



TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE (TAA)



SHRIMP: Question and Answer

The United States Department of Agriculture approved Texas commercial shrimp producers to receive technical training and cash benefits under the new Trade Adjustment Assistance For Farmers (TAA) program. Applications for this program are being accepted by the Farm Service Agency. Under the law, \$22.5 million has been set aside for FY 2011 business plan payments for TAA for shrimp and all other eligible crops. The cash benefit amount a producer receives will be prorated based on the number of applications received.

Q: What is the Trade Adjustment Assistance For Farmers (TAA) program for shrimp?

A: The TAA program will provide technical assistance and cash benefits to eligible shrimp producers in recognition that increased imports have “contributed importantly” to a decline in prices. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) in cooperation with Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) will administer the program for USDA, and the USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture will offer technical assistance programs.

Q: How do I know if I am eligible for TAA assistance?

A: You must be able to provide documentation that you were engaged in commercial shrimp production during the 2008 marketing year and one other year from 2005 - 2007. You must have marketed your production in one of the following approved states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, or Texas. You must also present documentation to show either a decline in shrimp production or price received in 2008; and that your 3-year average adjusted gross income (AGI) for 2005 – 2007 must be below \$2.5 million.

Q: Am I eligible for TAA if I had a permit but did not market shrimp in 2008?

A: To be eligible for TAA assistance you must have marketed shrimp commercially in 2008 and at least one other year from 2005 - 2007.

Q: When does sign-up begin? How long will it last?

A: Sign-up for TAA for shrimp in Texas began September 24, 2010 and will continue for 90 days through December 23, 2010.

Q: How do I apply for assistance?

A: The USDA - FSA will accept your application in person, by mail or by fax at the FSA County Office or USDA Service Center nearest to your place of residence. When you complete your application, you will need to provide either your 2008 total production and previous year's production, or your 2008 price and the prices you received for the three prior years.

Q: What form is required to apply for TAA?

A: You must submit a completed Form FSA- 229-1, Application for Trade Adjustment Assistance to FSA by December 23, 2010, along with documentation such as receipts, ledgers, income statements, etc., to verify your 2008 and prior year's production and your prices received for shrimp production.

Q: What other documentation will I need to provide?

A: In addition to the FSA -229-1, you must also file the following forms with FSA: AD-1026 (Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification), CCC-526 (2008 AGI Certification), CCC-502 (Farm Operating Plan), SF1199 (Direct Deposit form). You must also present your I-551 (Permanent Resident Card) if you are not a U.S. Citizen.

Q: How are payments calculated?

A: The Center for Farm Financial Management, University of Minnesota (CFFM) is responsible for national training coordination and recording producer training attendance. CFFM will also review business plans and either recommend the plan for payment or recommend for disapproval. The most any applicant can receive is \$12,000. Participants may receive up to \$4,000 for developing an initial business plan and up to \$8,000 for developing an approved long-term business plan. Your maximum cash benefit may be adjusted based on the total number of people nationwide who are eligible to receive TAA benefits.

Q: How soon can I expect to receive my payment?

A: That is difficult to project at this time. Business Plan payments will be issued once business plans meeting CFFM requirements are approved and payment software becomes available. Reimbursement for travel expenses will be paid once FSA-229-1 has been approved, applicant attends orientation training and software becomes available. Applicants must submit FSA-232, TAA for Farmers Travel and Expense Claim Form within 60 days of last travel date.