



Tobacco Payment Program

Overview

The Tobacco Payment Program (TOPP) helps enhance the economic stability of tobacco producers. On February 20, 2003, the President signed the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003, which included provisions to provide direct payments to all acreage allotment/marketing quota holders and tobacco growers.

Benefits

The program provides \$53 million to eligible applicants.

How TOPP Works

Application for direct payment sign-up for TOPP begins March 17 and ends May 16, 2003. Payments will be issued between mid-May and June 1, 2003. Late-filed applications will not be accepted. Funds will be dispersed according to allocation formulas tied to the various types of tobacco. Payment rates and disbursement information will be provided to local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices by March 17.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are quota holders and producers of all kinds of tobacco under USDA's 2002 tobacco program.

An eligible person owns, controls, or produces eligible tobacco on a

farm for which an acreage allotment/marketing quota was established for the 2002 marketing year. An eligible farm is one for which, irrespective of temporary transfers or undermarketings, a basic quota or allotment for eligible tobacco was established for the 2002 crop year. The following types of tobacco are eligible for TOPP:

- Flue-cured (types 11-14)
- Burley (type 31)
- Fire-cured (types 21-23)
- Dark air-cured (types 35-36)
- Virginia sun-cured (type 37)
- Cigar filler/binder (types 42-44, 54 and 55).

For More Information

If you need more information about TOPP, please contact your local FSA office or conservation district. Information is also available on FSA's Web site at disaster.fsa.usda.gov

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