



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

Farm
Service
Agency

fsa.usda.gov

TAP Presenter

Ryan Brunn

County Executive Director

Benton, Mille Lacs

Sherburne, and Anoka

ryan.brunn@usda.gov

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Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

Overview

- The Tree Assistance Program (TAP) provides 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).

What Is Eligible

- 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 not eligible for TAP assistance.

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Eligible Losses

- A requisite death loss must first be sustained; a stand of eligible trees, bushes, or vines must have suffered more than a 15 percent mortality loss (after normal mortality) due to a 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.

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Eligible Orchardists and Nursery Tree Growers

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

- Have suffered a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality for the stand (adjusted for normal mortality) due to 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 owned 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.

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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 normal mortality); or
- The maximum eligible amount established for the practice by FSA.

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The 2018 Farm Bill increased the reimbursement amount for applicants who meet the definition of a beginning or veteran farmer or rancher. The payment calculation is the lesser of the following:

- 75 percent of the actual cost of replanting, in excess of 15 percent mortality (adjusted for normal mortality), and, where applicable, 75 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.

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An acreage report must first be on file before applying for TAP

- Loaded on an FSA-578 form

CCC-899 (application for coverage) must be filed within 90 calendar days of each disaster event or date when the loss is apparent to the producer.

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Questions?