

§ 82.1

7 CFR Ch. I (1–14 Edition)

SOURCE: 70 FR 67312, Nov. 4, 2005, unless otherwise noted.

§ 82.1 Applicability.

Pursuant to the authority conferred by Section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, as amended (7 U.S.C. 612c) (Section 32), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will make payment to California growers who divert clingstone peaches by removing trees on which the fruit is produced in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein.

§ 82.2 Administration.

The program will be administered under the general direction and supervision of the Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and will be implemented by the California Canning Peach Association (CCPA). The CCPA, or its authorized representatives, does not have authority to modify or waive any of the provisions of this subpart. The Administrator or delegatee, in the Administrator's or delegatee's sole discretion can modify deadlines to serve the goals of the program. In all cases, payments under this part are subject to the availability of funds.

§ 82.3 Definitions.

(a) *Administrator* means the Administrator of AMS.

(b) *AMS* means the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

(c) *Application* means "Application for Clingstone Peach Tree Removal Program."

(d) *Calendar year* means the 12-month period beginning January 1 and ending the following December 31.

(e) *CCPA* means the California Canning Peach Association, a grower-owned marketing and bargaining cooperative representing the clingstone peach industry in California.

(f) *Diversion* means the removal of clingstone peach trees after approval of applications by the CCPA.

(g) *Grower* means an individual, partnership, association, or corporation in the State of California who grows clingstone peaches for canning.

(h) *Removal or removed* means that the clingstone peach trees are no longer standing and capable of producing a crop, and the roots of the trees have been removed. The grower can accomplish removal by any means the grower desires. Grafting another type of tree to the rootstock remaining after removing the clingstone peach tree will not qualify as removal under this program.

§ 82.4 Length of program.

This program is effective November 5, 2005, through November 9, 2015. Growers diverting clingstone peaches by removing clingstone peach trees must complete the diversion no later than June 1, 2006.

§ 82.5 General requirements.

(a) To be eligible for this program, the trees to be removed must be fruit-bearing and have been planted after the 1987 and before the 2003 calendar years. Abandoned orchards and dead trees will not qualify. The block of trees for removal must be easily definable by separations from other blocks of eligible trees and contain at least 1,000 eligible trees or an entire orchard. Clingstone peach tree removal shall not take place until the grower has been informed in writing that the grower's application has been approved.

(b) Any grower participating in this program must agree not to replant clingstone peach trees on the land cleared under this program through June 1, 2016. Participants bear responsibility for ensuring that trees are not replanted, whether by themselves, by successors to the land, or by any other person, until after June 1, 2016. If trees are replanted before June 1, 2016, by any persons, participants must refund all USDA payments, with interest, made in connection with this tree removal program.

§ 82.6 Rate of payment; total payments.

(a) Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Growers will be paid \$100 per ton based on their actual 2005 deliveries of clingstone peaches to processors from those acres of clingstone peach trees removed under this program, except

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that, regardless of actual 2005 deliveries, growers will receive a minimum of \$500 per acre and a maximum of \$1,700 per acre.

(b) Payment under paragraph (a) of this section will only be made after tree removal has been verified by the staff of the CCPA.

(c) The \$100 per ton payment is intended to cover the costs of tree removal. USDA will not make any other payment with respect to such removals. The grower will be responsible for arranging, requesting, and paying for the tree removal in the specified acreage.

(d) Total payments under this program are limited to not more than \$5,000,000 of Section 32 funds. No additional expenditures shall be made unless the Administrator or delegatee in their sole and exclusive discretion shall, in writing, declare otherwise.

§ 82.7 Eligibility for payment.

(a) If total applications for payment do not exceed \$5,000,000, less administration costs, payments, as set forth in § 82.6, will be made under this program to any grower of clingstone peaches who complies with the requirements in § 82.8 and all other terms and conditions in this part.

(b) If applications for participation in the program authorized by this part exceed \$5,000,000, less administration costs, the CCPA will approve the applications (subject to the requirements in § 82.8) in the order in which the completed applications are received in the CCPA office to the extent that funds are available. Applications received after total outlays exceed the amount of money available will be denied.

§ 82.8 Application and approval for participation.

(a) Applications will be reviewed for program compliance and approved or disapproved by CCPA office personnel.

(b) Applications for participation in the Clingstone Peach Diversion Program can be obtained from the CCPA office at 2300 River Plaza Drive, Suite 110, Sacramento, CA 95833; Telephone: (916) 925-9131; Fax: (916) 925-9030; at 335 Teegarden Avenue, Suite A, Yuba City, CA 95991; Telephone: (530) 673-8526; Fax: (530) 673-2673; or at 1704 Herndon Road,

Ceres, CA 95307; Telephone: (209) 537-0715; Fax: (209) 537-1043.

(c) Any grower desiring to participate in the Clingstone Peach Diversion Program must file an application with the CCPA prior to November 30, 2005. The application shall be accompanied by a copy of any two of the following four documents: Plot Map from the County Hall of Records; Irrigation Tax Bill; County Property Tax Bill; or any other documents containing an Assessor's Parcel Number. Such application shall include at least the following information:

(1) The name, address, telephone number, and tax identification number or social security number of the grower;

(2) The location and amount of acreage to be diverted;

(3) The 2005 clingstone peach production from the acreage to be diverted;

(4) If the land with respect to which the clingstone peach trees will be destroyed is subject to a mortgage, statutory lien, or other equity interest, the grower must obtain from the holder of such interest a written statement that such party agrees to the enrollment of such land in this program to the extent determined necessary by AMS. Obtaining such assent shall be the responsibility of the applicant who shall alone bear any responsibilities which may extend to such third parties;

(5) A statement that the applicant agrees to comply with all of the regulations established for the clingstone peach diversion program;

(6) The applicant shall sign the application certifying that the information contained in the application is true and correct;

(7) The year that the clingstone peach acreage to be diverted was planted;

(8) The names of the processors who received the clingstone peaches from the grower in 2005.

(d) After the CCPA receives the applications, it shall review them to determine whether all the required information has been provided and that the information is correct.

(e) If the deliveries off the acreage to be removed in such applications, multiplied by \$100 per ton (for actual 2005 deliveries on these acres, but within the