

What is TAA?

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers provides free technical assistance and cash benefits to producers of agricultural commodities and to fishermen who have been adversely affected by import competition.

To participate in TAA, an agricultural or fisheries commodity must first petition USDA to become eligible for TAA. A commodity is eligible if it has experienced more than a 15% decline in the national average price, or the quantity of production, or the value of production in the most recent marketing year compared to the previous three marketing years; and if imports contributed importantly to this decline.

If USDA certifies a commodity eligible for TAA, then individual producers or fishermen of that commodity can apply for TAA benefits.

What are the Benefits to Producers and Fishermen?

TAA provides training to help producers increase profitability, improve production efficiency, consider marketing opportunities, and evaluate alternative enterprises. TAA will also help participants develop a business plan, evaluate changes to their business, and provide cash payments to help implement changes. Altogether the package of benefits will help producers compete with foreign competition and generate higher profits.

TAA Technical Assistance includes the following components:

Phase 1: Initial technical assistance - a one to three hour workshop that provides an overview of TAA and opportunities to improve production and marketing or evaluate alternative enterprises

Phase 2: Intensive technical assistance - participants can choose from a series of seven to eight workshops on topics relevant to the commodity that will help improve profitability. Participants must attend a minimum of 12 hours of workshops to move on to the next phase.

Phase 3: Initial business plan - participants must write a short description of what they learned from the workshops and how they will apply it to their business. A set of questions will be provided to help participants complete this phase. Upon successful submission of an Initial Business Plan, participants are eligible to receive up to a \$4,000 cash payment

Phase 4: Long-term business adjustment plan - An individual business planning consultant will be provided to each participant to help them develop a business plan for their business. Upon completion and approval of the business plan, participants are eligible to receive up to an additional \$8,000 cash payment.



Deadlines

The deadline to apply for TAA is 90 days after USDA has certified a commodity eligible for TAA. Producers and fishermen of eligible commodities should receive a letter outlining the application deadlines. The deadlines are also available at www.TAAforFarmers.org under Approved Commodities.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted to a local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. Most counties have an FSA office. To apply, complete FSA Form 229-1. This form is available at FSA offices or online at:

z.umn.edu/taaf2291

What you will need to apply

Applicants must provide documentation that they produced or caught the approved commodity in the marketing year for which the commodity petition was approved and that they produced or caught the commodity in at least one of the three prior years. Applicants may also need to certify that either their production or price received declined from previous years.

Alternates

Any applicant can designate an alternate who may attend the training workshops. Some workshops will have the option of taking the technical assistance online in addition to in-person workshops, so families or businesses may want to consider identifying an alternate comfortable with taking online training.

What Happens After Applying?

All applicants will receive notification listing available technical assistance workshops.



For More Information

Contact your Regional TAA Center or USDA Foreign Agricultural Service:

Southern Center

University of Arkansas
(501) 671-2165

Northeast Center

University of Delaware
(302) 831-7555

Western Center

Washington State University
(509) 477-2176

North Central Center

University of Nebraska
(800) 535-3456

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

(202) 720-0638

Or visit:

www.TAAforFarmers.org



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