

For: FSA Offices, CMA's, DMA's, and LSA's

**2005 Crop Year Producer Eligibility Policy, Shutdown and Startup of
Automated CMA Process, and Member of Joint Operation Eligibility Information**

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

According to 1-CMA, CCC-approved Cooperative Marketing Associations (CMA's), peanut Designated Marketing Associations (DMA's), and cotton Loan Servicing Agents (LSA's) are responsible for:

- determining that CMA members, DMA producers, and LSA producers are eligible to receive CCC marketing assistance loans and LDP's
- allocating market gains and LDP's only within an eligible producer's payment limitation (PLM) for the applicable producer
- using the automated CMA Process to determine producer eligibility and to properly allocate market gains and LDP's.

Submissions to the automated CMA Process will begin for the 2005 crop year on June 15, 2005. This should allow CMA's, DMA's, and LSA's adequate time to:

- make needed 2005 crop year PLM adjustments
- correct eligibility discrepancies.

B Purpose

This notice provides:

- County Offices with instructions to identify ineligible CMA members and to update eligibility records accordingly
- CMA's, DMA's, and LSA's with:
 - 2005 crop year producer eligibility and payment limit provisions
 - a June 1 deadline to submit the final eligibility submission file for the 2004 crop year
 - June 15 beginning date for 2005 crop year eligibility file submissions.

Disposal Date	Distribution
June 1, 2006	FSA State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices, CMA's, DMA's, and LSA's

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2 County Office File Maintenance

A Introduction

FSA migrated producer eligibility data used by County Offices to a central web-based system. The web-based eligibility system created an eligibility record for members of joint operations who do not have other farming interests and therefore defaulted the following fields to ineligible values causing thousands of CMA, DMA, or LSA producers to be ineligible:

- actively engaged determinations
- person determinations
- AD-1026 determinations.

B County Office Action

County Offices shall:

- immediately conduct a review to ensure that all producers known to be ineligible are updated properly in the web-based eligibility software.
- detect ineligible CMA producers by using status reports according to 1-CMA, paragraphs 189 through 191
- access the web-based eligibility system and update the member level eligibility records according to Notices PL-135 and CP-585.

3 2005 Crop Year Loan and LDP Producer Eligibility

A General Eligibility Requirements

Producers applying for loans or LDP's through CMA's, DMA's, or LSA's must:

- comply with USDA highly erodible land conservation (HELC) and wetlands conservation (WC) provisions by filing AD-1026 at their administrative FSA County Office
- comply with FSA actively engaged in farming and PLM provisions by filing CCC-502 at their administrative FSA County Office

Note: Producers not meeting actively engaged and PLM provisions remain eligible for a marketing assistance loan to be repaid at principal plus interest or with a commodity certificate exchange.

- file a report of acreage of all cropland on the farm for which a loan or LDP is requested
- not have been convicted under Federal or State law of a controlled substance violation

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3 2005 Crop Year Loan and LDP Producer Eligibility (Continued)

A General Eligibility Requirements (Continued)

- comply with the average adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation

Note: Producers not complying with AGI remain eligible for a loan to be repaid with principal plus interest or with a commodity certificate exchange.

- not be delinquent on any nontax Federal debt according to the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA)
- not be disqualified because of Federal crop insurance fraud.

B PLM's Effective for the 2005 Crop Year

Applicable PLM's are unchanged from the 2004 crop year and are as follows:

- \$75,000 for cotton, rice, and grains
- \$75,000 for wool, mohair, honey, and peanuts.

Note: Commodity certificate exchanges are not applicable to PLM.

4 Eligibility Requirements and Applicable CMA Process Output Fields

A HELC and WC Compliance

CMA, DMA, and LSA producers must visit their administrative FSA County Office to complete or update AD-1026 to comply or continue compliance with USDA HELC and WC provisions. The FSA County Office maintains eligibility information in subsidiary files that is applicable to each year. If a CMA, DMA, or LSA producer:

- is in violation of HEL/WC provisions, the CMA Process output file will return:
 - a "Y" in field [47]
 - an "I" in field [1] making the producer ineligible
- does not file AD-1026, or AD-1026 is not certified, the CMA Process output file will return:
 - a "Y" in field [60]
 - an "I" in field [1] making the producer ineligible.

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4 Eligibility Requirements and Applicable CMA Process Output Fields (Continued)

B Actively Engaged in Agriculture and Person Determination

CMA, DMA, and LSA producers must visit their administrative FSA County Office to maintain their applicable CCC-502 to establish:

- that they are actively engaged in farming
- person determination has been completed
- compliance with cash rent tenant rules.

If a CMA, DMA, or LSA producer:

- "person" determination has not been completed, or the County Office flag is "Not Filed", the CMA Process output file will return a "Y" in field [61] or [72]
- is not actively engaged in farming, the CMA Process output file will return a "Y" in field [59] or [71]
- does not have a PLM record in the County Office, the CMA Process output file will return a "Y" in field [73]
- is not in compliance with cash rent tenant rules, the CMA Process output file will return a percentage of cropland factor (PCF) value of less than 1.000 in field [69].

CMA's, DMA's, and LSA's shall:

- monitor the above fields of the CMA Process file
- **deny** a market gain or LDP to producers according to 1-CMA, paragraph 134 when any of the applicable flags are set to "Y".

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4 Eligibility Requirements and Applicable CMA Process Output Fields (Continued)

C Acreage Reporting Requirement

The 2002 Farm Bill requires that to receive loans and LDP's, a producer must file a report of acreage of all cropland on the farm for which a loan or LDP is requested.

For producers not meeting the acreage reporting requirements, the CMA Process now returns:

- a "Y" in field [49] and an "I" in field [1] when:
 - the producer's ID number is not associated with a crop on any farm for which an eligibility record is requested by CMA
 - no crop shares were reported for the producer's ID number
- a "Y" in field [65] and an "I" in field [1] when the cropland reported for a farm does not equal the cropland amount.

PSD recognizes that loans and LDP's may be requested for crops, such as wheat, before a complete acreage report on other crops, such as corn, is filed. Therefore, a producer who has only reported wheat may be ineligible for a wheat loan or LDP. In these cases, according to 1-CMA, paragraph 385, CMA's, DMA's, and LSA's are authorized to:

- obtain loans and LDP's for producers they believe to be eligible
- repay loans or LDP's if after 90 calendar days from the date of loan or LDP the producer remains ineligible.

D Controlled Substance Violations

The CMA, DMA, or LSA producer's administrative FSA County Office will:

- determine whether a producer has been convicted under Federal or State law of a controlled substance violation
- set the appropriate determination in the web-based eligibility system.

If a producer is determined to be in violation of controlled substance provisions, the CMA Process will:

- return a flag set to "Y" in field [48]
- set the flag in field [1] to "I" making the producer ineligible.

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4 Eligibility Requirements and Applicable CMA Process Output Fields (Continued)

E AGI Limitation

Effective for the 2003 through 2007 crop years, an individual or entity shall not be eligible for marketing loan gains and LDP's, if both of the following apply:

- the average AGI of the individual or entity exceeds \$2.5 million
- less than 75 percent of the average AGI is derived from farming, ranching, or forestry operations.

The CMA, DMA, or LSA producer's administrative FSA County Office will:

- accept certification of a producer's AGI on CCC-526
- update the web-based eligibility system if the producer does not meet AGI provisions.

CMA's, DMA's, and LSA's shall:

- monitor field [54] of the CMA Process file
- **deny** a market gain or LDP to producers when the AGI flag is set to "Y".

For joint operations or entities, where a member does not comply with AGI, CMA's, DMA's, and LSA's shall:

- review ownership interest in any entity to the fifth level, if applicable, to determine applicable commensurate share reductions
- calculate commensurate share reductions according to 1-CMA, subparagraph 134 B.

F DCIA Compliance

According to DCIA, producers who are delinquent on nontax Federal debt are ineligible for Federal loans including LDP's. CMA's, DMA's, and LSA's shall:

- not obtain loans and LDP's on behalf of delinquent Federal debtors, except if the debtor satisfies the delinquency before the loan or LDP is disbursed
- monitor field [67] of the CMA Process output file to identify producers who are delinquent debtors to FSA

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4 Eligibility Requirements and Applicable CMA Process Output Fields (Continued)

F DCIA Compliance (Continued)

- until DCIA electronic data is made available, obtain producer certification for DCIA by:
 - entering the following statement on an annual addendum to the CMA's uniform marketing agreement, "Are you or any co-applicant delinquent on any Federal nontax debt?"

Note: Provide blocks for the producer to check "yes" or "no" to the question.

- obtaining DCIA certification from CMA members at least annually on the addendum to the uniform marketing agreement
- obtaining LSA producer certification on the applicable CCC Cotton A-5.

G Disqualification Because of FCIC Fraud

Producers determined by RMA of willingly and intentionally providing any false or inaccurate information to FCIC may be disqualified from receiving any monetary or non monetary benefits for a period of 5 years. If FSA is notified of such producers, the CMA Process will return:

- a "Y" in field [58]
- an "I" in field [1] making the producer ineligible.

5 Final 2004 Crop Year Input File Submission and Output File

A Deadline and Final Output File

The deadline for final 2004 crop year **input** file submission was 6 p.m. c.t. Wednesday, **June 1, 2005**. The final 2004 crop year **output** files will be available for downloading after 2 p.m. c.t. Tuesday, **June 7, 2005**.

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6 Making Submissions for the 2005 Crop Year CMA Process

A Making Submissions and Requesting Assistance

CMA's, DMA's, and LSA's shall:

- follow the instructions in 1-CMA, paragraph 238, to determine the type of record submission

Important: For joint operations or entities, CMA's, DMA's, and LSA's shall submit the "parent" ID number in field [7] of the input file to the CMA Process, not the individual component member ID number. The CMA Process will return applicable eligibility and PLM data for each component member. Cotton cooperatives must not confuse the "parent" ID number with the primary ID number that is submitted to ACRS.

- begin regular 2005 crop year file submissions on **June 15, 2005**
- if necessary, call for technical assistance from FSA's National Help Desk at 1-800-255-2434; select option 1 for web support:
 - to verify if the CMA or LSA system is functional with the Web Room
 - whenever there are transmission problems.

B Record Format of Input File

The input file:

- is named CMAxxyyy.MB1, where "xxyyy" is the applicable State and CMA or LSA code
- provides KC-Application Development Center (ADC) basic producer data to process producer eligibility and PLM data
- shall be submitted according to this notice, with a "05" in field [8]
- is created according to the following format.

Field No.	Contents	Begin	Length	Data Type
1	Record Status	1	1	Character
2	CMA or LSA State Code	2	2	Character
3	CMA or LSA County Code	4	3	Character
4	Crop Code	7	4	Character
5	State code of administrative County Office	11	2	Character
6	County code of administrative County Office	13	3	Character
7	Producer ID number	16	9	Character
8	Crop Year	25	2	Character
9	Farm serial number (to delete records only)	27	7	Character
10	Filler	34	10	

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6 Making Submissions for the 2005 Crop Year CMA Process (Continued)

C Control Record File

A control file:

- provides KC-ADC a count of the records submitted in the input file
- is named CMAxxyyy.MB4, where "xxyyy" is the applicable State and CMA or LSA code
- shall be created according to the following format.

Field No.	Contents	Begin	Length	Data Type
1	State code of CMA or LSA	1	2	Character
2	County code of CMA or LSA	3	3	Character
3	Filler	6	1	
4	Number of records in input file	7	7	Character
5	Filler	14	1	
6	Date input file was prepared in the following format: yyyy/mm/dd	15	10	Character

D Preparing Files for Submission

One file will be prepared for submission and transmitted as follows:

- create a zipped transmission file named KCXXXBBS.000, where "XXX" is the assigned CMA, DMA, or LSA **ALPHA** code and "000" is the next sequential transmission ID number after the last transmission
- the transmission file shall contain the MB1 input file and the MB4 control file
- FTP the file to host **bbs.fsa.usda.gov** using the assigned user ID and password.

E Submission and Download Schedule

For the 2005 crop year, the submission deadline is **6 p.m. c.t. Wednesdays**. The resulting download will be available the following Tuesday.