

For: South Carolina, Texas, and Georgia State and County Offices

**Farmed Shrimp Producers
Approved Under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program**

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

Under the TAA Program, both technical assistance and cash benefits are provided to eligible agricultural commodity producers if an increase in imports has contributed importantly to a decline in price, resulting in a drop in net farming or fishing income.

FAS has determined, based on a petition filed on behalf of shrimp producers in the States of South Carolina, Texas, and Georgia that increased imports of farmed shrimp contributed importantly to a decline in prices from January 2002 through December 2002 when compared with the previous 5-year average. Therefore, the shrimp producers represented by the approved petition are eligible to receive TAA benefits.

B Purpose

This notice provides South Carolina, Texas, and Georgia State and County Offices with:

- information about the FAS certification of petitions filed by shrimp producers
- instructions to begin sign-up for shrimp producers represented by the FAS-certified petition.

<p>Disposal Date</p> <p>January 1, 2005</p>	<p>Distribution</p> <p>Above State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices</p>
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Notice SP-8

2 Farmed Shrimp Producers Eligible for TAA

A Approved Petitions

Notice SP-5, paragraph 4, provided the petition review and certification process for groups or individuals acting as authorized representatives of an association of agricultural commodity producers electing to petition FAS for TAA benefits.

A petition was filed on behalf of farmed shrimp producers in the States of South Carolina, Texas, and Georgia. Notices were published in the Federal Register on September 30, 2003, and October 21, 2003, as being accepted by FAS. After review and investigation of the petitions for qualifying requirements, the petitions filed by the following associations on behalf of their producers have been approved and certified as eligible for TAA benefits by FAS.

- South Carolina Shrimper's Association, McClellanville, South Carolina
- Texas Shrimp Association, Arkansas Pass, Texas
- Georgia Shrimp Association, Darien, Georgia.

B Notification of Approved Petitions

The approved petitions certified as eligible for TAA benefits, provided in subparagraph A, will be implemented based on the issuance of a Departmental press release on November 10, 2003. This announcement will start the 90-calendar-day application period.

A notice summarizing the petition determination and the reasons for making the determination will be published in the Federal Register as soon as practical.

C Sign-Up Period

Sign-up for TAA benefits for farmed shrimp producers covered by an approved petition will begin on November 10, 2003, and will continue for 90 calendar days, ending on February 9, 2004.

Individual TAA applicants shall submit the completed FSA-229, according to Notice SP-5, Exhibit 1, by **COB February 9, 2004**, to the FSA County Office or USDA Service Center nearest the place of residence.

Note: Acceptable production evidence, such as receipts, ledgers, income statements, landing reports, etc., shall be submitted at the time application for TAA benefits is made with FSA, but **no later than February 9, 2004**, to verify the production of farmed shrimp produced from January 2002 through December 2002. All other documentation required to receive TAA cash payments must be submitted by COB September 30, 2004.

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2 **Farmed Shrimp Producers Eligible for TAA (Continued)**

D Eligible Producers

An eligible farmed shrimp producer is a person, as defined according to 1-PL, subparagraph 110 A, who commercially markets farmed shrimp and directly or indirectly, as determined by the Secretary, shares in the risk of producing farmed shrimp. Eligible farmed shrimp producers in Texas, South Carolina, and Georgia may apply for TAA benefits anytime during the sign-up period, according to subparagraph C.

E Eligibility Verification

Notice SP-5, subparagraph 5 C requires County Offices to verify that each TAA applicant is covered by a certified petition. Farmed shrimp producers applying for TAA benefits may be verified through local shrimp processors by submitting sales receipts or other marketing evidence from the processor to confirm eligibility.

F Action

State and County Offices shall:

- begin accepting FSA-229's and acceptable production evidence for TAA applicants
- verify that TAA applicants are covered by an approved petition certified as eligible by FAS
- provide information to farmed shrimp producers about TAA program requirements through:
 - over-the-counter discussion
 - newsletters
 - other methods of communication, as applicable.