

**§ 1955.102 Policy.**

The terms “nonprogram (NP)” and “ineligible” may be used interchangeably throughout this subpart, but are identical in their meaning. Sales efforts will be initiated as soon as property is acquired in order to effect sale at the earliest practicable time. When a property is of a nature that will enable a qualified applicant for one of Farmers Home Administration or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354s (FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354’s) loan programs to meet the objectives of that loan program, preference will be given to the program applicants. Sales are authorized for program purposes which differ from the purposes of the loan the property formerly secured, and property which secured more than one type loan may be sold under the program most appropriate for the specific property and community needs as long as the price is not diminished. Examples are: (RH) property; detached Labor Housing or Rural Rental Housing units may be sold as SFH units; or SFH units may be sold as a Rural Rental Housing project. All such properties and applicants must meet the requirements for the loan program under which the sale is proposed.

[53 FR 35776, Sept. 14, 1988, as amended at 58 FR 52652, Oct. 12, 1993; 62 FR 44399, Aug. 21, 1997]

**§ 1955.103 Definitions.**

As used in this subpart, the following apply:

*Approval official.* The FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 official having loan and grant approval authority authorized under Subpart A of Part 1901 of this chapter.

*Auction sale.* A public sale in which property is sold to the highest bidder in open verbal competition.

*Beginning farmer or rancher.* A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who:

(1) Is an eligible applicant for FO loan assistance in accordance with § 1943.12 of subpart A of part 1943 of this chapter or § 1980.180 of subpart B of part 1980 of this chapter.

(2) Has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch

for not more than 10 years. This requirement applies to all members of an entity.

(3) Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch.

(i) In the case of a loan made to an individual, individually or with the immediate family, material and substantial participation requires that the individual provide substantial day-to-day labor and management of the farm or ranch, consistent with the practices in the county or State where the farm is located.

(ii) In the case of a loan made to an entity, all members must materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch. Material and substantial participation requires that the individual provides some amount of the management, or labor and management necessary for day-to-day activities, such that if the individual did not provide these inputs, operation of the farm or ranch would be seriously impaired.

(4) Agrees to participate in any loan assessment, borrower training, and financial management programs required by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 regulations.

(5) Does not own real farm or ranch property or who, directly or through interests in family farm entities, owns real farm or ranch property, the aggregate acreage of which does not exceed 30 percent of the average farm or ranch acreage of the farms or ranches in the county where the property is located. If the farm is located in more than one county, the average farm acreage of the county where the applicant’s residence is located will be used in the calculation. If the applicant’s residence is not located on the farm or if the applicant is an entity, the average farm acreage of the county where the major portion of the farm is located will be used. The average county farm or ranch acreage will be determined from the most recent Census of Agriculture developed by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. State Directors will publish State supplements containing the average farm or ranch acreage by county.