

For: State and County Offices

Avocados Marketed in Florida Certified for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

FAS has certified a new petition for Florida avocados for marketing year 2004. Producers represented by this petition are eligible to apply for TAA benefits.

B Purpose

This notice provides:

- information about the Florida petition certified by FAS
- instructions to provide benefits to eligible avocado producers.

2 Provisions of Florida Avocados Petition

A Original Petition Certification for 2004

A petition for TAA benefits was filed on behalf of Florida avocado producers by 3 avocado producers in that State. The petition requests benefits for avocados for the 2004 marketing year. FAS announced the certification of this petition on December 27, 2005.

B Preliminary Payment Rate for Florida Avocados

The preliminary payment rate applicable to the 2004 marketing year petition for Florida avocados is \$0.006 per pound.

Disposal Date	Distribution
October 1, 2006	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

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2 Provisions of Florida Avocado Petition (Continued)

C Application Period and Documentation Requirements

Producers covered by this petition may apply for benefits by submitting a completed FSA-229 along with evidence of production between January 3, 2006, and April 4, 2006, at their closest FSA County Office or USDA Service Center. FSA-229's received late cannot be approved for cash benefits.

Acceptable production evidence must be submitted at the time of application, but no later than April 4, 2006. This evidence must verify avocado production in Florida from June 2004 through May 31, 2005. Avocado production from other States is ineligible under this petition, even if marketed in Florida.

All other required application documentation must be submitted by COB September 29, 2006. This includes the following:

- documentation that the applicant's net farm income was lower in 2004 than in 2003
- documentation of having met the CRSEES training requirement
- CCC-502, CCC-526, AD-1026, and either SF-1199A or FFAS-12.

County Offices shall encourage all applicants to submit all forms other than the CSREES training certificate and documentation of net income within the 90-calendar day application period. This earlier submission of needed forms will allow County Offices to establish subsidiary files before the September 2006, rollover.

D Eligible Producers

For purposes of this petition, an eligible applicant is a producer as defined according to 1-PL, subparagraph 110 A, who:

- commercially produced avocados in Florida
- directly or indirectly, as determined by the Secretary, shared in the risk of producing avocados.

E Years for Net Income Comparison

Applicants must provide documentation that their net income from farming was less in 2004 than it was in 2003. Not all applicants may file taxes based on a calendar year. Refer to 1-SP, subparagraph 54 D for determining the tax year most closely associated with the petition marketing year.

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2 Provisions of Florida Avocado Petition (Continued)

F Eligible Production

The quantity of avocados eligible for payment must:

- have been produced in Florida from June 2004, through May 31, 2005
- be verified by production evidence such as sales receipts or other marketing evidence from the buyer.

G CSREES Training Period

Applicants:

- under the avocado petition must obtain the technical assistance from CSREES no later than September 29, 2006, to be eligible for cash benefits
- must provide documentation of the training from CSREES to their County Office no later than September 29, 2006.

3 Action

A State and County Office Action

State and County Offices shall:

- inform potential applicants about enrollment and eligibility requirements by mailing FSA-230 (see 1-SP, paragraph 30) to producers thought to be eligible and, as considered appropriate, through over-the-counter discussions, newsletters, articles in local newspapers, and other methods of communication
- encourage all applicants to submit all forms other than the CSREES training certificate and net-income documentation within the 90-calendar day application period.

Note: TAA regulations provide that documentation supporting a TAA application (excluding production evidence) must be submitted no later than September 30. For 2006, September 30 falls on a Saturday which is not an FSA workday. Thus, the deadline for submitting supporting documentation (excluding production evidence) is September 29, 2006. This applies to the avocado petition and any subsequent new or re-certified TAA petitions to be administered from FY 2006 funds.

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3 Action (Continued)

B Software Reminders

County Office staff shall enter applicant information into the appropriate subsidiary file and application software as soon as possible upon receipt of the information from the applicant so that files, to the extent possible, are established before the September 2006, rollover.

Application software item 6B, that asks “Is the applicant a ship Captain/Skipper”, must be allowed to default to “No” for TAA applications under **all** petitions. This allows item 7A to also default to “No”. These questions will be removed from application software because there is no FSA-229-A.

Inquiries about TAA application and payment software may be directed to Joseph Doleski, PSD, 202-720-8401.