

For: AK, FL, HI, and PR State and County Offices

**Announcing Signup for FY 2016 Reimbursement Transportation Cost
Payment (RTCP-VII) Program for Geographically Disadvantaged
Farmers and Ranchers in Alaska, Hawaii, and Insular Areas**

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 FY 2016 RTCP-VII Signup

A Background

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 authorized \$1.996 million for FY 2016 to assist geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers according to the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill), Section 1606. The 2014 Farm Bill re-authorized the RTCP-VII program for each succeeding FY through 2018 subject to appropriated funding.

To be eligible for RTCP-VII program benefits, the geographically disadvantaged farmer or rancher must meet the eligibility requirements provided in 7 CFR 755.4 and submit FSA-218 during the announced FY 2016 signup period.

The following are forthcoming:

- 2-SP containing updated RTCP-VII policy and procedures
- software to enter calculated payment amount and process RTCP-VII payments.

B Purpose

This notice provides State and County Offices with the signup period for RTCP-VII.

Disposal Date	Distribution
December 1, 2016	Above State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

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1 FY 2016 RTCP-VII Signup (Continued)

C Contacts

If there are questions about this notice, contact either of the following according to this table.

IF located in the...	THEN contact...
County Office	State Offices.
State Office	either of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Danielle Cooke by either of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• e-mail to danielle.cooke@wdc.usda.gov• telephone at 202-720-1919• Angela Payton by either of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• e-mail to angela.payton@wdc.usda.gov• telephone at 202-720-0482.

D Period for Accepting FSA-218's

County Offices began accepting FSA-218's on **July 18, 2016**. The signup period will end on **September 9, 2016**. 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.

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

FSA-218's received by mail after the application deadline date must have a postmark date no later than **September 9, 2016**, to be considered timely filed.

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

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2 Action

A State Office Action

State Offices shall 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 RTCP-VII policy and procedures
- follow 2-SP, paragraph 42 to complete the State master worksheet by the deadline

Note: Ensure that the most current version of the State master worksheet is being used.

- forward RTCP-VII questions to the National Office according to subparagraph 1 C.

B County Office Action

County Offices shall:

- immediately notify producers, by all available means, of the RTCP-VII 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.