

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Farm Service Agency  
Washington, DC 20250

**Notice SP-101**

**For:** Alaska, Florida, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico State and County Offices

**Announcing Signup for FY 2023 Reimbursement Transportation Cost  
Payment (RTCP) Program for Geographically Disadvantaged  
Farmers and Ranchers in Alaska, Hawaii, and Insular Areas**

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



## **1 FY 2023 RTCP Signup**

### **A Background**

The Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2023 authorized \$4 million for FY 2023 to assist geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers according to the H.R. 2617-16. The Appropriation Act of 2023 re-authorized the RTCP program for each succeeding FY through 2023 subject to appropriated funding.

To be eligible for FY 2023 RTCP program benefits, the geographically disadvantaged farmer or rancher must meet the eligibility requirements provided at 7 CFR Subchapter D-Special Programs Part 755.4 and submit FSA-218 during the announced FY 2023 signup period.

FY 2023 RTCP policy and procedures will be updated in a future amendment to 2-SP.

### **B Purpose**

This notice informs State and County Offices of the signup period for FY 2023 RTCP and program deadline due dates.

### **C Contact**

State Offices will direct questions to the appropriate person(s) according to this table.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Douglas Kilgore, Policy	202-720-9011	<a href="mailto:douglas.e.kilgore@usda.gov">douglas.e.kilgore@usda.gov</a>
Angela Pope, Policy	202-720-0482	<a href="mailto:angela.pope@usda.gov">angela.pope@usda.gov</a>
Aren Dameron, Automation	816-823-3571	<a href="mailto:aren.dameron@usda.gov">aren.dameron@usda.gov</a>

#### **Disposal Date**

May 1, 2024

#### **Distribution**

AK, FL, HI, and PR State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

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### 2 Deadlines for Submitting RTCP Documentation

#### A Period for Accepting FSA-218's Applications

County Offices will begin accepting FSA-218's on **July 10, 2023**. The signup period will end on **September 8, 2023**. Eligible applicants may file FSA-218 for benefits any time during the application period.

Completed FSA-218's must be submitted to either of the following:

- County Office where the agricultural operation is located
- producer's administrative County Office.

**Note:** Multi-county producers must return completed FSA-218's to their administrative County Office. FSA-218's received by mail after the application deadline date must have a postmark date no later than **September 8, 2023**, to be considered timely filed.

For areas where FSA County Offices do not exist, FSA-218's may be submitted to the respective State Office.

**Note:** Late-filed provisions will **not** apply to the FY 2021 RTCP Program. FSA-218's received after the deadline date will **not** be approved. This includes FAXed FSA-218's.

#### B Submitting Fixed and Set Transportation Cost Rates

The eligible agricultural commodities or inputs for fixed and set transportation cost rates must be approved by STC using form FSA-218-2 and submitted no later than **August 10, 2023**.

E-mail the approved fixed and set transportation cost rates to both policy contacts according to subparagraph 1 C.

#### C Deadline for Producers to Submit Supporting Documentation

Producers must provide supporting documentation that substantiates the transportation costs incurred for transportation of each eligible agricultural commodity or input.

Producers who request RTCP benefits for actual, fixed or set transportation cost rates must submit supporting documentation to the State or County Office by **COB November 3, 2023**.

#### D Submitting FSA-218, FSA-218-1 and State Master Worksheets

County Offices must submit each approved RTCP application and copies of the FSA-218 and FSA-218-1 to their applicable State Offices by **COB, Friday, January 26, 2024**.

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### 2 Deadlines for Submitting RTCP Documentation (Continued)

#### D Submitting FSA-218, FSA-218-1 and State Master Worksheets (Continued)

State Offices must verify by a second person to ensure data accuracy and timely submit the State Master Worksheets to the National Office by **COB Friday, February 9, 2024**, by e-mail to both policy contacts according to subparagraph 1 C.

**Note:** State Offices requesting an extension to submit the State Master Worksheets to the National Office must submit request before the deadlines and include DAFO Offices on the extension request.

### 3 Action

#### A State Office Action

State Offices must ensure that County Offices:

- are immediately informed of the contents of this notice
- immediately publicize the contents of this notice by all available means
- see 2-SP, for FY 2023 RTCP policy and procedure
- forward any FY 2023 RTCP Program questions to the National Office according to subparagraph 1 C.

#### B County Office Action

County Offices must:

- immediately notify producers, by all available means, of the FY 2023 RTCP Program signup period
- follow 2-SP, paragraph 41 to complete FSA-218-1 as FSA-218's are completed
- forward questions about the contents of this notice to the State Office Price Support specialist.