

For: State and County Offices

Establishing Mortality and Practices Rates for Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Program



1 Overview

A Background

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 authorized TAP to assist owners in replanting trees lost as a result of a natural disaster. The program was developed to provide assistance to eligible orchardists that planted trees, bushes, and vines for commercial purposes but lost the trees as a result of a natural disaster. No specific funding was approved in this Act.

Recently, The Military Construction Appropriations and Emergency Hurricane Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2005, Pub. L. 108-324 provided funds for TAP. In addition, funding was provided for the following 2 additional assistance provisions:

- TAP-Timber
- TAP-Pecans.

B Purpose

This notice provides:

- an overview of TAP, TAP-Timber, and TAP-Pecan provisions
- guidance for State Offices to establish practice rates and mortality rates in preparation for TAP sign up.

C Contact

Exhibit 1 must be FAXed to Helen Mathew, PECD at 202-720-4941 by COB January 15, 2005.

Disposal Date	Distribution
June 1, 2005	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

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2 General Provisions

A TAP

TAP is a National program that is available to eligible orchardists that planted trees, bushes, or vines for commercial purposes, but lost the trees, bushes, or vines as a result of a natural disaster during the period of December 1, 2003, and December 31, 2004. In order to be eligible, an orchardist must have suffered a 15 percent loss in addition to the normal mortality. Orchardists are then eligible to receive the lesser of 75 percent of the actual cost or the maximum payment rate for replanting trees. Rates are established by STC for the cost of the tree, the cost of labor and site preparation for replanting. Funding is unlimited.

B TAP-Timber

TAP-Timber is a National program that is available to eligible forest timber owners that lost trees as a result of a natural disaster during the period of December 1, 2003, and December 31, 2004. In order to be eligible the forest timber owner must have suffered a 15 percent loss in addition to the normal mortality. Forest timber owners are then eligible to receive the lesser of 75 percent of the actual cost or the maximum payment rate for replanting trees. Rates are established by STC for the cost of the tree, the cost of labor and site preparation for replanting. Funding is limited to \$15 million.

C TAP-Pecans

TAP-Pecans is a program that is available to eligible pecan producers in a Presidentially-declared disaster county who suffered hurricane-related pecan tree losses during the 2004 hurricane season. In order to be eligible a producer must have suffered a 15 percent loss in addition to the normal mortality. Producers are then eligible to receive the lesser of 75 percent of the actual cost or the maximum payment rate for rehabilitation of the damaged trees. Rates are established by STC for the cost of rehabilitating the trees. Funding is limited to \$8.5 million.

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3 Action

A State Office Action

The State Office shall complete the following action by COB January 15, 2005:

- establish the following rates according to procedure in 1-TAP, paragraph 7:
 - normal morality rate is a percentage rate that reflects the amount of trees, bushes, or vines that are considered normal loss each year
 - practice rates are rates that are assigned to specific practices that are used for replanting lost trees, bushes, or vines based on 75 percent of the actual cost to complete the practice.
- record established rates on Exhibit 1 and Fax to Helen Mathew, PECD, at 202-720-4941.

State Offices shall:

- maintain information used to establish rates by practice and normal mortality.
- establish normal mortality rates and practices for TAP practices applicable to their State.

Rates for Tree Assistance Program

State Name		
Practice Code	Practice	State Established Rate
01	Site Preparation Per Acre, Including Tree Removal	
02	Planting Cost Per Eligible Tree, Eligible Bush, or Eligible Vine	
03	Maple Tree for Syrup Replacement Per Tree	
04	Fruit and Nut Tree Replacement Per Tree	
05	Grape, Kiwi, and Passion Fruit Vine Replacement Per Vine	
06	Pecan Tree Rehabilitation Per Tree (includes pruning, site prep and debris removal)	
07	Timber Tree for Replacement Per Tree	