

For: State and County Offices

Announcing FSFL Eligibility for Controlled Atmosphere (CA) Storage

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Definition of CA Storage

Controlled Atmosphere (CA) Storage is a continuously controlled agricultural process that regulates the concentrations of oxygen, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen in a storage room to increase the shelf life of grains, fresh fruits and vegetables and other eligible FSFL commodities.

Constant measuring and reducing the oxygen levels and controlling carbon dioxide concentration with reduced temperatures and controlled humidity levels can slow down the natural ripening of the produce, without affecting its flavor and quality, reduce grain respiration, and assist with preventing mold and rot.

CA storage facilities are precisely and constantly monitored using equipment and sensors that provides verifiable and reliable means of early warning and detection of hazardous environments.

B Purpose

This notice informs State and County Offices that CA storage is eligible for FSFL financing.

Notes: A forthcoming 1-FSFL amendment will include CA storage provisions.

State and County Offices must follow 1-FSFL procedures when reviewing and approving FSFL requests for CA storage.

C Contact

If there are any questions about this notice, contact Toni Williams, PSD, by e-mail to toni.williams@usda.gov and FSFLpolicy@usda.gov.

Disposal Date	Distribution
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2 CA Storage for Eligible FSFL Commodities

A CA Storage Eligibility

FSFL's must be made for purchasing and installing eligible new or used CA storage and must be designed for FSFL commodity storage having a useful life of at least the term of the loan.

Fresh fruit and vegetables can be stored in CA storage, and dry commodities, such as, but not limited to, corn, soybeans, and wheat.

County Office's must continue to use the FSFL Storage Capacity Worksheet for CA Storage.

Important: All FSFL requests **must** have FSA-850 completed with no adverse impacts before the FSFL project can be approved by the applicable approval authority.

B CA Storage Monitoring Equipment

CA storage monitoring equipment is designed to notify facility owners immediately if there is any detection of potential atmospheric dangers.

Producers may renovate existing storage facilities to include CA storage monitoring equipment. Authorized loan terms for FSFL renovations are 3 and 5 years only.

To assist with monitoring gases and particle concentrations for CA storage, the following equipment, but not limited to, is eligible for a FSFL:

- optical oxygen sensor
- low power CO2 sensor
- air quality sensor
- gas detection devices
- air temperature and relative humidity sensor
- water activity meter
- temperature stabilized water activity analyzer
- precision and performance humidity and temperature transmitter.

C State Licensing Requirements

FSFL applicants must certify on CCC-185, in the additional remarks section, they will follow all required State Department of Agriculture CA storage building, inspection, licensing, and regulatory provisions, if applicable. All supporting documents provided by the applicant must be filed in the producer's FSFL folder.

STC and COC must include a condition of approval on CCC-185D, item 3 "Other" for applicants to comply with State Department of Agriculture CA storage building, inspection, licensing and regulatory provisions, if applicable

3 Action

A State Office Action

State Offices will:

- assist County Offices with questions about information in this notice
- contact **toni.williams@usda.gov** and **FSFLpolicy@usda.gov** with questions about this notice.

B County Office Action

County Offices will:

- immediately start accepting requests for CA storage and ensure that all FSFL eligibility requirements are met
- contact State Offices with questions about this notice.