

TAA

Trade Adjustment
Assistance for Farmers
Technical Assistance

Find more information online at TAAforFarmers.org



Extension Executive Briefing on Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers

What is Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers?

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.



Who is Eligible

An agricultural or fisheries commodity can 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, or in cash receipts in the most recent marketing year compared to the previous three marketing years; and if imports contributed importantly to this decline.

How to Apply

A commodity organization or any group of three unrelated producers can submit a petition to the USDA. Once a commodity is approved, individual producers and fishermen can apply at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

How it Works

After a commodity is certified eligible for TAA, producers or fishermen have 90 days to sign up at a USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

Initial technical assistance will be delivered by Extension Service educators within 180 days after a commodity is certified. Intensive technical assistance and assistance developing a business plan will also be provided by Extension, but producers and fishermen will have three years to complete these phases of the program.

Delivery of Technical Assistance

Coordination of TAA technical assistance will be done by the Center for Farm Financial Management at the University of Minnesota and the four regional Extension Risk Management Education centers at Washington State University, University of Arkansas, University of Nebraska, and the University of Delaware.



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 funding to implement changes. TAA Technical Assistance for producers and fishermen includes the following components:

Initial technical assistance - an overview of TAA and opportunities to improve production and marketing or evaluate alternative enterprises

Intensive technical assistance - choose from a series of workshops on topics relevant to the commodity that are will help improve profitability

Initial business plan - write a short description of how you plan to change your business based on what was learned from the workshops to become eligible to receive a maximum \$4,000 cash payment

Long-term business adjustment plan - get help developing a business plan outlining how you will implement changes to your business. Completion makes you eligible for a maximum \$8,000 cash payment



Extension Involvement

TAA provides opportunities and benefits for educators involved:

New audiences

In the previous TAA program, 80% of participants were not traditional Extension clientele for some commodities

New programs and educational materials

Can use the educational materials developed for TAA in other programs and with other audiences

New funding

TAA provides new financial resources if your state has an eligible commodity. When a commodity is approved in a state, a subcontract will be initiated with the University of Minnesota. Costs associated with the development and delivery of technical assistance will be paid for by TAA

New partnerships

With commodity organizations
With others delivering TAA

Educator Roles

State Contacts

Each state will have one or more state contacts whose primary role will be to identify and recruit a commodity development team if a commodity is approved for TAA in the state

Commodity development teams

Teams will include specialists who can develop training content and work with local educators to deliver training

Local educators

May help deliver training to producers

For more information visit: www.TAAforFarmers.org or contact the Center for Farm Financial Management or your regional center.

Center for Farm Financial Management, University of Minnesota (612) 625-1964

North Central Risk Management Education Center, University of Nebraska - Lincoln Extension (402) 472-2039

Northeast Center for Risk Management Education, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension (302) 831-6540

Southern Risk Management Education Center, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture (501) 671-2165

Western Center for Risk Management Education, Washington State University Cooperative Extension (509) 477-2168

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