



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm Production
And Conservation
(FPAC)

Farm Service
Agency (FSA)

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DATE: June 15, 2018

TO: Julie A. Wise
OMB Desk Officer

THROUGH: Ruth Brown
USDA Information Collection Officer

FROM: *for* Bradley Karmen *Deirdre Holder*
FSA Acting Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs

SUBJECT: Request for Emergency Approval for a New Information Collection Package—2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (2017 WHIP) and Citrus Trees Block Grant to Florida

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is currently implementing the 2017 WHIP and Citrus Trees Block Grant to Florida. FSA is requesting emergency approval by July 6, 2018, to provide payments quickly to the producers. A key part of the FSA mission is to help producers to financially recover from natural disasters. The 2017 hurricanes and wildfires resulted in producers suffering crop, tree, bush, and vine losses. Therefore, the 2017 WHIP is essential to the mission of FSA. The 2017 WHIP payments for crop losses cover only production losses; they do not cover quality losses. Eligible crops include those for which crop insurance or NAP coverage is available, excluding crops intended for grazing. The program is funded under Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. Additionally, FSA will provide a block grant to the State of Florida for Hurricane Irma losses to citrus trees for reimbursement for the cost of buying and planting replacement trees, including resetting and grove rehabilitation. Under the normal clearance procedure, the producers would not be able to get payment in time to help them with their recovery and cover the loss of incomes.

The final rule will be published in the Federal Register to notify applicants of the sign-up period from July 16, 2018 through November 16, 2018. Up to 40,831 producers are expected to apply for payments under 2017 WHIP. Sign-up for payments under the block grant will be administered by the State of Florida. The 2017 WHIP application (form FSA-890) will be processed at FSA county office and entered in an automated system for the producers. Producers are also required to complete forms FSA-891, Crop Insurance and/or NAP Coverage Agreement; FSA-892, Request for an Exception to the 2017 WHIP Payment Limitation of \$125,000, if applicable; FSA-893, 2018 Citrus Actual Production History and Approved Yield Record, (Florida only), if applicable; CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for Individual or Legal Entity; AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) and Wetland Conservation Certification; and FSA-578, Report of Acreage, on file to receive payments.

If there are any questions or concerns, please call Deirdre Holder at 202-205-5851.