



United States
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Agriculture

Farm Production
and Conservation

Farm
Service
Agency

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RECEIVED
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BY: _____

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Dear Agricultural Partner,

As you are most likely aware, the Spotted Lanternfly poses a significant threat to Pennsylvania agriculture. The Pennsylvania State Committee for the Farm Service Agency recently met to evaluate Spotted Lanternfly's impact on our orchard, vineyard, and nursery industry. State Committee approved Spotted Lanternfly as an eligible cause of loss for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) in Pennsylvania and we would like to ask for your help spreading the word.

TAP provides financial assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines lost by natural disasters; including ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees. TAP helps with up to 65 percent of the cost of replanting and 50 percent of the cost of rehabilitation, adjusted for normal mortality.

I have enclosed a news release and fact sheet for the Tree Assistance Program. We would greatly appreciate any efforts to share this information with your customers, stakeholders, and anyone that may benefit from this disaster assistance program.

Anyone interested in applying for or learning more about the program may contact their local Farm Service Agency county office. To locate their office, they can find it at www.farmers.gov.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 717-237-2130 or Trystan.Corliss@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Trystan Corliss
TAP Program Specialist



News Release

Pennsylvania

Farm Service Agency
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USDA Offers Assistance to Pennsylvania Producers Affected by Spotted Lanternfly

HARRISBURG, July 19, 2019 – The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Pennsylvania announced that orchardists and nursery tree growers who experienced losses from spotted lanternfly infestation are eligible for assistance through the Tree Assistance Program (TAP).

The spotted lanternfly, or *Lycorma delicatula*, was first detected in Pennsylvania in September 2014. This species presents a significant threat to Pennsylvania agriculture, including the grape, tree-fruit, hardwood and nursery industries, which collectively are worth nearly \$18 billion to the state's economy.

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters. Producers who experienced losses have until 90 calendar days after the disaster event or when the loss becomes apparent to submit an application with supporting documentation.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, the loss must be in excess of 15 percent mortality (adjusted for normal mortality). Producers must have owned the stand from the time of the disaster until the time that the TAP application is submitted but are not required to own the land on which the stand was planted.

Approved replacement and rehabilitation practices must be completed within 12 months from the date the application is approved.

For more information about TAP, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/tap or contact your local USDA service center. To find your local office, visit farmers.gov.

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Farm Service Agency
TAP

Tree Assistance Program

FACT SHEET
May 2018

Overview

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) to provide financial assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines lost by natural disasters. TAP is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Eligible Tree Types

Eligible trees, bushes, and vines are those from which an annual crop is produced for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible for TAP assistance.



Eligible Losses

To be considered an eligible loss:

- Eligible trees, bushes, or vines must have suffered more than a 15 percent mortality loss in a stand (adjusted for normal mortality) due to an eligible natural disaster;
- Mortality loss on a stand of eligible trees, bushes, or vines is based on:
 - Each eligible disaster event, except for losses due to plant disease; and
 - For plant disease, the time period as determined by the FSA for which the stand is infected.
- The loss must not have been preventable through reasonable and available measures;
- The loss must be visible and obvious to the FSA representative; if the loss is no longer visible, FSA may accept other loss evidence and determine whether that other evidence substantiates that an eligible loss due to natural disaster occurred; and
- FSA may require information from a qualified expert to determine extent of loss in the case of plant disease or insect infestation.

Eligible Producers

To qualify for TAP, eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers must:

- Have suffered qualifying tree, bush or vine losses in excess of 15 percent mortality for the stand (adjusted for normal mortality) from an eligible natural disaster;
- Have owned the eligible trees, bushes and vines when the natural disaster occurred, but eligible growers are not required to own the land on which eligible trees, bushes and vines are planted; and
- Replace eligible trees, bushes and vines within 12 months from the date the TAP application is approved.



TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - MAY 2018

Acreage Limitations

The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes, or vines for which an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower can receive TAP payments cannot exceed 500 acres annually for losses that occurred prior to December 31, 2016.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 increased the cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes, or vines for which an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower can receive TAP payments from 500 acres annually to 1,000 acres annually for losses that occurred on or after January 1, 2017.

Payment Limitation and Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

For losses that occurred prior to December 31, 2016, the cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines for which a producer can receive TAP payments cannot exceed 500 acres annually.

For losses that occurred on or after January 1, 2017; there is no payment limitation for TAP.

In applying the limitation on average adjusted gross income, an individual or entity is ineligible for payment under TAP if the average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of the individual or entity exceeds \$900,000.

Direct attribution provisions apply to TAP for 2011 and subsequent years. Under direct attribution, any payment to a legal entity will be considered (for payment limitation purposes) to be a payment to persons or legal entities with an interest in the legal entity or in a sub-entity.

Payment Calculation

For tree, bush, or vine replacement, replanting and/or rehabilitation, the payment calculation is the lesser of the following:

- 65 percent of the actual cost of replanting, in excess of 15 percent mortality (adjusted for normal mortality), and, where applicable, 50 percent of the actual cost of rehabilitation, in excess of 15 percent damage or mortality (adjusted for normal tree damage and mortality); or
- The maximum eligible amount established for the practice by FSA.

Applications

The following table provides the final dates to submit a TAP application and supporting documentation:

Date of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application and Supporting Documentation
Calendar year 2015 through December 31, 2016	Later of 90 calendar days of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the disaster event; or • the date when the loss is apparent to the producer.
January 1, 2017, and subsequent years	Later of 60 calendar days after (date of publication in Federal Register) or within 90 calendar days of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the disaster event; or • the date when the loss is apparent to the producer.

For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For more information about FSA disaster programs, visit <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.