

§ 1943.55

the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

[53 FR 35706, Sept. 15, 1988, as amended at 58 FR 15072, Mar. 19, 1993; 58 FR 26681, May 5, 1993; 58 FR 48288, Sept. 15, 1993; 62 FR 9356, Mar. 3, 1997]

§ 1943.55 [Reserved]

§ 1943.56 Credit elsewhere.

The applicant shall certify in writing on the appropriate forms, and the County Supervisor shall verify and document, that adequate credit elsewhere is not available, with or without a guarantee or subordination, to finance the applicant's actual needs at reasonable rates and terms, taking into consideration prevailing private and cooperative rates and terms in the community in or near where the applicant resides for loans for similar purposes and periods of time.

(a) If the County Supervisor receives letters or other written evidence from a lender(s) indicating the applicant is unable to obtain satisfactory credit, these will be included in the loan docket.

(b) If the applicant cannot qualify for the needed credit from the lenders contacted, but one or more of them has indicated they would provide credit with an FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 guarantee, or the County Supervisor determines that the applicant can obtain a guaranteed loan, the applicant will be advised to file an application with that lender(s) so that a guaranteed SW loan request can be processed by the lender for consideration by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354.

(c) Property and interest in property owned and income received by an individual applicant; and cooperative and its members, as individuals; a corporation and its stockholders, as individuals; a partnership and its partners, as individuals; and a joint operation and its joint operators, as individuals; will be considered and used by an applicant in obtaining credit from other sources.

§ 1943.57 Preference.

Priority will be given to otherwise qualified applicants requesting assistance for soil and water conservation and protection purposes denoted in

7 CFR Ch. XVIII (1-1-05 Edition)

§ 1943.66(a) of this subpart who use loan funds to build conservation structures or establish conservation practices on highly erodible land to comply with part 12 of this title (see attachment 1 of exhibit M of subpart G of part 1940 of this chapter which is available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office).

[58 FR 15072, Mar. 19, 1993]

§§ 1943.58-1943.60 [Reserved]

§ 1943.61 Receiving and processing applications.

Applications will be received and processed as provided in subpart A of part 1910 of this chapter, with consideration given to the requirements in exhibit M of subpart G of part 1940 of this chapter.

§ 1943.62 Soil and water loan eligibility requirements.

In accordance with the Food Security Act of 1985 (Pub. L. 99-198), after December 23, 1985, if an individual or any member, stockholder, partner, or joint operator of an entity is convicted under Federal or State law of planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting, or storing a controlled substance (see 21 CFR part 1308, which is exhibit C of subpart A of part 1941 of this chapter and is available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office, for the definition of *controlled substance*) prior to loan approval in any crop year, the individual or entity shall be ineligible for a loan for the crop year in which the individual or member, stockholder, partner, or joint operator of the entity was convicted and the four succeeding crop years. Applicants will attest on Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 410-1, "Application for FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 Services," that as individuals or that its members, if an entity, have not been convicted of such crime after December 23, 1985. In addition, the following requirements must be met:

(a) An individual must:

(1) Be a citizen of the United States (see § 1943.54 of this subpart for the definition of *United States*) or an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for

permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act. Aliens must provide Forms I-151 or I-551, "Alien Registration Receipt Card." Indefinite parolees are not eligible. If the authenticity of the information shown on the alien's identification document is questioned, the County Supervisor may request the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to verify the information appearing on the alien's identification card by completing INS Form G-641, "Application for Verification of Information from Immigration and Naturalization Records," obtainable from the nearest INS District. (See exhibit B of subpart A of part 1944 of this chapter.) Mail the completed form to INS. The payment of a service fee by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 to INS is waived by inserting in the upper right hand corner of INS Form G-641, the following: "INTERAGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT REQUEST." There is no U.S. citizenship restriction on loans made for waste pollution abatement and control facilities under § 1943.66(b) of this subpart.

(2) Possess the legal capacity to incur the obligations of the loan.

(3) Have sufficient applicable educational and/or on the job training or farming experience in managing and operating a farm or ranch (1 year's complete production and marketing cycle within the last 5 years), which indicates the managerial ability necessary to assure reasonable prospects of success in the proposed plan of operation. There is no education or experience restriction on loans made for waste pollution abatement and control facilities under § 1943.66(b) of this subpart.

(4) Have the character (emphasizing credit history, past record of debt repayment and reliability), and industry necessary to carry out the proposed operation. Past record of debt repayment will not be cause for a determination that the applicant/borrower is not eligible if an honest attempt has been made to make the payments.

(5) Honestly endeavor to carry out the applicant's/borrower's undertakings and obligations. This would include, but is not limited to, providing current, complete and truthful infor-

mation when applying for assistance and making every reasonable effort to meet the conditions and terms of the proposed loan.

(6) Be unable to obtain sufficient credit elsewhere to finance actual needs at reasonable rates and terms, taking into consideration prevailing private and cooperative rates and terms in the community in or near which the applicant resides for loans for similar purposes and periods of time.

(7) Be the owner or operator of not larger than a family farm after the loan is closed, when loan funds are used for soil and water conservation and protection purposes as defined in § 1943.66 (a)(1) through (a)(5) of this subpart. There is no farm size restriction on loans made for waste pollution abatement and control facilities under § 1943.66(b) of this subpart.

(8) If a tenant, has a satisfactory written lease for a sufficient period of time and under terms that will enable the operator to obtain reasonable returns on the improvements to be made with the SW loan. In addition, the lease or separate agreement should provide for compensating the tenant for any remaining value of the improvements upon termination of the lease.

(b) A cooperative, corporation, partnership or joint operation must:

(1) Have the character (emphasizing credit history, past record of debt repayment and reliability), and industry necessary to carry out the proposed operation. This requirement also must be met by the individual members, stockholders, partners or joint operators. Past record of debt repayment will not be cause for a determination that the applicant/borrower is not eligible if an honest attempt has been made to make the payments.

(2) Honestly try to carry out the applicant's/borrower's undertakings and obligations. This would include, but is not limited to, providing current, complete and truthful information when applying for assistance, and making every reasonable effort to carry out the conditions and terms of the proposed loan. This requirement also must be met by the individual members, stockholders, partners, or joint operators.

§ 1943.62

7 CFR Ch. XVIII (1-1-05 Edition)

(3) Consist of members, stockholders, partners, or joint operators holding a majority interest who are citizens of the United States (see §143.54 of this subpart for the definition of *United States*), or aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act. Aliens must provide Forms I-151 or I-551. Indefinite parolees are not eligible. If the authenticity of the information shown on the alien's identification document is questioned, the County Supervisor may request the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to verify the information appearing on the alien's identification card by completing INS Form G-641, obtainable from the nearest INS District. (See exhibit B of subpart A of part 1944 of this chapter.) Mail the completed form to INS. The payment of a service fee by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 to INS is waived by inserting in the upper right hand corner of INS Form G-641, the following: "INTERAGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT REQUEST." There is no U.S. citizenship restriction on loans made for waste pollution abatement and control facilities under §1943.66(b) of this subpart.

(4) Have sufficient applicable education and/or on the job training or farming experience in managing and operating a farm or ranch (1 year's complete production and marketing cycle within the last 5 years), which indicates the managerial ability necessary to assure reasonable prospects of success in the proposed plan of operation. There is no education or experience restriction on loans made for waste pollution abatement and control facilities under §1943.66(b) of this subpart.

(5) Be authorized to own and/or operate a farm in the State(s) in which the farm is located.

(6) Be unable to obtain sufficient credit elsewhere, either as an entity or as individual members, stockholders, partners, or joint operators, to finance actual needs at reasonable rates and terms taking into account prevailing private and cooperative rates and terms in or near the community for loans for similar purposes and periods of time.

(7) Be controlled by individuals engaged primarily and directly in farming or ranching in the United States after the loan is made.

(8) Be the owner or operator of not larger than a family farm after the loan is closed, when loan funds are used for soil and water conservation and protection purposes as defined in §1943.66 (a)(1) through (a)(5) of this subpart. There is no farm size restriction on loans made for waste pollution abatement and control facilities under §1943.66(b) of this subpart.

(9) If a tenant, has a satisfactory written lease for a sufficient period of time, and under terms that will enable the applicant to obtain reasonable returns on the improvements made with the loan. In addition, the lease or separate agreement should provide for compensating the tenant for any remaining value of the improvements upon termination of the lease.

(10) Consist of members, stockholders, partners, or joint operators, who are *individuals* and *not* corporation(s), partnership(s), cooperative(s) or joint operation(s).

(11) When loan funds will be used for soil and water conservation and protection purposes (§1943.66 (a)(1) through (a)(5) of this subpart), and the members, stockholders, partners, or joint operators holding a majority interest are related by blood or marriage, the requirements of §1943.12(b)(5), (b)(7) (if limited resource applicant), and (b)(8) of subpart A of part 1943 of this chapter will apply.

(12) When loan funds will be used for soil and water conservation and protection purposes, and the members, stockholders, partners, or joint operators holding a majority interest are not related by blood or marriage, the requirements of §1943.12(b)(6) of subpart A of part 1943 of this chapter will apply.

(c) *Borrower training.* The applicant must agree to meet the training requirements of §1924.74 of subpart B of part 1924 of this chapter unless a waiver is granted in accordance with that section. In the case of a cooperative, corporation, partnership, or joint operation, any individual member, stockholder, partner, or joint operator holding a majority interest in the operation or who is operating the farm

must agree to complete the training or qualify for the waiver on behalf of the entity. However, if one entity member is solely responsible for financial or production management, then only that entity member will be required to complete the training in that area for the entity or qualify for a partial waiver. If the financial and production functions of the farming operation are shared, the knowledge and skills of the individual(s) with the responsibility of production and/or financial management of the operation will be considered in the aggregate for granting a waiver or requiring that training be completed. If a waiver is not granted, these individuals will be required to complete the training in accordance with their responsibilities. If the applicant has previously been required to obtain training, the applicant must be enrolled in and attending, or have satisfactorily completed, the training required.

[53 FR 35706, Sept. 15, 1988, as amended at 56 FR 3972, Feb. 1, 1991; 58 FR 15072, Mar. 19, 1993; 58 FR 69199, Dec. 30, 1993]

§§ 1943.63–1943.65 [Reserved]

§ 1943.66 Loan purposes.

Loans that are consistent with all Federal, State, and local environmental quality standards may be made to:

(a) Pay costs for construction, materials, supplies, equipment, and services related to, soil and water conservation and protection purposes, such as:

(1) Installation of conservation structures, including terraces, sod waterways, permanently vegetated stream borders and filter strips, windbreaks (tree or grass), shelterbelts, and living snow fences.

(2) Establishment of forest cover for sustained yield timber management, erosion control, or shelter belt purposes.

(3) Establishment or improvement of permanent pasture.

(4) The conversion to and maintenance of sustainable agriculture production systems, as described by Department technical guides and handbooks.

(5) Payment of costs to build conservation structures or establish con-

servation practices on highly erodible land to comply with a conservation plan in accordance with part 12 of this title (see attachment 1 of exhibit M of subpart G of part 1940 of this chapter which is available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office).

(6) Other purposes consistent which plans for soil and water conservation, integrated farm management, water quality protection and enhancement, and wildlife habitat improvement.

(7) The following items/purposes related to conservation and protection purposes and water quality are authorized:

(i) Sodding, subsoiling, land leveling, liming, and fencing.

(ii) Fertilizer and seed used in connection with a soil conservation practice or to establish or improve permanent vegetation.

(iii) Gasoline, oil, and equipment rental or hire connected with establishing or completing the development.

(iv) Reasonable expenses incidental to obtaining, planning, closing, and making the loan, such as fees for legal, engineering or other technical services and first year insurance premiums which are required to be paid by the borrower and which cannot be paid from other funds. Loan funds may also be used to pay the borrower's share of Social Security taxes for labor hired by the borrower in connection with making any planned improvements.

(v) Purchase or repair of special-purpose equipment, such as terracing, land leveling, and ditching equipment, provided:

(A) Such equipment is needed and will facilitate the completion or maintenance of the planned improvement, and

(B) The cost of the equipment plus the other costs related to improvement will not be more than if performed by a contractor or by another method.

(vi) Acquire a source of water to be used on land the applicant owns, will acquire, or operates including:

(A) The purchase of water stock or membership in an incorporated water users association.

(B) The acquisition of a water right through appropriation, agreement, permit, or decree.