

# Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers Program

## Objectives

### Program Purpose

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers Program provides free training and technical assistance to eligible producers whose raw commodities have been certified by USDA as being adversely affected by import competition. The successful completion of required business adjustment plans developed through this training and technical assistance qualifies these producers for cash benefits to help defray costs of business plan implementation. The purpose of the technical assistance training is to help participating producers of agricultural or fishery products compete more effectively with imported products or switch to the production of commodities that could be more profitable.

### Public Benefits

The TAA for Farmers Program provides free training and technical assistance to producers of raw agricultural commodities, aquaculture products, or wild-caught aquatic species (jointly referred to as “agricultural commodities”) to assist them in becoming more competitive with imports of like products. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), formerly the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, and the University of Minnesota’s National TAA for Farmers Training Coordination Center (Center) will develop and deliver training and technical assistance to qualified producers through the Cooperative Extension Service or other suitable training entities. Eligible producers may receive Initial Training and Intensive Technical Assistance Training to assist them in the development of an Initial Business Plan and a Long-Term Business Adjustment Plan.

Upon the approval of an Initial Business Plan, the producer will receive an amount not to exceed \$4,000 to implement the plan or to develop a Long-Term Business Adjustment Plan. Upon approval of a Long-Term Business Adjustment Plan, the producer will receive an amount not to exceed \$8,000 to implement the plan. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is responsible for making the producer eligibility determination and payments.

## Measures

Targets will not be available until additional baseline data has been collected and producer petitions are reviewed and approved.

Measure	Target/Actual			
	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of producers receiving initial training and technical assistance	0/0	TBD	-	-
Number of producers receiving intensive training and technical assistance	0/0	TBD	-	-
Number of producers who prepared an approved Initial Business Plan	0/0	TBD	-	-

Number of producers who prepared an approved Long-Term Business Adjustment Plan	0/0	TBD	-	-
Amount of assistance (both in grants received and training and technical assistance provided) per: State, Commodity, Producer, Experts utilized in the provision of training and technical assistance	0/0	TBD	-	-

## Schedule and Milestones

Implementation of the FY 2010 Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers Program will be conducted to accomplish all milestones simultaneously.

Milestone	Completion Date
Development of Program Regulation and the Implementation of Procedures for the Certification of Group Petitions and the Receipt of Producer Applications	
Development and publication in Federal Register of a proposed rule were completed in August 2009. Sixteen comments were received during the public comment period.	August 2009
Development and publication in Federal Register of an interim rule and opening of additional public comment period were completed in March 2010; No comments were received; Program was implemented on March 1, 2010.	March 2010
Initial receipt of commodity-specific petitions was completed in April 2010, with FAS receiving 17 petitions, and accepting 13 for review, plus two that were incorporated into a regional petition.	April 2010
FAS accepted additional petitions for the purpose of joining them to earlier submitted petitions. All are currently under review.	May 2010
Development and Implementation of Outreach Plan -----	February 2010
FAS, along with its partners, FSA, NIFA, AMS, and the University of Minnesota's National Training Center, performed extensive outreach to encourage a high level of participation in the TAA for Farmers Program, including releasing dozens of press releases and <i>Federal Register</i> notices; handling numerous inquiries from Congress, the general public, and print and broadcast media; and designing and distributing thousands of brochures and program notices throughout the country.	
Some specific outreach activities included: announcing the launch of the program to a national audience through media outlets in all 50 states, as well as through in-house USDA reporters with <i>Dow Jones</i> , <i>the Associated Press</i> , <i>Bloomberg News</i> , <i>Reuters</i> , and <i>Farm Progress</i> ; reaching out to print and broadcast media, including 90 radio farm broadcasters, USDA Radio, and 18 agricultural publications, to inform them of the program's benefits and eligibility requirements; giving presentations to House and Senate legislators and staff interested in implementation of the program;	March 2010

and conducting public hearings on program petitions.

FAS also worked with its partners to distribute a series of program brochures and announcements to more than 1 500 commodity groups; all 1 862 and 1 890 land grant universities and colleges; select farm and fishery groups; minority groups, including the Black Farmers Association and the Intertribal Agriculture Council; all FSA county extension offices; as well as groups such as the U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council and its members, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and its members; and to all of the State-Regional Trade Groups. March 2010

Development of Information Technology Requirements and Grant Agreement Execution	
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FSA is actively engaged in developing the IT software for the management of petitions, producer applications, payments, and reporting.	Ongoing
NIFA competitively bid and awarded a contract to the University of Minnesota's National Training Center in Sept. 2009 for the organization and delivery of the program's technical assistance training.	September 2009
Initial receipt of commodity-specific petitions was completed in April 2010, with FAS receiving 17 petitions, and accepting 13 for review.	April 2010
FAS requested additional petitions for the purpose of joining them to earlier submitted petitions; Five additional petitions were received and are currently under review. FAS has 40 days to review and certify/deny the petitions. Once a petition is certified, producers then have 90 days to go to their local FSA office and apply for technical assistance and benefits.	May 2010

## Projects and Activities

### Kinds and Scope of Program Activities

CFDA: 10.609

The ARRA funds for TAA for Farmers training and technical assistance will be expended through a drawdown of a NIFA award to the Center. The Center will coordinate the delivery of training and technical assistance with sub-awards to local institutions in the region(s) covered by a certified petition. The training and technical assistance programs will be available to eligible producers covered by a certified petition leading to the development and implementation of Initial and Long-Term Business Adjustment Plans. Funds have also been provided to FSA for contracting for software development and Information Technology support for tracking petitions, producer applications, making cash payments to producers, and reporting. FSA will make cash payments to eligible producers who have satisfactorily completed their Initial and Long-Term Business

Adjustment Plans. ARRA funds will also be applied to salaries and expenses of employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for administering the TAA for Farmers program.

### **Review Process**

Measures, including metrics that are reviewed at the national level no less than annually, have been developed by FAS, FSA, and NIFA to track program performance related to the specific goals of the ARRA and other statutory requirements of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers program.

### **Cost and Performance Plan**

FAS program managers, in collaboration with NIFA and FSA, will be responsible for implementing, improving, and monitoring program activities. Individual performance plans of FAS managers are tied to the Agency mission and goals contained in the FAS Strategic Plan. FAS will monitor overall program execution, NIFA will monitor the delivery of training and technical assistance projects, and the Center will report directly to NIFA and FAS. FSA will monitor the individual producer application process, the development, and support of IT software and hardware requirements on a daily basis, and coordinate the sharing of information with the National TAA for Farmers Training Coordination Center. Field reviews will also be conducted on a quarterly basis by involved agencies, commencing with the certification of group petitions.

### **Energy Efficiency Spending Plans**

Not applicable to this program

### **Program Plan Award Types**

#### **Advisory Services and Counseling**

##### **Recipient Applicant Type:**

- Individual/Family

##### **Beneficiary Type:**

- Farmer/Rancher/Agriculture Producer/Fishermen

## **Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers Program FY 2010 Addendum**

This document updates the original Program Plan, published in May 2009.

### **Program Purpose**

This section was modified to:

- Correct the acronym of the program from TAAF to “Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers Program.”
- Describe the program purpose in more detail.

### **Public Benefits**

This section was modified to:

- Correct the acronym of the program from TAAF to “Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers Program.”
- Correct the name of the Extension Service from (CSREES) to National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).
- Describe the public benefits in more detail.

### **Measures**

This section was modified to:

- Insert “TBD” in the 2010 column to indicate that targets will not be available until additional baseline data has been collected and producers’ petitions are reviewed and certified. (see chart below)
- Delete the performance indicator in the first row on the Measure chart entitled: “number of jobs created and retained.” The May 2009 Program Plan included this performance indicator; however, it was removed because valid, quantitative results of jobs retained (TAA for Farmers focuses on retaining jobs, not creating them) will not be

available until after producers implement their business adjustment plans, which will likely take 3–5 years. (see chart below)

Measure	Target/Actual			
	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of producers receiving initial training and technical assistance	0/0	TBD	NA	NA
Number of producers receiving intensive training and technical assistance	0/0	TBD	NA	NA
Number of producers who prepared an approved initial Business Plan	0/0	TBD	N/A	N/A
Number of producers who prepared an approved Long-Term Business Adjustment Plan	0/0	TBD	N/A	N/A
Amount of assistance (both in grants received and training and technical assistance provided) per: State, Commodity, Producer, Experts utilized in the provision of training and technical assistance	\$22.8 M	TBD	N/A	N/A

**Milestone**

*Development of Program Regulation, Group Petition Certification, and Producer Application*

This section was modified to:

- Insert the completion date of March 2010 (ongoing).
- Explain, in detail, the following milestones:

- Development and publication in Federal Register of a proposed rule were completed in August 2009. Sixteen comments were received during the public comment period.
- Development and publication in Federal Register of an interim rule and opening of additional public comment period were completed in March 2010. No comments were received. Program was implemented on March 1, 2010.
- Initial receipt of commodity-specific petitions was completed in April 2010, with FAS receiving 17 petitions, and accepting 13 for review.
- In May 2010, FAS requested additional petitions for the purpose of joining them to earlier submitted petitions. Five additional petitions were received and are currently under review.

### *Development and Implementation of Outreach Plan*

This section was modified to:

- Insert the completion date of February 2010 (ongoing).
- Correct the acronym of the program from TAAF to “Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers Program.”
- Correct the name of the Extension Service from (CSREES) to National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).
- Fully describe the outreach and communications activities that were completed, including releasing dozens of press releases and *Federal Register* notices; handling numerous inquiries from Congress, the general public, and print and broadcast media; and designing and

distributing thousands of brochures and program notices throughout the country.

- Describe specific outreach and communications activities, including:
  - Announcing the launch of the program to a national audience through media outlets in all 50 states, as well as through in-house USDA reporters with *Dow Jones, the Associated Press, Bloomberg News, Reuters, and Farm Progress*.
  - Reaching out to print and broadcast media, including 90 radio farm broadcasters, USDA Radio, and 18 agricultural publications, to inform them of the program's benefits and eligibility requirements.
  - Giving presentations to House and Senate legislators and staff interested in implementation of the program.
  - Conducting public hearings on program petitions.
- Describe specific partner-assisted outreach activities, including:
  - Distributing a series of program brochures and announcements to more than 1 500 commodity groups; all 1862 and 1890 land grant universities and colleges; select farm and fishery groups; minority groups, including the Black Farmers Association and the Intertribal Agriculture Council; all FSA county extension offices; as well as groups such as the U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council and its members, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and its members; and to all of the State-Regional Trade Groups.

### Information Technology Requirements

This section was modified to:

- Insert the completion date of “ongoing” to illustrate that FSA is currently implementing software developed to automate the program’s administrative responsibilities.

### Grant Agreement Execution

This section was modified to:

- Announce that NIFA competitively bid and awarded a grant to the University of Minnesota’s National Training Center for the organization and delivery of the program’s technical assistance training.

## **Projects and Activities**

### **Kinds and Scope of Program Activities**

This section was modified to:

- Correct the name of the Extension Service from (CSREES) to National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

### **Review Process**

This section was modified to:

- Correct the name of the Extension Service from (CSREES) to National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

### **Cost and Performance Plan**

This section was modified to:

- Correct the name of the Extension Service from (CSREES) to National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

