



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Farm Production
And Conservation
(FPAC)

Farm Service
Agency (FSA)

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DATE: December 14, 2020

TO: Cortney Higgins
OMB Desk Officer

THROUGH: Ruth Brown
USDA Information Collection Officer

FROM: Brad Karmen
FSA Deputy Administrator Farm Programs

SUBJECT: Request for Emergency Approval for a New Information Collection Package—Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) Program

This request is for OMB review and emergency approval of a collection of information necessary to implement the Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) Program because we could not comply with the normal clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act. The QLA program will provide financial assistance to crop producers who experienced a crop quality loss due to a qualifying disaster event in calendar years 2018 or 2019, which is essential to the mission of FSA to provide financial assistance quickly as possible. Also, to comply with the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, the provisions for the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) are adding the excessive moisture and drought occurring in 2018 and 2019 as qualifying disaster events and clarifying eligibility of sugar beets.

The sign-up period for the QLA Program will be from the middle of December, 2020 to February, 2021. The final rule will be published in the Federal Register to provide guidance and notify applicants of the sign-up period. Up to 180,000 producers are expected to apply for payments under the QLA Program.

FSA needs to collect information from applicants by completing the form FSA-898 QLA application for the eligible crops that suffered a quality loss due to qualifying disaster events. Producers are also required to have the following forms on file with FSA: FSA-899, Historical Nutritional Value Weighted Average Worksheet (Only for Forage Crops) if applicable; FSA-578, Report of Acreage; FSA-895, Crop Insurance and/or NAP Coverage Agreement; CCC-902 (I or E), Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility; CCC-901, Member Information for Legal Entities, if applicable; CCC-941, Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information; CCC-942, Certification of Income from Farming, Ranching, and Forestry Operations, Optional; and AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation Certification.

We are requesting emergency approval of a new information collection package by December 18, 2020, in order to quickly provide assistance to farmers.

If there are any questions or concerns, please call Deirdre Holder at 202-205-5851 or Mary Ann Ball at 202-720-4283.