

ONTARIO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
December 18, 2024
Minutes

Meeting held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension (District Office)

PRESENT

DIRECTORS: Chairman Sam Casella, Vice Chairman Jim Malyj, Ken Livermore, Dale Stell, Mark Venuti, Amanda Amadon, Ed Jackson (1:06pm)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Megan Webster, Diana Thorn

USDA

FSA: None

NRCS: None

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Casella called the regular meeting to order at 1:02pm and Jim led the pledge to the flag.

MINUTES

Chairman Casella asked for any comments, changes, or corrections to the minutes from November 20, 2024. The following motion was offered:

Motion that the minutes of November 20, 2024 be accepted as submitted.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Mark Venuti.

All in favor, motion approved. (Ed Jackson not present yet)

Resolution #20241218-01

BILLS

A spreadsheet was provided that shows the bills that appear in the Abstract listed with more detail and in their current status. The bills were available for review.

Motion to approve the bills as submitted and Abstract #12 in the amount of \$135,483.05.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Dale Stell.

Ken Livermore reviewed and signed the bills earlier today.

All in favor, motion approved. (Ed Jackson not present yet)

Resolution #20241218-02

Ed Jackson arrived at 1:06pm

TREASURER'S REPORT

Diana reviewed the Treasurer's Report with the Board, which includes the financial statements for November 30, 2024. Megan has reviewed and signed payrolls #24 and #25; the November bank statements; and the reconciliation reports from QuickBooks. All bank accounts are reconciled successfully through November 30th.

Diana reported that the District Savings Certificate of Deposit #2 was rolled over for 30 days.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and the November financial statements.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Jim Malyj.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20241218-03

2025 BUDGET

Motion to approve the 2025 Budget as recommended by the Budget Committee with the authorization to update the Personal Services lines with the Federal Pay Scale numbers once they are released.

Motion made by Mark Venuti, seconded by Ken Livermore.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20241218-04

Approved budget is attached to these minutes.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

None

FSA

Joann Rogers – report submitted via email, fact sheet attached to these minutes.

County Committee (COC): The next COC meeting is on Friday, 01/10/2025 at 9AM

Market Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Program: provides assistance for eligible specialty crop producers; sign up deadline is 01/08/2025. For more information visit: [Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops \(MASC\) | Farm Service Agency](#) or review factsheet: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/tools/informational/fact-sheets/marketing-assistance-specialty-crops-program>

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP): provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses, or prevents crop planting; deadline for 2025 Honey and Maple Sap is **12/31/2024: [noninsured crop disaster assistance program-nap-fact sheet.pdf \(usda.gov\)](#)**

Disaster Programs: FSA offers a variety of disaster programs that assist with honeybee losses, livestock losses, milk losses, tree and vine losses, and feed losses. We request producers contact the office if they have any weather related losses to report.

Farm Program Loans:

- **Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL):** interest rates range from 4.125% to 4.375% for terms from 3 years to 12 years; the FSFL program has a variety of loan options from bulk tanks, hay barns, grain bins/dryers, telehandlers and storage coolers just to name a few; [farm storage facility loan programs fact sheet july 2022.pdf \(usda.gov\)](#)
- **Market Assistance Loans (MAL's)** are short-term commodity loans with interest rate of 5.250% for grain stored in bins. [mal ldp fact sheet.pdf \(usda.gov\)](#)

Farm Loan: has a variety of loans available and funding is still available. **Farm Loan staff:** Abbey Combs (abbey.combs@usda.gov), Farm Loan Officer; and Kim Weykman (Kimberly.weykman@usda.gov), and Denise Buisch (denise.buisch@usda.gov) assists with new farm loan inquiries; Abbey and Kim can be reached at 585-394-0525 ext. 2 and Denise can be reached at 315-946-9912 ext. 112.

Farm Record: if new producers are interested in getting their farm records established please have them contact the office to make an appointment to get these established; here is a factsheet for your reference: [farmersgov-getstarted-factsheet-06-15-2021.pdf](#)

Crop Reporting: the office is crop reporting apples, grapes, peaches, and cherries with a reporting deadline date of 01/15/2025. Honeybee colonies have a reporting deadline of 01/02/2025. We also are able to report cover crops. Fact sheet: [FSA: Crop Acreage Reporting \(usda.gov\)](#)

Reminder to complete the AD-1026 form PRIOR to any clearing or tiling projects.

Please feel free to refer any inquiries on any FSA programs or what programs we have to offer by contacting our office at 585-394-0525 ext. 2.

In addition to myself there are Program Analysts: Faith Avedisian, Courtney Kautz, and Sarah Potter.

We encourage participation from all types and sizes of farm operations, whether you are an Urban or Rural producer/farmer.

NRCS

Dan Weykman – report submitted via email.

- **All Programs**
 - FY25 Application deadline was November 1, 2024.
 - ~35 applications submitted
 - High Tunnels & Forestry mostly, handful of cover crop, low tunnels, grazing
 - Upcoming Farm Bill (?) & lack of approved Federal budget Could impact timelines and funding levels.
 - ACT-NOW – expedited contracting approvals for specific funding pools. At least 8 high tunnel applications selected, will be contracted in January/February. (other funding pools to be selected mid-March)
- **EQIP**
 - Existing Contracts:
 - Payments:
 - ~\$30630– Brush Mgmt, Cover Crop, Deep Tillage, CNMP-written, Forestry
- **CSP**
 - Calendar Year 2024 Payments completed (~\$105k)
 - Some chose to receive after January 1, 2025
 - 15 Total contracts active

- 1 Renewal Contract signed in FY25
- All contracts will now have \$4000/year minimum payment

➤ **Food Security Act Determinations**

- On going priority
- All wetland determination requests are now being completed by 2 Area (15 counties) staff, 80%+ of their job duties
- Backlog of both HEL & WC remain, slowly progressing
- **Reminder—AD-1026 to be completed for cropland activities (tiling, clearing) with FSA staff for NRCS assessment.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was distributed electronically.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Megan Webster, District Manager Report

Megan reported that she has receive Katie’s formal resignation. Katie’s last day will be Friday, January 3, 2025. Megan would like to proceed with posting the Water Resource Technician position.

Motion to approve any costs related to posting the Water Resource Technician position.

Motion made by Amanda Amadon, seconded by Ken Livermore.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20241218-05

Megan reported that all employee evaluations have been completed and the paperwork has been submitted to the Board. Please let her know if there are any questions, concerns, or comments.

Megan reported that she met with County Leadership regarding options for offering health care insurance. Many Districts in the State get their insurance through their counties. Megan will continue to work with the County and she and Diana will research and compile other options to bring to the Board in 2025.

Megan shared that it would be beneficial to begin increasing the amount in the Special Projects account. With the increased project load that the District is carrying and the delays in getting reimbursements from the State, it would be helpful to have a bit more in this account. One opportunity available to build the account would be to move the interest from the two District Savings Certificates of Deposit to Special Projects when each CD matures in January.

Motion to move the interest from the two District Savings Certificates of Deposit to the Special Projects account at maturity.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Mark Venuti.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20241218-06

Megan reported that she and Tucker have been discussing a need for funds to perform maintenance on projects after grant closure. When project sites are not on farms where the farm takes responsibility for the maintenance, the project site can be neglected after the closure of the grant. There is no funding to fix any damage or to maintain the site to ensure the project continues to

function as designed. Megan wanted the Board to be aware of this need and she stated that staff will continue to discuss options.

Megan shared that Tad has encountered a situation on more than one occasion where a septic pumper has contacted a homeowner after our inspection is scheduled and offered to do the inspection without us present. The homeowner then cancels with Tad at the last minute. This practice is disruptive to our schedule. Discussion was had about this issue. Solutions such as non-refundable deposits being required at scheduling and/or cancellation fees were considered. Megan will discuss with staff and likely include an additional fee in our fee schedule which will be reviewed at the January organizational meeting.

Grant and Project Updates

Base AEM

AEM Strategic Plan 2026-2030 - We will be working on the District's strategic plan in 2025. A regional meeting will be held in Cortland on January 14th to discuss AEM strategy and Base AEM Round 19. Some anticipated changes seen in the draft documentation include offering \$300,000 over 3 years for implementation projects. It is also possible that General Technical Assistance will increase from \$51/hour to \$55/hour and there may be options for higher rates for certifications such as \$62/hour for CCA and \$70/hour for CNMP. Our finalized AEM Strategic Plan will be due next summer.

AgNPS Round 28 – J Minns

Megan reported that all paperwork for the payout on the waste storage portion of this project is complete. The transfer portion of the project will be completed in 2025.

Motion to approve payment to J Minns Farms of \$222,891.25 to reimburse for the waste storage portion of the project.

Motion made by Jim Malyj, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20241218-07

Ag NPS Round 30

Applications are being prepared, the deadline is February 24, 2025. This round will have 2 tracks. One track will include Environmental Bond Act funds that may be subject to prevailing wage. The State Committee is waiting to get results on a request for a waiver to the prevailing wage requirement. The other track will include EPF funding. The District will need to choose between the tracks for each application submitted.

CAFO ENMP Round 1

Megan reported that we are waiting to hear on the applications we submitted. It has been reported that we will know the outcome for this round before the Ag NPS Round 30 applications are due so that we can re-submit any unfunded projects.

CRF Round 7

Contracts for Round 7 have finally been received. Staff will begin preconstruction meetings with farms and establish 2025 work plans.

CRF Round 8

Megan shared that staff are currently working on the Plan of Work for contracts for projects in this round. This includes determining what materials are required for the federal funds track projects.

These plans of work are due January 16th. Contract periods will either be 10/1/2024-9/30/2029 or 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2029.

GLC SNRP 2023

Motion to approve payment of \$11,508.00 to Seneca County SWCD for a WASCOB project done at Element Wine.

Motion made by Jim Malyj, seconded by Dale Stell.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20241218-08

Motion to approve the assignment of payment to Rogers & Son Excavating for \$13,506.00 and to KimMar Farm for \$7,808.89 for the retention basin and outlet installed near Outhouse Road.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Ken Livermore.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20241218-09

GLRI HWA

This grant is complete and the final report and claim for payment have been submitted.

WQIP 18

Megan reported that the Town of Bristol has completed the work on Egypt Rd. We continue to wait for the close out materials from the Town. We will submit the final report and closeout documents for this round as soon as we have the paperwork.

WQIP 19

Megan reported that the closeout for the Wilson Creek project is progressing and will be submitted before the January 3rd deadline to avoid the upcoming blackout period.

The interim report and voucher for the Ontario County Roadside Stabilization grant will be completed and submitted before the January 3rd deadline as well. This grant will be held open so that remaining hydroseeding funds can be expended if needed.

We still do not have the contract for the Naples Creek Aquatic Passage grant. It appears that the contract is in the final stages of approval so we hope to have it soon. The project is completed. Trout Unlimited did a nice planting in the area and will hold remaining funds from their allocation for future projects in the area.

Motion to approve payment of \$42,000.00 to Lil Dave's Excavating (Dave Stanton) per the awarded bid for the work at Naples Creek.

Motion made by Dale Stell, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20241218-10

FOLLOWPA

Ontario County Planning reported that they have additional FOLLOWPA funds to allocate. We did a short form contract to use these funds for hydroseeding materials. The County DPW purchased the materials.

Motion to approve payment to Ontario County DPW to reimburse \$2,306.00 for hydroseeding materials with FLOWPA reimbursing the District.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Dale Stell.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20241218-11

Approvals

Motion to approve Megan attending Legislative Days in 2025.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Mark Venuti.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20241218-12

Motion to approve the purchase of septic locator consumables for Tyler up to \$300.00.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20241218-13

Motion to approve payment for Crop Ware Plus for \$1,000.00.

Motion made by Mark Venuti, seconded by Ed Jackson.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20241218-14

Motion to approve registration (\$275.00) and attendance at a leadership conference for Megan.

Motion made by Mark Venuti, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20241218-15

Motion to approve costs associated with a breakfast training and recognition event on January 3, 2025.

Motion made by Amanda Amadon, seconded by Ken Livermore.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20241218-16

Megan shared that she learned at the Admin Conference that many districts were not aware that NYACD is no longer able to lobby and is classified as an educational body. She stated that several districts were concerned both about this change and about how information is shared. Chairman Casella stated that NYACD is aware of these concerns and is having discussions to address them.

Ed Jackson asked Megan about Honeoye Lake not being in the Eastern Finger Lakes Coalition. Megan explained that Honeoye Lake is in the Genesee River Watershed Coalition and shared that that Coalition may be receiving additional funds in the future.

Amanda Amadon inquired about the Septic System Replacement Fund Round 4. Megan shared that there are still some funds available but that applications for the program have decreased since the initial response to the letters sent by the County.

Next meeting: January 15, 2025 at 4:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 2:00pm.

Motion made by Mark Venuti, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20241218-17

Diana Thorn Secretary-Treasurer

Ontario County Soil & Water Revenue	Final Budget Jan-Dec 2024	Budget Forecast Jan-Dec 2025
2160 Revenue		
2160F District Tree & Shrub Prog.	9,100.00	10,100.00
2160G Fish Program	500.00	0.00
Subtotal	9,600.00	10,100.00
2401A Interest Earned		
Subtotal	2,370.00	10,370.00
2615 Sale of Equipment	15,000.00	20,000.00
2655D Sale of Supplies (flags/maps)	50.00	50.00
2701 Refund of Prior Year Exps	100,000.00	100,000.00
2770 Miscellaneous Revenue		
2770A Ag Value Assessments	4,000.00	6,000.00
2770B Program Fees	53,000.00	49,100.00
2770E, F, G and other	21,300.00	19,800.00
SubTotal	78,300.00	74,900.00
2706 County Appropriations/Grants	281,597.00	290,045.00
WRC/AEB	3,000.00	3,000.00
Subtotal	284,597.00	293,045.00
3959 State Grants & Reimbursements		
Subtotal	346,000.00	426,000.00
FUND BALANCE	106,545.00	107,549.92
TOTAL	942,462.00	1,042,014.92
	Final Budget Jan-Dec 2024	Budget Forecast Jan-Dec 2025

Ontario County Soil and Water Expenditures	Final Budget Jan-Dec 2024	Forecasted Dec 2025	Jan-
8730.1 Personnel Services			
<i>Subtotal</i>	494,112.00	558,764.92	
8730.2 Equipment			
<i>Subtotal</i>	81,731.00	46,400.00	
8730.4 Contractual			
.401 Other Contractual			
Grant Expenses			
<i>Subtotal</i>	25,000.00	26,000.00	
.405 District Tree	10,000.00	11,000.00	
.407 Fish Program	400.00	0.00	
.413 Flags & Stakes	100.00	100.00	
.430 Director Travel	1,000.00	1,000.00	
.431 Employee's Travel	2,000.00	2,000.00	
.440 Rent	17,100.00	18,250.00	
<i>Subtotal</i>	30,600.00	32,350.00	
.442 Phone			
<i>Subtotal</i>	5,000.00	5,100.00	
.443 Office Supplies			
<i>Subtotal</i>	10,600.00	10,900.00	
.444A Info & Education			
<i>Subtotal</i>	25,350.00	24,050.00	
.450 Bond & Insurance	17,850.00	20,000.00	
.460 Misc			
<i>Subtotal</i>	23,350.00	38,800.00	
.461 Repairs - Vehicles & Field	1,500.00	1,500.00	
.463 Gas & Oil	4,200.00	5,000.00	
.464 Small Tools	100.00	100.00	
.465 County IT service calls	7,400.00	7,400.00	
<i>Subtotal</i>	13,200.00	14,000.00	
<i>.4 Subtotal</i>	150,950.00	171,200.00	
8730.8 Employee Benefits			
<i>Subtotal</i>	215,669.00	265,650.00	
<i>TOTAL</i>	942,462.00	1,042,014.92	
	Draft Budget Jan-Dec 2024	Forecasted Dec 2025	Jan-

Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Program



Overview

The MASC program, administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) using Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds, provides eligible specialty crop producers with marketing assistance payments to help them engage in activities that aid in expanding domestic specialty crop markets or in developing new markets for their specialty crops in 2025.

Who is Eligible

To be eligible for payments, persons or legal entities must:

- ◆ Be in the business of producing a specialty crop at the time of application and be entitled to an ownership share and share in the risk of producing a specialty crop that will be sold in calendar year 2025;
- ◆ Be a U.S. citizen, resident alien, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other organizational structure organized under State law, Indian Tribe or Tribal Organization, or a foreign person or foreign entity who meets certain eligibility requirements;
- ◆ Comply with the provisions of the “Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation” regulations, often called the conservation compliance provisions;
- ◆ Not have a controlled substance violation;
- ◆ Submit a complete MASC application form (FSA-1140) and provide all required documentation as specified in the documents section below.

To be eligible for payments, a person or legal entity must have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) of less than \$900,000 for tax years 2021, 2022, and 2023, unless the person or legal entity’s average adjusted gross farm income is at least 75 percent of their average AGI.

Eligible Crops

MASC covers the following commercially marketed specialty crops:

SPECIALTY CROPS	
Fruits (fresh, dried)	Nursery crops, Christmas trees, and floriculture
Vegetables (including dry edible beans and peas, mushrooms, and vegetable seed)	Culinary and medicinal herbs and spices
Tree nuts	Honey, hops, maple sap, tea, turfgrass, and grass seed.

Common examples of specialty crops can be found [online](#).

Ineligible Crops

The following are examples of ineligible crops:

FIELD AND GRAIN CROPS	
OILSEED CROPS	
FORAGE, HAY, AND COVER CROPS	
OTHER SPECIFIC CROPS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cotton ◆ Cottonseed ◆ Forage crops ◆ Grain crops ◆ Hemp ◆ Kochia (prostrata) ◆ Lespedeza ◆ Milkweed ◆ Oilseeds ◆ Peanuts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Primrose ◆ Seed of ineligible crops (other than grass seed) ◆ Sugar beets ◆ Sugarcane ◆ Tobacco ◆ Crops with an intended use of fallow, forage, grazing, green manure, or left standing
OTHER PRODUCTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Aquatic animal species (such as fish and shellfish) ◆ Dairy products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Eggs ◆ Livestock products ◆ Tofu

How to Apply

Eligible producers can apply by completing the FSA-1140, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Application, and submitting it to any FSA county office by **January 8, 2025**.

A complete application includes all of the following:

FSA-1140, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Application

- ◆ Producers must complete and sign the MASC application and submit it to any Farm Service Agency county office nationwide. The producer must certify to their specialty crop sales for calendar year 2023 or 2024, or for New Producers only, 2025 expected sales (See New Producer definition and requirements below) on the FSA-1141.

FSA-1141, Marketing Assistance For Specialty Crops (MASC) New Producer Expected Sales Worksheet (New producers only)

- ◆ New producers must complete and sign the new producer expected sales worksheet and provide along with their FSA-1140 to any Farm Service Agency county office nationwide.

AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet

- ◆ This form will be filled out for all individuals and legal entities (including entity members) who have not previously provided their personal information to USDA that positively identifies the customer.

CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan

- ◆ Individual and legal entities will fill out the CCC-902 to facilitate the administration of the payment limitation and eligibility requirements, including providing members' names and taxpayer identification numbers.

CCC-941, Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information

- ◆ This form is required for the 2025 program year for the person or legal entity, including the legal entity's members, partners, shareholders, heirs or beneficiaries, if not already on file.

FSA-942, Certification of Income from Farming, Ranching and Forestry Operations, if applicable, for the producer and members of entities

- ◆ This form may be used by persons or legal entities that exceed the average AGI \$900,000 threshold. Persons or legal entities may otherwise meet AGI requirements if the person or legal entity's average adjusted gross farm income is at least 75 percent of their average AGI.

AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification

- ◆ All applicants, and their affiliates, must complete the AD-1026. The form must be completed in its entirety.

Specialty Crop Sales

Eligible specialty crop sales only include sales of commercially marketed raw specialty crops grown in the United States by the producer. The portion of sales derived from adding value to a specialty crop (such as sorting, processing, or packaging) is not included ineligible sales. To be considered a specialty crop sale, the producer must have received payment for the specialty crop during the applicable calendar year.



Federal crop insurance indemnities and NAP payments for the 2023 or 2024 crop year will be included as eligible specialty crop sales for the applicable crop year, regardless of when they were received by the producer.

Other Documentation

If requested by FSA, producers must provide documentation to support their reported specialty crop sales. Examples of documentation to support reported sales includes, but is not limited to:

- ◆ sales receipts;
- ◆ sales records;
- ◆ ledgers of income;
- ◆ contract or sales agreements;
- ◆ income statements of deposit slips;
- ◆ register tapes with supporting documentation acceptable to FSA;
- ◆ purchase orders;
- ◆ third party processor or distributor statements;
- ◆ contemporaneous diaries that are determined acceptable by USDA;
- ◆ other sales documents indicating the crop was sold; and
- ◆ IRS Schedule F accompanied by documentation to support that the reported amounts are from sales of specialty crops.

Note: New producers reporting expected 2025 sales must provide FSA-1141 and supporting documentation by the application deadline.

New Producers

You may be considered a new producer if you:

- ◆ Began producing specialty crops in 2023 or 2024 but did not have sales due to the immaturity of the crop;
- ◆ Began producing specialty crops in 2024 but did not have a complete year of sales; or
- ◆ Are beginning to grow specialty crops in 2025.

Payments for new producers will be based on their expected 2025 calendar year specialty crop sales. New producers must submit FSA-1141 and documentation to substantiate expected specialty crop sales and their ability to grow, harvest, and market the expected yield or inventory in 2025 by the MASC application deadline of **January 8, 2025**.

Examples of expected production inventory, yield, and unit price includes, but is not limited to:

- ◆ sales contracts;
- ◆ settlement sheets;
- ◆ purchase agreements;
- ◆ local market prices;
- ◆ market agreements;
- ◆ FCIC yields and prices;

Examples of expected production inventory, yield, and unit price includes, but is not limited to (*continued*):

- ◆ FSA National Crop Table data;
- ◆ Appraisals;
- ◆ Cooperative Extension Service and university data;
- ◆ financial institution documentation;
- ◆ National Agriculture Statistics Services data;
- ◆ Federal crop insurance documents;
- ◆ historical yield data;
- ◆ sales receipts;
- ◆ invoices;
- ◆ copies of signed written lease;
- ◆ copies of legal documents showing land ownership or control of rented land;
- ◆ rental agreements with landowner or landlord;
- ◆ input records; and
- ◆ financial documents, such as a business plans or cash flow statement, that demonstrate an expected level of sales.

Payment Limitation and Attribution

- ◆ Payments are subject to a payment limitation of \$125,000. FSA will issue MASC payments after the end of the application period.
- ◆ Direct attribution provisions apply to MASC. Under direct attribution, any payment to a legal entity will also be considered for payment limitation purposes to be a payment to persons or legal entities with an interest in the legal entity or in a sub-entity.

Payment Calculation

MASC payments will be calculated based on the producer’s total specialty crop sales for the calendar year elected by the producer. The total specialty crop sales reported by the producer will be separated into sale ranges (tiers) shown in Table 1. After the end of the application period, a payment factor will be determined and applied to each tier. If demand for MASC payments exceeds available funding, either MASC payments may be prorated, the payment limitation may be lowered, or both. If proration or a reduction of the payment limitation is necessary, the reduction or lowered payment limitation will apply equally to all MASC participants.

Table 1—Sales Ranges

Sales Range	Percent Payment Factor (to be determined after application period ends)
Up to \$49,999	<i>a</i>
\$50,000 - \$99,999	<i>b</i>
\$100,000 - \$499,999	<i>c</i>
\$500,000 - \$999,999	<i>d</i>
All sales over \$1 million	<i>e</i>

To calculate a MASC payment, the following steps will be taken:

1. Multiply the amount of sales in each range in Table 1 by the determined percent payment factor for that range; and
 2. Calculate the sum of the results for each sales range. For example, if a producer reported \$450,000 of total specialty crop sales, the calculated payment would equal to the sum of the following:
 - \$49,999 (the amount of sales in the first range) multiplied by the determined percent payment factor *a*;
 - \$50,000 (the amount of sales in the second range) multiplied by percent payment factor *b*; and
 - \$350,001 (the amount of sales in the third range) multiplied by percent payment factor *c*.
- Final payments are subject to demand and available funding.

Application Deadline: **January 8, 2025**

Where to Apply

The MASC application and associated forms are available online at fsa.usda.gov/marketing-assistance-specialty-crops. FSA staff at your local USDA Service Center will work with you to file your applications. Applications may be submitted by mail, fax, hand delivery, or via electronic means.

For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For more information on MASC or assistance with applications, contact your local FSA office or visit the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov. To find your local office, go to farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

USDA may prorate final payments, reduce the payment limitation, or both if total calculated payments exceed the total funding allocated for MASC.

[Click here](#) for more information on Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA); Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops.