

Agricultural Act of 2014

Sec. 1614 – Producer Education – Extension Services – Frequently Asked Questions

August 29, 2014:

For State FSA Offices

Q1: My State extension service partners have received the draft cooperative agreement. What are the next steps?

A1: Extension needs to review the draft cooperative agreement. If no changes are proposed:

- Extension needs to complete FSA-641,
 - Column (3), documenting it's 20-percent match requirement;
 - Column (1), in collaboration with the State office, showing how it intends to use the federal obligation (FSA-640, item 6; and
- Sign FSA-640, -641, -642, AD-1047, AD-1049 and (for agreements greater than \$100,000) CCC-674.

After scanning all of the forms in their entirety, email to Robert.Stephenson@wdc.usda.gov who will review for completeness then arrange for review/approval by the Administrator.

If extension proposes changes, extension and/or the State FSA official (FSA-640, item 9B) should email and/or call Robert Stephenson at 202-720-4019 to discuss proposed changes. Once any changes have been agreed to (which may require review by OGC for legal sufficiency), extension can follow guidance above.

Q2: Are indirect costs authorized?

A2: Indirect costs are not authorized as provided by the regulations at 7 CFR § 550.14. However, indirect costs may be used as part of the calculation of the 20-percent match requirement.

Q3: Are pre-award costs authorized?

A3: No, funds may not be used to cover obligations or expenditures made prior to the start date of the agreement.

Q4: Does the cooperator need to provide a match?

A4: The cooperator's contribution must be no less than 20 percent of the funded amount of the agreement. The 20-percent match is documented on FSA-641, column (3).

Q5: Why does the amount on the FSA-640, item 6, differ from the amount on the FSA-641, column (2)?

A5: The FSA-640, item 6, provides the federal obligation that is available to the university to do the outreach and education. The FSA-641, column (2), amount is the amount that FSA DC calculated to demonstrate what FSA will contribute in support of the cooperative agreement.

Under the regulations, both parties must contribute resources. FSA's resources (or in-house costs) is the time, benefits, and travel that we estimated would be used. That is column (2). The university must provide a 20% match and column (3) is used for the university to demonstrate what resources it is providing to meet the 20%.

Column (1) is where the university shows us how it intends to spend the \$42,685 federal obligation.

Q6: Is a cooperator required to attend training on the web-decision tools?

A6: A cooperator agrees to take the training either in-person or by webinar.

Q7: Is there a deadline for submission of the forms?

A7: We have not established a deadline for the forms; however, extension will not be able to use the funds until the cooperative agreement has been approved.

From State Extension Services

(Questions from Extension – Answers from FSA DC)

Q -- If a state uses a trainer from a different state that has been to the FSA approved training (in this case dairy), does the hosting state also have to send someone to the (dairy) training in order for the meetings to qualify for FSA reimbursement? Jimmy Henning, University of Kentucky

A – This may be conceivable but we would ask how the trainer from a different State is going to be traveling the other State to train producers in the live meetings component. Perhaps I misunderstand the situation.

Q -- If we have someone attending the Dairy training, have we met the training requirements and have the skills needed for implementation? Or do we need to attend both types of training....and if so, do we have information on the other training options outside of dairy?

A – Attending the dairy training sponsored by the University of Illinois beginning Sept 9 in Syracuse and then moving to Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, and Fresno will satisfy the need for the dairy training. This is a link to the dairy training: <http://dairymarkets.org/MPP/Meetings/TtT.html>. The training for the other tools (i.e. ARC/PLC and NAP) will be made available later when those regulations become available and

will include the option of attending 4 regional meetings. Also, all of the tools will have webinars developed by the universities developing the tools. That is another option rather than attending the training.

Q – The 2014 Farm Bill Conference will be held September 3-4 in Kansas City, Missouri at the Hilton Kansas City Airport Hotel. The conference is a train-the-trainer event for Extension professionals nationwide to learn about the new farm bill and gather the materials, insight, and tools needed to educate producers and others about farm bill programs, decisions, and issues. Does this conference meet the training requirements?

Jimmy Henning, University of Kentucky

A -- The cooperative agreement funding may **not** be used for the AAEEA meeting in early September. The universities will only be giving the briefest of demonstrations and only the dairy tool will be considered “final” if the dairy regulation is published before next week. The funds may be used to attend the dairy tool meetings beginning Tuesday, September 9, in Syracuse with succeeding daily meetings in Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, and Fresno. Here is a link to the dairy tool meetings: <http://dairymarkets.org/MPP/Meetings/TtT.html>. For the ARC/PLC and NAP tools, there will be four regional meetings which have not yet been scheduled.

Q -- In what FSA is sending to Directors, form FSA 642 says the cooperator agrees to: Take the training to-be-scheduled by the National Coalition for Producer Education (NCPE) led by the University of Illinois and/or the National Association for Food and Agricultural Policy (NAAFP) co-led by the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute at the University of Missouri and the Agricultural and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M either in-person or by webinar. We need to know -- Does this mean that one person can attend the Dairy training led by NCPE/U of Illinois and they do not need to also go to the training co-led by NAAFP/TAMU? If they go to one of these trainings do they get all tools (dairy and crop)? Or, does someone have to go to both these trainings? It says one has to go in-person or via webinar. In the announcement about dairy training by NCPE/U of Illinois, I did not see provision for webinar. Do we know what training will be provided by webinar? Schedule? Procedures?

A -- The only dairy training that will be available will be by NCPE (University of Illinois and its partners). Unfortunately, because of different program schedules, the dairy training to be provided by NCPE from Sep 9 – 13 will **not** include any crop information or tools. The new commodity program (agricultural risk coverage/price loss coverage programs) will have training available for FSA and extension through four regional meetings. Those meetings have not yet been scheduled but we expect to begin in early fall. Also, both the dairy and ARC/PLC tools will have a suite of available information from the developers including webinars. The webinars are scheduled to be rolled out when the regulations for the underlying programs are published.

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all of the tools will have webinars developed by the universities developing the tools. That is another option rather than attending the training.