

(1) A pre-numbered, pre-punched negotiable warehouse receipt issued under the authority of the U.S. Warehouse Act, a state licensing authority, or by an approved CCC warehouse in such format authorized and approved, in advance, by CCC;

(2) An electronic warehouse receipt record issued by such warehouse recorded in a central filing system or systems maintained in one or more locations that are approved by FSA to operate such system; or

(3) Other such acceptable evidence of title, as determined by CCC.

§ 1427.4 Eligible producer.

(a) To be an eligible producer, the producer must:

(1) Be an individual, partnership, association, corporation, estate, trust, State or political subdivision or agency thereof, or other legal entity that produces cotton as a landowner, landlord, tenant, or sharecropper;

(2) Comply with all provisions of this part; and

(i) 7 CFR part 12—Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation;

(ii) 7 CFR part 718—Provisions Applicable to Multiple Programs;

(iii) 7 CFR part 1400—Payment Limitation and Payment Eligibility;

(iv) 7 CFR part 1403—Debt Settlement Policies and Procedures; and

(v) 7 CFR part 1405—Loans, Purchases and Other Operations; and

(3) Have made an acreage certification with respect to all the cropland on the farm.

(b) A receiver or trustee of an insolvent or bankrupt debtor's estate, an executor or an administrator of a deceased person's estate, a guardian of an estate of a ward or an incompetent person, and trustees of a trust estate shall be considered to represent the insolvent or bankrupt debtor, the deceased person, the ward or incompetent, and the beneficiaries of a trust, respectively. The production of the receiver, executor, administrator, guardian, or trustee shall be considered to be the production of the person or estate represented by the receiver, executor, administrator, guardian, or trustee. Loan and loan deficiency payment documents executed by any such person will be accepted by CCC only if they are le-

gally valid and such person has the authority to sign the applicable documents.

(c) A minor who is otherwise an eligible producer shall be eligible to receive loans and loan deficiency payments only if the minor meets one of the following requirements:

(1) The right of majority has been conferred on the minor by court proceedings or by statute;

(2) A guardian has been appointed to manage the minor's property and the applicable loan or loan deficiency payment documents are signed by the guardian;

(3) Any note and security agreement or loan deficiency payment application signed by the minor is co-signed by a person determined by CCC to be financially responsible; or

(4) A bond is furnished under which a surety guarantees to protect CCC from any loss incurred for which the minor would be liable had the minor been an adult.

(d)(1) If more than one producer executes a note and security agreement with CCC, each such producer shall be jointly and severally liable for the violation of the terms and conditions of the note and the regulations in this part. Each such producer shall also remain liable for repayment of the entire marketing assistance loan amount until the loan is fully repaid without regard to such producer's claimed share in the commodity pledged as collateral for the loan. In addition, such producer may not amend the note and security agreement with respect to the producer's claimed share in such commodities, or loan proceeds, after execution of the note and security agreement by CCC.

(2) The cotton in a bale may have been produced by two or more eligible producers on one or more farms if the bale is not a repacked bale.

(e) A CMA may obtain a marketing assistance loan and loan deficiency payments on eligible cotton on behalf of its members who are eligible to receive loans or loan deficiency payments for a crop of cotton. For purposes of this subpart, the term "producer" includes a CMA.

(f) In case of death, incompetency, or disappearance of any producer who is

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entitled to the payment of any sum in settlement of a marketing assistance loan or loan deficiency payment, payment shall, upon application to CCC, be made to the persons who would be entitled to the producer's payment under the regulations contained in part 707 of this title.

§ 1427.5 General eligibility requirements.

(a) To receive loans or loan deficiency payments for a crop of cotton, a producer must execute a note and security agreement or loan deficiency payment application on or before May 31 of the year following the year in which such crop is normally harvested.

(1) Form A loan documents or loan deficiency payment applications must be signed by the applicant and submitted to CCC or a loan servicing agent. Submissions by cotton clerks must occur within 15 calendar days after the producer signs the forms and within the period of loan availability. A producer, except for a CMA, must request loans and loan deficiency payments:

(i) At the county office that is responsible under part 718 of this title for administering programs for the farm on which the cotton was produced; or

(ii) From a loan servicing agent.

(2) Form G loan documents and requests for loan deficiency payments by a CMA must be signed by the CMA and delivered to CCC or the cotton commercial bank within the period of loan availability.

(b) For a bale of cotton to be eligible to be pledged as collateral for a marketing assistance loan or a subject of a loan deficiency payment application, the bale must:

(1) Be tendered to CCC by an eligible producer;

(2) Be in existence and good condition, be covered by fire insurance, be stored in a warehouse with an existing cotton storage agreement under §§ 1427.1081 through 1427.1089 at the time of disbursement of the loan or loan deficiency payment proceeds, except as provided in § 1427.23(f), and be stored in approved storage as determined under § 1427.10;

(3) Be represented by a warehouse receipt meeting the requirements of

§ 1427.11, except as provided in §§ 1427.10(e) and 1427.23(a)(4);

(4) Not be false-packed, water-packed, mixed-packed, re-ginned, or re-packed;

(5) Not be compressed to universal density at a warehouse where side pressure has been applied;

(6) Not have been sold, nor any sales option on such cotton granted, to a buyer under a contract which provides that the buyer may direct the producer to pledge the cotton to CCC as collateral for a loan or to obtain a loan deficiency payment;

(7) Not have been previously sold and repurchased or pledged as collateral for a CCC loan and redeemed except as provided in § 1427.172(b)(4);

(8) Not be cotton for which a loan deficiency payment has been previously made;

(9) Weigh at least 325 pounds net weight; bales of more than 600 pounds may be pledged for loan at 600 pounds.

(10) Be packaged in materials which meet the specifications adopted by the Joint Cotton Industry Bale Packaging Committee sponsored by the National Cotton Council of America for the applicable year or which are identified and approved by the Joint Industry Bale Packaging Committee as experimental packaging materials for the applicable crop year, except that producers approved for the outside storage of 2003 and subsequent crops of ELS cotton as provided for in § 1427.10(e) must assure that the packaging materials used for bales stored outside must meet the materials, sealing, and humidity specifications contained in the outside-storage addendum to their ELS cotton marketing assistance loan agreement.

(11) Be ginned by a ginner which:

(i) Has entered the tare weight of the bale (bagging and ties used to wrap the bale) on the gin bale tag or otherwise furnish warehouse operator the tare weight; and

(ii) Has entered into a Cooperating Ginners' Bagging and Bale Ties Certification and Agreement on a form prescribed by CCC, or certified that the bale is wrapped with bagging and bale ties meeting the requirements of paragraph (b)(10) of this section and;