

## § 760.500

livestock for the loss of income from the dead livestock.

### Subpart F—Tree Assistance Program

SOURCE: 75 FR 25108, May 7, 2010, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 760.500 Applicability.

(a) This subpart establishes the terms and conditions under which the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) will be administered under Titles XII and XV of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246, the 2008 Farm Bill).

(b) Eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers will be compensated as specified in § 760.506 for eligible tree, bush, and vine losses in excess of 15 percent mortality, or, where applicable, 15 percent damage, adjusted for normal mortality and normal damage, that occurred in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested and as a direct result of a natural disaster.

#### § 760.501 Administration.

The program will be administered as specified in § 760.102 and in this subpart.

#### § 760.502 Definitions.

The following definitions apply to this subpart. The definitions in parts 718 and 1400 of this title also apply, except where they conflict with the definitions in this section.

*Bush* means, a low, branching, woody plant, from which at maturity of the bush, an annual fruit or vegetable crop is produced for commercial purposes, such as a blueberry bush. The definition does not cover plants that produce a bush after the normal crop is harvested such as asparagus.

*Commercial use* means used in the operation of a business activity engaged in as a means of livelihood for profit by the eligible producer.

*County committee* means the respective FSA committee.

*County office* means the FSA or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center that is responsible for servicing the farm on which the trees, bushes, or vines are located.

## 7 CFR Ch. VII (1-1-11 Edition)

*Cutting* means a piece of a vine which was planted in the ground to propagate a new vine for the commercial production of fruit, such as grapes, kiwi fruit, passion fruit, or similar fruit.

*Deputy Administrator* or DAFP means the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, FSA, USDA, or the designee.

*Eligible nursery tree grower* means a person or legal entity that produces nursery, ornamental, fruit, nut, or Christmas trees for commercial sale.

*Eligible orchardist* means a person or legal entity that produces annual crops from trees, bushes, or vines for commercial purposes.

*FSA* means the Farm Service Agency.

*Lost* means, with respect to the extent of damage to a tree or other plant, that the plant is destroyed or the damage is such that it would, as determined by FSA, be more cost effective to replace the tree or other plant than to leave it in its deteriorated, low-producing state.

*Natural disaster* means plant disease, insect infestation, drought, fire, freeze, flood, earthquake, lightning, or other natural occurrence of such magnitude or severity so as to be considered disastrous, as determined by the Deputy Administrator.

*Normal damage* means the percentage, as established for the area by the FSA State Committee, of trees, bushes, or vines in the individual stand that would normally be damaged during a calendar year for a producer.

*Normal mortality* means percentage, as established for the area by the FSA State Committee, of expected lost trees, bushes, or vines in the individual stand that normally occurs during a calendar year for a producer. This term refers to the number of whole trees, bushes, or vines that are destroyed or damaged beyond rehabilitation. Mortality does not include partial damage such as lost tree limbs.

*Seedling* means an immature tree, bush, or vine that was planted in the ground or other growing medium to grow a new tree, bush, or vine for commercial purposes.

*Stand* means a contiguous acreage of the same type of trees (including Christmas trees, ornamental trees,

nursery trees, and potted trees), bushes (including shrubs), or vines.

*State committee* means the respective FSA committee.

*Tree* means a tall, woody plant having comparatively great height, and a single trunk from which an annual crop is produced for commercial purposes, such as a maple tree for syrup, papaya tree, or orchard tree. Trees used for pulp or timber are not considered eligible trees under this subpart.

*Vine* means a perennial plant grown under normal conditions from which an annual fruit crop is produced for commercial market for human consumption, such as grape, kiwi, or passion fruit, and that has a flexible stem supported by climbing, twining, or creeping along a surface. Perennials that are normally propagated as annuals such as tomato plants, biennials such as the plants that produce strawberries, and annuals such as pumpkins, squash, cucumbers, watermelon, and other melons, are excluded from the term vine in this subpart.

#### § 760.503 Eligible losses.

(a) To be considered an eligible loss under this subpart:

(1) Eligible trees, bushes, or vines must have been lost or damaged as a result of natural disaster as determined by the Deputy Administrator;

(2) The individual stand must have sustained a mortality loss or damage, as the case may be, loss in excess of 15 percent after adjustment for normal mortality or damage;

(3) The loss could not have been prevented through reasonable and available measures; and

(4) The trees, bushes, or vines, in the absence of a natural disaster, would not normally have required rehabilitation or replanting within the 12-month period following the loss.

(b) The damage or loss must be visible and obvious to the county committee representative. If the damage is no longer visible, the county committee may accept other evidence of the loss as it determines is reasonable.

(c) The county committee may require information from a qualified expert, as determined by the county committee, to determine extent of loss in

the case of plant disease or insect infestation.

(d) The Deputy Administrator will determine the types of trees, bushes, and vines that are eligible.

(e) An individual stand that did not sustain a sufficient loss as specified in paragraph (a)(2) of this section is not eligible for payment, regardless of the amount of loss sustained.

#### § 760.504 Eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers.

(a) To be eligible for TAP payments, the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower must:

(1) Have planted, or be considered to have planted (by purchase prior to the loss of existing stock planted for commercial purposes) trees, bushes, or vines for commercial purposes, or have a production history, for commercial purposes, of planted or existing trees, bushes, or vines;

(2) Have suffered eligible losses of eligible trees, bushes, or vines occurring between January 1, 2008, and September 30, 2011, as a result of a natural disaster or related condition;

(3) Meet the risk management purchase requirement as specified in § 760.104 or the waiver requirements in §§ 760.105 or 760.107; and

(4) Have continuously owned the stand from the time of the disaster until the time that the TAP application is submitted.

(b) A new owner of an orchard or nursery who does not meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section may receive TAP payments approved for the previous owner of the orchard or nursery and not paid to the previous owner, if the previous owner of the orchard or nursery agrees to the succession in writing and if the new owner:

(1) Acquires ownership of trees, bushes, or vines for which benefits have been approved;

(2) Agrees to complete all approved practices that the original owner has not completed; and

(3) Otherwise meets and assumes full responsibility for all provisions of this part, including refund of payments made to the previous owner, if applicable.

(c) A producer seeking payment must not be ineligible under the restrictions