

For: State and County Offices

New 2004 Tree Assistance Program (TAP) Payment Limitation Allocation

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 provides the authorization for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). The disaster period under this law runs from January 1, 2000, through the 2007 crop year. TAP provides funds to replant trees, bushes, and vines that were grown for the production of an annual crop and were lost because of a natural disaster. Currently, TAP funding is authorized for losses from fire blight in Michigan.

A new payment limitation field has been established for TAP. Under TAP a person is subject to a \$75,000 payment limitation amount, which is a cumulative amount covering the time of the 2002 Act.

B Purpose

This notice advises State and County Offices that:

- an edit will be performed by ITSD on or about January 8, 2004, to establish a new \$75,000 payment limitation allocation field needed for TAP
- the new payment limitation allocation for TAP will be referred to as "TAP"
- software will be included in County Release No. 529 that provides control County Offices with the capability to update PLM allocations amounts for "TAP"
- County Offices may want to suspend updates to existing payment limitation allocations until after **January 9, 2004**.

Disposal Date	Distribution
July 1, 2004 12-31-03	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

Notice PL-123

2 File Edits and Software Changes

A Software Modifications Establishing the TAP Allocations

The following software modifications will be sent in County Release No. 529. This software:

- creates a new “TAP” field in the payment limitation file with a maximum allocation of \$75,000 per person
- distributes the initial allocation of \$75,000 equally among all counties for the producer, except CMA counties
- adds the “TAP” allocation field to the 2004 PLM file

Note: Once County Release No. 529 is installed, control County Offices will have the capability to adjust allocations between counties as necessary.

- modifies the 2004 MABDIG report to include the “TAP” PLM allocation field.

B Overwritten Records

County Offices may want to hold off sending all payment limitation changes from the date of this notice until after **January 9, 2004**. When the “TAP” amounts are downloaded to counties, any updates to all existing payment limitation amounts within the last few days maybe overwritten. As a result, County Offices will be required to re-enter the overwritten data.

C Handling TAP Allocations After the Edit

After the initial edit, the rules for allocating TAP PLM will be the same as any other limitation. When a new producer becomes multi-county or combined for the first time, the mainframe will divide the allocation equally among all County Offices. Then the control County Office will have authority to access and adjust the allocation as necessary.