

For: State and County Offices

**Equitable Relief to Applicants Approved in Error Under the  
Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers Program**

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



**1 Equitable Relief Errors Under the TAA for Farmers Program**

**A Background**

The TAA for Farmers program provides benefits to eligible U.S. producers and fishermen of raw agricultural commodities whose crops or catch have been adversely affected by an increase in imports of like or directly competitive commodities. Program benefits include cash payments and free technical training designed to help producers develop and implement business plans. Producers who complete the training are eligible to receive cash benefits, based on the number of training phases the producer completes. FSA administers the application and payment processes for TAA for Farmers applicants on behalf of FAS.

During the application periods for FY's 2010 and 2011 approved petitions, some FSA-229-1's were approved in error by several FSA County Offices. As a result, approval letters were mailed to these producers, which prompted some of the producers to partially or fully complete the program's training requirements in anticipation of receiving cash benefits.

On September 13, 2011, the Deputy Under Secretary for FFAS granted equitable relief to allow TAA for Farmers applicants who were inadvertently notified of their approval and who have partially or fully completed the program's initial training requirements, to continue to participate in the program and receive training and cash benefits.

**B Purpose**

This notice informs State and County Offices of the following:

- how notification of applicants granted equitable relief will be received
- actions to take in the TAA for Farmers software for applicants granted equitable relief.

**C Contact**

For questions or situations **not** addressed in this notice, State Offices shall contact Dani Cooke by e-mail to [danielle.cooke@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:danielle.cooke@wdc.usda.gov) or telephone at 202-720-1919.

<b>Disposal Date</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
June 1, 2012	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

## Notice SP-65

### 1 Equitable Relief Errors Under the TAA for Farmers Program (Continued)

#### D Notification of Applicants Granted Equitable Relief

FAS has identified all TAA for Farmers applicants who have been granted equitable relief. FSA-229-1's for producers granted equitable relief will be set to "Special Handling" status by FAS. When FAS sets FSA-229-1's to "Special Handling" status for applicants granted equitable relief, County Offices will receive a notification from FAS through the TAA for Farmers web application with specific instructions about the applicant. Special handling notifications from FAS will provide guidance for both of the following:

- applicants who have completed the initial orientation training
- applicants who have **not** completed the initial orientation training.

For these equitable relief cases, FSA-229-1's may currently have their Application Review events in "Disapproved" status. For County Offices to be able to change the Application Review event to "Approved" status, FAS will need to place those events in "Pending by FAS" status. Contact PSD to request that an event in "Disapproved" status be changed to "Pending by FAS" status.

Although FSA-229-1's may be in "Special Handling" status, the business rules about roles and permissions still apply. Events in "Refer to FAS" or "Disapproved" status can be updated **only** by an FAS user. Events in "Pending" status can be updated **only** by an FSA user, etc.

**Note:** For FSA-229-1's that are put into "Special Handling" status, event statuses; thereafter, must be manually updated. See Notices PS-684, paragraph 3, and PS-690 for instructions for processing TAA for Farmers program payments for FSA-229-1's in "Special Handling" status. Although applicants have been granted equitable relief, all eligibility and other checks, such as PL, should be completed manually **before** using Online Payment.

#### E Applicants Who Have Completed the Initial Orientation Training

County Offices that receive notification with special handling guidance for applicants who have completed the initial orientation training must manually update the application review (Event 1) and initial training (Event 2) status to "Approved", as instructed in the notification from FAS.

#### F Applicants Who Have Not Completed the Initial Orientation Training

County Offices that receive notification with special handling guidance for applicants who have **not** completed the initial orientation training must manually update:

- the application review status (Event 1) to "Approved"
- the initial training status (Event 2) to "Referred to FAS" for disapproval.