

For: FSA Employees

Limited Resource, Underserved, Beginning, and Veteran Producer Program Matrix

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Field Operations



1 Program Specific Provision Matrix

A Background

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the Act), also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, was signed by the President on February 7, 2014. The Act repeals certain programs, continues some programs with modifications, and authorizes several new programs administered by FSA. Most of these programs are authorized and funded through 2018.

There are various programs that have special rules for limited resource, underserved, beginning, and veteran producers.

B Purpose

This notice:

- provides a program matrix (Exhibit 1) that identifies programs that have specific provisions for limited resource, underserved, beginning, and veteran producers
- instructs employees to use the matrix when planning outreach activities.

C Contact

If there are questions about this notice, State Offices shall contact Linda Cronin, Lead Outreach Program Manager, by either of the following:

- e-mail to linda.cronin@wdc.usda.gov
- telephone at 202-690-1299.

Disposal Date	Distribution
January 1, 2016	All FSA employees; State Offices relay to County Offices

1 Program Specific Provision Matrix (Continued)

D Outreach Activities

Effective outreach derives from identification of the targeted customer segment and the ability to successfully inform producers of FSA programs, services, and waivers available to them.

Employees shall use the program matrix (Exhibit 1) as a tool when planning outreach program events with targeted customer segments. The program matrix is available to download from the DAFO Outreach Sharepoint site at

<https://fsa.sc.egov.usda.gov/mgr/DAFO/Outreach>. Under “Documents”, CLICK “Shared Documents” and then “Outreach Aids”.

Program Matrix

Type of Program	Name of Program	Authority	Program Description	Provisions included in rule:							
				Historically Underserved	Gender	Beginning Farmer or Rancher	Veteran	Limited Resource	Youth	Comments	
Conservation	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign-Up Programs	FSA 1985, Sec 1231 and amended by Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 2001	CRP is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Through CRP, individuals can receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) makes annual rental payments based on the agriculture rental value of the land, and it provides cost-share assistance for up to 50 percent of the participant's costs in establishing approved conservation practices. Participants enroll in CRP contracts for 10 to 15 years. When new initiatives are announced, additional sign-up opportunities or practices may be added under either the General or Continuous Sign-up program types. Producers can offer land for CRP general sign-up only during designated sign-up periods. The stand-alone Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) has been repealed and incorporated into CRP.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Conservation	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Continuous Sign-Up Programs	FSA 1985, Sec 1231 and amended by Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 2001	Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled at any time under CRP continuous sign-up.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Conservation	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP)	FSA 1985, Sec 1231 (b) and amended by Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 2002	CRP-FWP reduces downstream flood damage, improves surface and groundwater quality, and recharges groundwater supplies by restoring wetlands.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Transition	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Transition Incentives Program (TIP)	FSA 1985, Sec 1235(f) and amended by Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 1235(f)	The Transition Incentives Program, administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency, assists with the transition of expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land from a retired or retiring owner or operator to a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher to return land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production. USDA has authorized \$33 million for TIP for fiscal years 2014 through 2018.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Conservation	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Enhancement Program (CREP)	FSA 1985, Sec 1231 and amended by Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 2001	CRP-CREP is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. The program is a partnership among producers, tribal, state, and federal governments and in some cases, private groups. CRP-CREP is an offshoot of the country's largest private-lands environmental improvement program. Like CRP, CREP is administered by USDA/Farm Service Agency (FSA). By combining CRP resources with state, tribal and private programs, CREP provides farmers and ranchers with a sound financial package for conserving and enhancing the natural resources of farms.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Conservation	Grassroots Source Water Protection Program	FSA 1985 Sec 2502 and amended by Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 1240(b)	Source water is surface and ground water that is consumed by rural residents. The Source Water Protection Program is designed to help prevent source water pollution through voluntary practices installed by producers at local levels.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Energy	Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)	FSRIA 2002, Sec 9011 and amended by Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 9010	BCAP supports the establishment and production of crops for conversion to bio-energy in project areas and to assist with collection, harvest, storage and transportation of eligible material for use in a biomass conversion facility.	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	beginning farmers as a selection consideration for project area proposals

Program Matrix (Continued)

Type of Program	Name of Program	Authority	Program Description	Provisions included in rule:						Comments
				Historically Underserved	Gender	Beginning Farmer or Rancher	Veteran	Limited Resource	Youth	
Disaster Assistance	Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)	ACA of 1978; FCEA 2008, Sec 8203. Not a Farm Bill program. Funded by appropriations (FSA, not CCC funds); Reg is CFR 2102 Title 7 Vol 7 Part 701;	ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought. Funding for ECP is appropriated by Congress. FSA county committees determine land eligibility based on on-site inspections of damage, taking into account the type and extent of damage. For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that: - If untreated, will impair or endanger the land. - Materially affect the lands productive capacity; - Represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area; - Would be so costly to repair that federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use.	N	N	N	N	Y	N	
Disaster Assistance	Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)	ACA of 1978; FCEA 2008, Sec 8203. Not a Farm Bill program. Funded by appropriations (FSA, not CCC funds); Reg is CFR 2102 Title 7 Vol 7 Part 701;	The 2008 Farm Bill authorized EFRP for an owner of non-industrial private forest land to carry out emergency measures to restore the land after being damaged by an approved natural disaster. Funding for EFRP is appropriated by Congress.	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Disaster Assistance	Emergency Assistance Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP)	Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 1501	The 2014 Farm Bill authorized up to \$20 million of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds in for the ELAP to provide emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish. ELAP covers losses due to an eligible adverse weather condition or an eligible loss condition, including blizzards, disease (including cattle tick fever), water shortages and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary, which occurs on or after Oct. 1, 2011. ELAP covers losses that are not covered under other supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Payment programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, specifically LFP and LIP programs. The ELAP program year begins Oct. 1 of the fiscal year and ends Sept. 30 of the fiscal year.	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	
Disaster Assistance	Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)	Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 1501	The Agricultural Act of 2014 makes the LFP a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing. The grazing losses must be due to a qualifying drought condition during the normal grazing period of the county. LFP also provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses on rangeland managed by a federal agency, if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the Federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire.	N	N	N	N	N	N	(Except normal minor provisions)
Disaster Assistance	Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)	Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 1501	The Agricultural Act of 2014 makes LIP a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible livestock losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. LIP provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. In addition, LIP covers attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators. LIP payments are equal to 75 percent of the market value of the applicable livestock on the day before the date of death of the livestock as determined by the Secretary.	N	N	N	N	N	N	7 CFR § 1416.12 Minors. A minor child is eligible to apply for program benefits under ELAP, LFP, LIP, or TAP if all the eligibility requirements are met and the provision for minor children in part 1400 of this chapter are met
Disaster Assistance	Tree Assistance Program (TAP)	Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 1501	Agricultural Act of 2014 as a permanent program. TAP program provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters occurring on or after Oct. 1, 2011.	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Disaster Assistance	Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)	Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 12305	NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when a low yield loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to a natural disaster. To be eligible for NAP assistance, crops must be noninsurable crops and agricultural commodities, for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available.	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	

Program Matrix (Continued)

Type of Program	Name of Program	Authority	Program Description	Provisions included in rule:						Comments
				Historically Underserved	Gender	Beginning Farmer or Rancher	Veteran	Limited Resource	Youth	
Commodity	Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) / Price Loss Coverage (PLC)	Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 1116-1117	County ARC: Payments are issued when the actual county crop revenue of the covered commodity is less than the ARC county guarantee for that covered commodity. County ARC payments are based on county data not the farm data. Individual ARC: Payments are issued when the actual individual crop revenues (which are summed across all covered commodities on the farm) are less than ARC individual guarantees (which are summed across those covered commodities on the farm). PLC: payments are issued when the effective price of a covered commodity is less than the respective reference price for that commodity established in the statute. The payment is equal to 85 percent of the base acres of the covered commodity times the difference between the reference price and the effective price times the program payment yield for the covered commodity.	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Being an SDA/LR Farmer or Rancher allows payment to farms with 10.0 base acres or less.
Commodity Loan	Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) - Recourse and Nonrecourse Loans	Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 1201	MALs provide producers interim financing at harvest time to meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. Recourse loans must be repaid at principal plus interest. The recourse loan commodity cannot be delivered or forfeited in satisfaction of the outstanding loan. Marketing assistance loans for covered commodities are non-recourse because the commodity is pledged as loan collateral and producers have the option of delivering the pledged collateral to the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) in satisfaction of the repayment of the outstanding loan for the loan at maturity. A settlement value is determined and applied to the outstanding loan principal and interest.	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Commodity Loan	Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)	Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 1201	A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but who agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP. The LDP rate equals the amount by which the applicable loan rate where the commodity is stored exceeds the alternative loan repayment rate for the respective commodity. The LDP equals the LDP rate times the quantity of the commodity for which the LDP is requested.	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Facility Loan	Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL)	Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act or FCEA 2008 Section 1614	Under the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act, USDA may make loans to producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The 2008 act extends FSFL to increase loan term, loan amount and storage needs for new commodities.	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Facility Loan	Sugar Storage Facility Loan (SSFL)	Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 1403	The 2014 Farm Bill authorized loans to processors of domestically produced sugarcane and sugar beets for the construction or upgrading of storage and handling facilities for raw sugars and refined sugars.	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Price Support	Sugar Loan Program	Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 1403	The 2014 Farm Bill authorized loans to processors of domestically produced sugarcane and sugar beets for the construction or upgrading of storage and handling facilities for raw sugars and refined sugars.	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Direct Payment	Geographically Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher (RTCP)	Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 1606	This program will compensate geographically disadvantaged producers for their transportation costs on an annual basis "in fiscal year (FY) 2009 and each succeeding FY."	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Margin Protection for Dairy	Margin Protection Program (MPP)	Agricultural Act of 2014, Sec 1401	MPP for dairy producers under which participating dairy operators are paid a margin protection payment when actual dairy production margins are less than the threshold levels for a margin protection payment.	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Loan	Farm Ownership Loan-Direct and Guaranteed	Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended through Pub. L. 109-171, 2/8/06. Consolidated Farm And Rural Development Act (CONACT)	Eligible applicants may obtain direct loans up to a maximum indebtedness of \$300,000. Maximum indebtedness for guaranteed loans is \$1,392,000 (amount adjusted annually for inflation). The maximum repayment term is 40 years for both direct and guaranteed farm ownership loans. In general, loan funds may be used to purchase a farm, enlarge an existing farm, construct new farm buildings and/or improve structures, pay closing costs and promote soil and water conservation and protection.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	

Program Matrix (Continued)

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Loan	Farm Operating Loan-Direct and Guaranteed	Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended through Pub. L. 109-171, 2/8/06. Consolidated Farm And Rural Development Act (CONACT) 7 CFR Part 761	Eligible applicants may obtain direct loans for up to a maximum indebtedness of \$300,000 and a direct operating Microloan for up to a maximum indebtedness of \$50,000. Maximum indebtedness for a guaranteed loan is \$1,392,000 (amount adjusted annually for inflation). The repayment term may vary, but typically it will not exceed seven years for intermediate-term purposes. Annual operating loans are generally repaid within 12 months or when the commodities produced are sold. In general, loan funds may be used for normal operating expenses, machinery and equipment, minor real estate repairs or improvements, and refinancing debt.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Includes microloans and youth loans.

Definitions:

If there are special provisions in the program Y=yes, N=no

Socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers are members of groups that have been subject to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice, including American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Spanish, Hispanic, Latino, Asian, Black or African Americans and sometimes women.

Gender is a female farmer or rancher.

Beginning farmers and ranchers are those that have operated a farm or ranch for a maximum of 5 or 10 years, depending on the program. Qualification for targeted provisions also requires the operator substantially participate in the operation, and not own a farm or ranch of a size greater than 30 percent of the county average, as determined by the most recent Census of Agriculture. Other requirements such as loan eligibility may also apply.

Veteran farmers and ranchers must also qualify as a beginning farmer or rancher, and must have been discharged or release under conditions other than dishonorable from the United States Armed Forces to qualify for special consideration.

Limited resource farmers and ranchers are those that have direct or indirect gross farm sales not greater than \$172,800 in each of the previous two years and have a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50% of county median household income in each of the previous two years.

Youth farmers and ranchers are young persons between the ages 10 and 20 years.