

Farm Service Agency, USDA

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§ 777.11 Cumulative liability.

The liability of any producer for any payment or refund which is determined in accordance with this part to be due to FSA shall be in addition to any other liability of such producer under any civil or criminal fraud statute or any other statute or provision of law including, but not limited to, 18 U.S.C. 286, 287, 371, 641, 1001; and 31 U.S.C. 3729.

§ 777.12 Appeals.

Reconsideration and review of all determinations made in accordance with this part with respect to a farm or an individual producer shall be made in accordance with part 780 of this chapter.

§ 777.13 Liens.

Any payment which is due any person shall be made without regard to questions of title under State law and without regard to any claim or lien against the crop, and the proceeds thereof, which may be asserted by any creditor, except agencies of the United States Government.

§ 777.14 Other regulations.

The following regulations and amendments thereto shall also be applicable to this part:

- (a) 7 CFR part 3, Debt Management.
- (b) 7 CFR part 12, Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation.
- (c) 7 CFR part 707, Payments Due Persons Who Have Died, Disappeared or Have Been Declared Incompetent.
- (d) 7 CFR part 719, Reconstitution of Farms, Allotments, Normal Crop Acreage and Preceding Year Planted Acreage.
- (e) 7 CFR part 780, Appeal Regulations.
- (f) 7 CFR part 790, Incomplete Performance Based Upon Action or Advice of an Authorized Representative of the Secretary.
- (g) 7 CFR part 796, Denial of Program Eligibility for Controlled Substance Violation.

§ 777.15 OMB control numbers assigned pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

The information collection requirements of this part shall be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget

(OMB) for purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act and it is anticipated that an OMB Number will be assigned.

PART 780—APPEAL REGULATIONS

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301; 15 U.S.C. 714b and 714c; 16 U.S.C. 590h.

SOURCE: 60 FR 67316, Dec. 29, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

§ 780.1 Definitions.

For purposes of this part:

1994 Act means the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-354).

Agency means FSA and its county and State committees and their personnel, CCC, NRCS, FCIC, and any other agency or office of the Department which the Secretary may designate, or any successor agency.

Appeal means a written request by a participant asking the next level reviewing authority to review a decision.

CCC means the Commodity Credit Corporation, a wholly owned Government corporation within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County committee means an FSA county or area committee established in accordance with section 8(b) of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act (16 U.S.C. 590h(b)).

FCIC means the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, a wholly owned Government corporation within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Final decision means the program decision rendered by the county or State committee or the FCIC Regional Service Office upon written request of the participant. A decision that is otherwise final shall remain final unless the

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decision is timely appealed to the State committee or NAD. A decision of FSA or FCIC made by personnel subordinate to the county committee is considered "final" for the purpose of appeal to NAD only after that decision has been appealed to the county committee under the provisions of this part.

FSA means the Farm Service Agency.

NAD means the National Appeals Division, established pursuant to the 1994 Act.

NAD regulations means the National Appeals Division (NAD) rules of procedure published by the Secretary at 7 CFR part 11 implementing title II, subtitle H of the 1994 Act.

NRCS means the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, formerly the Soil Conservation Service.

Reconsideration is a subsequent consideration of a prior decision by the same reviewing authority.

Regional Service Office means the regional offices established by FSA and FCIC for the purpose of making determinations for private insurance companies reinsured by FCIC under the Federal Crop Insurance Act and for FSA for insurance contracts delivered through county FSA offices (including underwriting decisions), the applicability of provisions under chapter IV of 7 CFR, and decisions as to insurability and rating of acreage.

Reviewing authority means a person or committee assigned the responsibility of making a decision on the appeal filed by the participant in accordance with this part.

State committee means an FSA State committee established in accordance with section 8(b) of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act (16 U.S.C. 590h(b)) including, where appropriate, the Director of the Caribbean Area FSA office for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Technical determination of NRCS means a decision by NRCS concerning the status and condition of the natural resources based on science and on the best professional judgment of natural resource professionals within NRCS.

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§ 780.2 Applicability.

(a)(1) Except as provided in other regulations, this part applies to decisions made under programs and by agencies, as set forth herein:

(i) Decisions in those domestic programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), and programs administered by FSA on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) through State and county committees, which are generally set forth in chapters VII and XIV of this title;

(ii) Technical decisions made by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended;

(iii) Decisions made by personnel of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation ("FCIC") or FSA with respect to contracts of insurance insured by FCIC and the noninsured crop disaster assistance program;

(iv) Decisions made by personnel of FCIC or FSA with respect to contracts of insurance provided by private insurance carriers and reinsured by FCIC under the provisions of the Federal Crop Insurance Act; and

(v) Other programs to which this part is made applicable by individual program regulations.

(2) For covered programs, this part is applicable to any decision made by FSA and its State and county committees, CCC, FCIC, the personnel and agents of FSA, FCIC, or CCC, and by the officials of NRCS (to the extent provided in § 780.9), except as otherwise may be provided in individual program requirements or by the Secretary.

(3) This part is not applicable to any decision:

(i) Made by FSA or FCIC with respect to any matter arising under the terms of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement between FCIC and any private insurance company reinsured by FCIC under the provisions of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended; or

(ii) Made by any private insurance company with respect to any contract of insurance issued to any producer by the private insurance company and reinsured by FCIC under the provisions of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended. Those insurance contracts are subject to dispute resolution