

**For:** AL, FL, LA, MS, NC, and TX State and County Offices

**Signup Deadline for 2005 Section 32 Hurricane Disaster Programs**

**Approved by:** Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



**1 2005 Hurricane Disaster Program Signup**

**A Background**

Notice DAP-242 announced the start of the 2005 Section 32 Hurricane Disaster Programs as May 17, 2006.

**B Purpose**

This notice notifies State and County Offices in the affected States that:

- the signup period for 2005 Section 32 Hurricane Disaster Programs will end COB **September 29, 2006**
- all interested producers **must** apply by the deadline
- there are **no** late-filed provisions for any of the 2005 Section 32 Hurricane Disaster Programs
- all automated application processes for the 2005 Section 32 Hurricane Disaster Programs will continue to be available
- all applications received by September 29 **must** be acted on by COB October 31, 2006
- provisions will be made for accepting Hurricane Indemnity Program (HIP) applications from producers after September 29, if an RMA download is received after September 29, 2006.

**Disposal Date**

May 1, 2007

**Distribution**

Above State Offices; State Offices relay to  
County Offices

## Notice DAP-249

### 2 Ending Signup Date and Late Filed Applications

#### A End of Program Signup

Signup will end COB September 29, 2006, for:

- Feed Indemnity Program (FIP)
- HIP

**Exception:** There are a few indemnities that have not yet been paid to producers. These producers will be given the opportunity to file an application once the indemnity is paid if they:

- contact the County Office by COB September 29, 2006, to provide the crop for which a claim was filed or indemnity paid but which has **not** appeared on an RMA download
- file an application within 15 calendar days of receipt of the County Offices notification that the download has been received.
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Tree Indemnity Program (TIP).

**Note:** If excessive numbers of Section 32 Hurricane Disaster Program applications or ECP will prevent a County Office from completing signup by September 29, 2006, SED's may request authority from DAFP to establish appointments later than September 29, 2006. Requests should be e-mailed to **diane.sharp@wdc.usda.gov**.

#### B Disapproval of Late-Filed Applications

FSA shall **not** refuse to accept a producers request to file an application after September 29, 2006, for any of the 2005 Section 32 Hurricane Disaster Programs.

However, all FIP, HIP, LIP, and TIP applications submitted by producers after September 29, 2006, shall be disapproved because they were **not** filed during the application period, unless exceptions provided in this notice apply.

The application period is a matter of general applicability to all producers; therefore, disapproval of applications filed after September 29, 2006, is **not** appealable.

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### 3 Acting on All Applications

#### A Approving/Disapproving All Applications

All applications received by September 29, 2006, for all 2005 Section 32 Hurricane Disaster Programs must be approved or disapproved, as applicable, and the determination recorded in the automated system by COB October 31, 2006.

### 4 Action

#### A County Office Action

All County Offices located in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Texas shall ensure that:

- the ending signup date is adequately publicized by all available means including immediately issuing the State press release in Exhibit 1
- producers are notified of the exception in subparagraph 2 A
- all late-filed applications are disapproved unless exceptions provided in this notice apply
- all applications received by September 29, 2006, are acted on, and the determinations recorded in the automated system by COB October 31, 2006.

#### B State Office Action

Applicable State Offices shall modify the template press release in Exhibit 1 and distribute the State-specific press release widely.

State Offices shall ensure that County Offices:

- are immediately informed of the contents of this notice
- immediately publicize the signup deadline and the exception in subparagraph 2 A by all available means including the use of a modified, localized version of the press release in Exhibit 1
- timely schedule producer appointments, if needed, to ensure that all interested producers apply by September 29, 2006, deadline or by any exception granted by the National Office.
- disapprove all late-filed applications
- act on all applications received by September 29, 2006, and record the determination in the automated system, by COB October 31, 2006.

**Example of Press Release Announcing End of Signup**

Release No. XXXX.06

XXXX XXXX (XXX) XXX-XXXX

**USDA REMINDS PRODUCERS OF SEPT. 29, 2006, DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR 2005 HURRICANE DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

(your city, state), Sept. XX, 2006 – XXXX XXXX, state executive director of USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) in (your state), today reminded (your state) farmers and ranchers that they have until Sept. 29, 2006, to apply for four 2005 hurricane disaster programs. Sign-up began on May 17 for the four programs, which provide aid to producers who suffered losses due to the destructive hurricanes of 2005.

“We are doing everything we can at FSA to help farmers and ranchers recover from the devastation brought by last year’s hurricanes,” said XXXXX. “I’m encouraging all producers to contact their local FSA office as soon as possible so they can enroll in these programs before the fast-approaching deadline.”

The four programs - Livestock Indemnity Program, Feed Indemnity Program, Hurricane Indemnity Program and Tree Indemnity Program - are funded through Section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns authorized the use of \$250 million from Section 32 funds in October 2005 for crop disaster, livestock, tree and aquaculture assistance.

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who incurred the death of livestock due to the hurricanes. The Feed Indemnity Program (FIP) provides payments to eligible livestock owners and cash lessees who suffered feed losses or increased feed costs due to the hurricanes. The Hurricane Indemnity Program (HIP) provides payments to eligible producers who suffered crop losses and received either a Federal Crop Insurance Corporation crop insurance indemnity or an FSA Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) payment. Due to how eligibility is determined for HIP, all producers who either filed a claim with a re-insurance company or received an indemnity must contact the county FSA office prior to September 29. The Tree Indemnity Program (TIP) provides payments to eligible owners of commercially grown fruit trees, nut trees, bushes and vines that produce an annual crop and were lost or damaged due to the hurricanes.

To be eligible for this assistance, a producer's loss must have occurred in one of 261 counties that received a primary presidential or secretarial disaster designation due to 2005 Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Ophelia, Rita or Wilma. A list of the eligible counties in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina and Texas is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/HurricaneInfo.xml>.

Additional information about USDA hurricane assistance is available at USDA Service Centers nationwide and online at <http://www.usda.gov/HurricaneInfo.xml>.

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