSA-1140's have been received. The deadline to complete all DD reviews is September 4, 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.

* * *

C Recording DD Reviews

***--**DD review results must be recorded in IRDTS according to Notice MASC-7.

D Quality Reviews

Quality reviews include a randomly pre-selected sample of application reviews completed by DD's. Quality reviews will:

- be conducted by selected State quality reviewers
- ensure that DD reviews are accurate.

State quality reviewers will complete their assigned questionnaires by September 12, 2025, in IRDTS according to Notice MASC-7.**--***

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. * * *

Sales Range	Percent Payment Factor
Up to $49,999	*--6.5%
$50,000-$99,999	6.0%
$100,000-$499,999	5.8%
$500,000-$999,999	5.3%
All sales over $1 million	5.1%--*

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 of $26,550, determined as follows:

- $49,999 multiplied by percent payment factor 6.5 percent = $3,249.94
- $50,000 multiplied by percent payment factor 6.0 percent = $3,000.00
- $350,001 multiplied by percent payment factor 5.8 percent = $20,300.06
- $3,249.94 + $3,000.00 + $20,300.06 = gross payment of $26,550.00.

The payment factor was previously 60 percent and is now 100 percent. The program factor remains 100 percent.

The rest of the payment calculation is completed as follows:

- $26,550.00 multiplied by payment factor 100 percent = $26,550.00
- $26,550.00 multiplied by program factor 100 percent $26,550.00.--*

* * *

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.

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

B Example of FSA-1140 (Continued)

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FSA-1140 (12-10-24) Page 2 of 2

PART C – SALES		
10. Year ☐ 2023 ☐ 2024 ☐ 2025 *(new producer only)*	11. Total Specialty Crop Sales $	**FOR COUNTY OFFICE USE ONLY** 12. COC Adjusted Sales $

PART D – PRODUCER CERTIFICATION		
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)*

PART E – COUNTY COMMITTEE (COC) DETERMINATION		
14. COC or Designee Signature	15. Date *(MM/DD/YYYY)*	16. Determination ☐ Approved ☐ Disapproved

Privacy Act Statement: *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a – as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is 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.*

Public Burden Statement (Paperwork Reduction Act): *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: askusda@usda.gov (OMB NO. 0503-0028).*

Non-Discrimination Statement: *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, 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 https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint 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: mailto:program.intake@usda.gov.

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

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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.

OMB Approved No: 0503-0028
OMB Expiration Date: 10/31/2027

FSA-1141 (12-10-24)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farm Service Agency	1. Producer's Name *(Person or Legal Entity)*
	MARKETING ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIALTY CROPS (MASC) NEW PRODUCER EXPECTED SALES WORKSHEET	2. Application Number

PART A – 2025 EXPECTED SALES FOR NEW PRODUCERS

3. Crop/Type	4. Intended Use	5. Expected Acres	6. Expected Yield/Acre	7. Expected Production or Inventory *(for yield-based crops, item 5 x item 6)*	8. Unit of Measure	9. Expected Price/Unit	10. Expected Sales *(item 7 x item 9)*	11. Reference Documents
						$	$	
						$	$	
						$	$	
						$	$	
						$	$	
						$	$	
						$	$	
						$	$	
						$	$	
						$	$	
						$	$	
12. **Total Expected Sales** *(sum amounts in Item 10; enter amount in item 11 on Form FSA-1140)*							$	

PART B – PRODUCER CERTIFICATION

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.

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)

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FSA-1141 (12-10-24) Page 2 of 2

General Form Instructions

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:

- Began producing specialty crops in 2023 or 2024 but did not have sales due to the immaturity of the crop;
- Began producing specialty crops in 2024 but did not have a complete year of sales; or
- Is beginning to grow specialty crops in 2025.

To be eligible for MASC, a new producer must have one of the following:

- A legally binding contract or agreement wherein the producer has agreed to sell a specialty crop during calendar year 2025; or
- 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.

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.

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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 State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). 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 https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint 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.

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