

### § 783.5

trees and eligible vines must be submitted to FSA at the local county office by close of business on Friday, September 26, 1997.

(b) All related and supporting documentation shall be submitted at the time the request for assistance is filed or no later than September 30, 1997.

(c) The State committee shall allow the county committee to approve late-filed requests received after the enrollment period ends, but no later than September 30, 1997. Late-filed requests will be accepted only for those owners who applied late due to circumstances beyond their control as determined by the county committee and concurred with by the State committee.

(d) The State committee may approve an extension, not to exceed 24 months beyond the date of application, to complete TAP practices if delays are determined to be beyond the control of the applicant.

#### **§ 783.5 Ownership, income and payment limitations.**

(a) An eligible owner must:

(1) Own less than 500 acres of each type of eligible tree or eligible vine, regardless of their size or condition, which produce annual crops for commercial purposes, or are grown for harvest for commercial purposes; and

(2) Have owned the eligible trees or eligible vines at the time the natural disaster occurred and continuously until the application for TAP benefits is submitted.

(b) No person, as defined in part 1400 of this title, as applicable, with an annual gross revenue in excess of \$2.5 million for the 1996 tax year will be eligible for TAP benefits.

(c) The amount of payments which any person, as determined in accordance with part 1400 of this title, may receive under this part in connection with losses of eligible trees and eligible vines, shall not exceed \$25,000.

(d) An owner who acquires eligible trees or eligible vines from a previous owner approved for 1997 TAP shall not receive additional program benefits due to an increase in the number of persons associated with the new ownership. A new owner is allowed to receive TAP benefits not paid to the previous owner if the new owner:

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(1) Acquires ownership of land or trees for which TAP benefits have been approved;

(2) Meets the income and payment limitation under this part;

(3) Agrees to complete all practices which the original owner has not completed; and

(4) Agrees to receive any remaining payments and assumes full responsibility for all provisions of TAP, including refund of payments made to the previous owner, if necessary.

(e) In the event the total amount of claims submitted under this part during the sign-up period exceeds the applicable funds available for such period, such payments shall be reduced by a uniform national percentage. Such payment reductions shall be applied after the imposition of applicable payment limitation provisions.

(f) Federal, State, and local governments and agencies and political subdivisions thereof are not eligible for benefits under this part.

#### **§ 783.6 Qualifying loss.**

(a) An eligible owner may receive assistance under this part for qualifying loss of eligible trees, eligible orchard tree seedlings, eligible vines or cuttings as determined by the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, FSA:

(1) Which were destroyed or injured as a result of a natural disaster, as determined by the county committee in accordance with the instructions of the Deputy Administrator; and

(2) For which the total mortality rate equals or exceeds 20 percent, after deducting the normal mortality the owner would have incurred.

(b) Qualifying loss determinations shall be made on an individual stand basis. A qualifying loss shall be the loss for the individual stand of eligible trees, or eligible vines, as appropriate, after deducting the normal mortality of such trees or vines, equal to or in excess of 20 percent mortality.

(c) Qualifying losses of eligible trees or vines shall not include:

(1) Losses which could have been prevented through readily-available horticultural measures; or