

For: State and County Offices

Announcing Signup for TAP

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 TAP Signup Information

A Background

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Pub. L. 110-234, as amended by Pub. L. 110-398 and Pub. L. 111-005 authorizes TAP. TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines that were lost by natural disasters occurring on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists and nursery tree growers must:

- suffer qualifying tree, bush, and vine losses in excess of 15 percent mortality (after adjustment for normal mortality) from an eligible natural disaster for the individual stand
- have owned the eligible trees, bushes, and vines when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which eligible trees, bushes, and vines are planted
- replace eligible trees, bushes, vines within 12 months from the date the application is approved.

B Purpose

This notice provides:

- application signup start dates and signup end dates for TAP
- additional program procedure references.

Disposal Date	Distribution
April 1, 2011	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

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1 TAP Signup Information (Continued)

C Signup Period

Orchardists and nursery tree growers may apply to receive TAP benefits beginning May 10, 2010, for losses suffered during calendar years 2008 and 2009, and for losses suffered during January 1, 2010, to May 7, 2010.

The following table provides the final dates to submit a TAP application and supporting documentation.

Date of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application and Supporting Documentation
Calendar Year 2008	July 6, 2010
Calendar Year 2009	July 6, 2010
January 1, 2010, to May 7, 2010	July 6, 2010
May 8, 2010, to September 30, 2011	Within 90 calendar days of the disaster event or date when the loss of trees, bushes, or vines is apparent.

D Training Material, Program Provisions and Regulations

All TAP training materials are available on the DAFP training web site at <http://fsaintranet.sc.egov.usda.gov/fsatraining/>.

1-TAP (Rev. 3) has been issued to provide program provisions. Offices can access the handbook on the FSA Intranet at <http://fsaintranet.sc.egov.usda.gov/fsa/>. Click the "Handbooks" link under "Directives".

Program regulations are included in 7 CFR 760.500. The final rule was published on May 7, 2010.

E Software

Web-based TAP application software will be available May 10, 2010.

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2 State and County Office Action

A State Office Action

State Offices shall instruct all County Offices to:

- publicize the contents of this notice
- widely publicize the TAP signup start and end dates.

B County Office Action

County Offices shall:

- publicize the contents of this notice by press release, newsletters, etc.
- on May 10, 2010, start accepting FSA-899, Tree Assistance Program Application for Trees, Bushes, and Vines; for 2008, 2009, and 2010 losses according to 1-TAP (Rev. 3)
- use the web-based TAP application software to enter FSA-899's.