

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC 20250

Tree Assistance Program 1-TAP (Revision 2)	Amendment 10
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Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



Amendment Transmittal

A Reasons for Amendment

Subparagraph 2.5 D has been amended to include the final signup period for General TAP, TAP-Timber, and TAP-Pecans that was announced in Notice TAP-30.

Subparagraph 9 G has been added to provide procedure for issuing payments when all practices on some of the approved acreage are completed.

Page Control Chart		
TC	Text	Exhibit
	1-2.5, 1-2.6 1-11, 1-12 1-13 (add)	1, page 1

2 TAP Funding

A Applicability of TAP Funding for Michigan

TAP funding has been authorized to provide assistance only to owners of eligible trees, bushes, or vines in the State of Michigan who have incurred losses since January 1, 2000, as the direct result of fire blight infestation. The disaster period for losses because of fire blight in Michigan continues through the earlier of the following:

- the end of the 2007 crop year
- until the authorized funding is expended.

B Applicability of TAP Funding for New York

TAP funding has been authorized to provide assistance only to owners of eligible fruit trees in the State of New York who have incurred losses as the direct result of an April 4-6, 2003, ice storm.

C Applicability of TAP Funding for California

TAP funding has been authorized to provide assistance only to owners of eligible trees, bushes, or vines as a result of crop year 2003 wildfires.

D Applicability of TAP Funding for General TAP, TAP-Timber, and TAP-Pecans

TAP funding has been authorized to provide assistance to owners of eligible trees, bushes, or vines who have incurred losses between December 1, 2003, and December 31, 2004. The following is a breakdown of the approved funding for each program.

- Unlimited funding for General TAP which is available for “eligible orchardists”.
- \$8.5 million for rehabilitation and related costs for pecan trees that were destroyed or damaged as a result of tropical storms, hurricanes, and related events that were located in a Presidentially-declared disaster county.
- *--\$15 million for forest timber owners who produce periodic crops of timber from trees for commercial purposes.--*

Note: Producers that received money under the Florida Citrus Disaster Program, funded by Section 32 of the August 24, 1935, Act are ineligible for General TAP and TAP-timber benefits. * * *

2.5 TAP Signup Period

A Signup Period for Fire Blight in Michigan

The signup period for TAP for fire blight in Michigan is January 20, 2004, through March 25, 2004.

B Signup Period for New York

The signup period for TAP for New York is March 15, 2004, through May 14, 2004.

C Signup Period for California

The signup period for TAP for California is April 19, 2004, through June 18, 2004.

D TAP Signup Period for General TAP, TAP-Timber, and TAP-Pecans

The signup period for General TAP, TAP-Timber, and TAP-Pecans is February 7, 2005, *--through May 31, 2005.--*

9 Payment Policy

A TAP Benefits and Other Programs

This table provides guidance if an eligible owner:

- is eligible for a TAP payment
- qualifies for benefits for the same loss under another program.

IF an owner is eligible to receive a TAP payment, and for the same loss, is also eligible for...	THEN the eligible owner...
NAP (7 CFR Part 1437) Note: This is for the tree only. The lost production may also be eligible for NAP benefits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cannot receive both • must choose which benefit to receive. Note: If the other benefit is not eligible until after the owner has received a TAP payment, the owner may obtain the other benefit only after the total amount of the TAP payment is refunded.
additional “buy up” coverage insurance as defined in 7 CFR 400.651 emergency loans assistance under another Federal program * * *	may receive assistance under the other program and TAP as long as the total amount received for the loss under TAP and the other program does not exceed the amount of the actual loss of the eligible owner.
*--ECP benefits	cannot receive compensation for the same type of practices on the same loss.

B Receiving Benefits on Both ECP and TAP

A producer may be eligible to receive benefits on the same stand for both ECP and TAP, providing the compensation is **not** approved for the same type of practice.

Example: If a producer used ECP practices EC1 (Debris Removal) and EC2 (Grading, Shaping, Releveling), then the producer would not be eligible to use TAP practice 01 (Site Prep). The producer could be eligible for 02 (Planting Cost) and 04 (Tree Cost) under TAP.

Note: All applications for payment that use both ECP and TAP practices for the same loss, must be approved by an STC representative.--*

C Payment Amount

Payments are limited to the lesser of the following:

- established practice rates
- 75 percent of the actual cost to perform the practice.

9 Payment Policy (Continued)**D Payment Authorization**

Payments cannot be issued until authorization is received from DAFP.

E Payment Factor

When only a specific amount of money is available, a national payment factor must be determined. This factor will be announced after the end of signup. The factor will be determined based on the requested amount.

Note: General TAP has unlimited funding; therefore, the payment factor will be 100 percent.

F Timing of Payments

Payments will be made the later of the following:

- announcement of the national factor, if applicable
- owner's submission of documentation that the practice has been completed.

***--G Partial Payments**

Partial payments are authorized for TAP if requested by the applicant in cases where the applicant is unable to complete the practices on an application because of unavailability of trees or weather conditions. The maximum number of acres of site preparation eligible for the partial payment cannot exceed the number of trees planted.

Applicants must make a written request to receive a partial payment. The request must include the following:

- reason a partial payment is being requested
- stand number, acres, and number of trees
- cost associated with the practices completed on each stand
- estimated date that the remaining practices on stands will be completed.--*

9 Payment Policy (Continued)

*--G Partial Payments (Continued)

When 1 stand on an application or part of a stand has been completed, the application is eligible for a partial payment. The following are examples of when a partial payment can be authorized.

Example 1: The applicant has 3 stands and each stand has practice 1 site preparation, practice 2 tree planting cost, and practice 3 tree cost. The applicant has completed all 3 practices on 1 stand. This applicant is eligible for a payment on the stand that has been completed, if requested.

Example 2: The applicant has 1 stand with practice 1 site preparation, practice 2 tree planting cost, and practice 3 tree cost. The applicant is able to complete only half of the tree planting because of lack of trees. The applicant may request payment on all practices associated with the acreage that has been planted, as long as all 3 practices have been completed for the trees planted.

Note: If site preparation has been completed but no trees have been planted on the stand, the application is not eligible for a partial payment.

County Offices shall, before approving an application for a partial payment, ensure that:

- equal parts of all practices have been completed on the stand
- the actual cost based on practice completion is loaded

Note: If the applicant's cost information is on more acres or trees than the applicant is requesting a payment on, the cost data must be prorated. Verify that the actual cost does not exceed the maximum practice rates provided in Exhibit 5.

- the County Office shall:
 - notate on CCC-434 that a partial payment was issued on (date)
 - attach the applicant's invoices and request to CCC-434.

Example: The applicant was paid a partial payment for this application and intends to complete the remainder of practices on stands that have not been completed by (date).--*

10-18 (Reserved)

Reports, Forms, Abbreviations, and Redelegations of Authority

Reports

None

Forms

This table lists all forms referenced in this handbook.

Number	Title	Display Reference	Reference
AD-1026	Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification		23, 62, 65
CCC-184	CCC Check		73, 91, 92, 101-103, 122
CCC-434	Tree Assistance Program Application for Assistance	19	4, 9, 20, 22-24, 41, 44, 46, 91, 121, 132, 133
CCC-435	Tree Assistance Program Technical Worksheet	20	3, 22, 24, 41
CCC-502	Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility Review		5
FSA-325	Application for Payment of Amounts Due Persons Who Have Died, Disappeared, or Have Been Declared Incompetent		4, 102

Abbreviations Not Listed in 1-CM

The following abbreviations are not listed in 1-CM.

Approved Abbreviations	Term	Reference
CRS	Common Receivable System	91, 134
E-FC	E-funds Control	111
EFT	electronic funds transfer	91, 92, 102, 103
ICAMS	Internet Combined Administrative Management System	40
KC-ADC	Kansas City-Application Development Center	73, 91, 102
PPH	Producer Payment History	151
WebCAAF	Web Central Authentication and Authorization Facility	40

Re delegations of Authority

None

