

For: State and County Offices

Starting BCAP Matching Payments for Prioritized Eligible Materials and Biomass Conversion Facility (BCF) Qualification Application Procedures for FY 2017

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

On September 30, 2013, BCAP authorization expired.

On February 7, 2014, BCAP was reauthorized under the 2014 Farm Bill with mandatory \$25 million annual funding for each FY 2014 through 2018. Funding includes that not less than 10 percent, nor more than 50 percent, of the annual funding be used to make collection, harvest, storage, and transportation (BCAP matching) payments.

The BCAP final rule was published in 7 CFR Part 1450 and FR, pages 10569-10575 on February 27, 2015, and effective on May 28, 2015.

On September 30, 2016, the Continuing Resolution appropriated \$3 million in funding for FY 2017 for BCAP. On September 30, 2016, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provided FSA with an apportionment.

B Purpose

This notice informs State and County Offices:

- that \$1.5 million in BCAP matching payments is available for the remainder of FY 2017 to be used for agricultural residues and forest residues from the National Forest System and Department of Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) public lands only
- about general information related to restarting BCAP matching payments for FY 2017
- about policy and procedures for submitting BCAP-1's for new BCF's and transmitting BCAP-1's to the National Office for FY 2017 for review
- obsoletes Notice BCAP-40.

Disposal Date	Distribution
October 1, 2017 11-15-16	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

Notice BCAP-41

2 Starting BCAP Matching Payments for Selected Eligible Materials for FY 2017

A Overview of Starting BCAP Matching Payments for FY 2017

The BCAP final rule established an effective restart date for BCAP of May 28, 2015. The FY 2017 start begins with BCAP matching payments outlined as follows:

- BCAP will provide \$1.5 million in BCAP matching payments for FY 2017
- selected or prioritized eligible material will be **only** agricultural residues or forest residues from the National Forest System and DOI, BLM public lands for FY 2017
- BCAP matching payments will be at a rate of up to \$1 for each \$1 per ton provided to eligible material owners, **not** to exceed \$20 per dry ton for a period of no more than 2 years for each eligible material owner

Note: The **not** to exceed rate of \$20 per dry ton matching payment is a lower matching payment rate than the previously authorized \$45 per dry ton under the 2008 Farm Bill.

- BCF's **must** be qualified by FSA **before** eligible material owners may deliver selected eligible material, as provided in this subparagraph, or filing BCAP-1's

Note: In FY 2016, under BCAP matching payments, 56 BCF's were qualified. These 56 qualified biomass conversion facilities (QBCF's) are qualified through FY 2018. The BCF application period in FY 2017 is **only** for **new** BCF agreements submitted to the applicable State Office.

This table provides the timeline for restarting BCAP matching payments for FY 2017.

Signup Category	Application Location	Dates
New BCF's submit BCAP-1's.	State Office where BCF is located.	November 14 through December 5, 2016
Eligible material owners submit BCAP-10's.	Service Center where the land is located or where the farm records exist.	On or about January 9, 2017 through March 15, 2017

Note: The signup end date of March 15, 2017, is subject to the availability of funding. Eligible material deliveries must occur **on or before** December 1, 2017, unless determined otherwise by DAFP. BCAP-11's (Payment Request) from eligible material owners **must** be submitted by **December 15, 2017**.

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2 Starting BCAP Matching Payments for Selected Eligible Materials for FY 2017 (Continued)

B Prioritized Eligible Material Target for FY 2017

BCF's that submit BCAP-1's will need to consider the prioritized eligible material target for FY 2017 to be competitive.

Note: Not every BCF that meets all the requirements will automatically be selected as QBCF. Given the limited funding for FY 2017, CCC may prioritize BCF's that have suppliers of eligible material types that best meet BCAP goals for FY 2017.

The following are some, but **not** all, eligible material requirements that BCF's should consider before submitting BCAP-1's in FY 2017:

- all eligible materials will be required to be collected **directly** from the land
- agricultural residues will include orchard waste collected **directly** from the land
- all eligible material **must** have a completed conservation plan, forest stewardship plan, or equivalent plan with certification by the assigned technical service provider **before** harvest or collection occurs or the BCAP-10 with FSA is approved
- forest residues from National Forest System and DOI, BLM public lands **must** be the by-product of preventive treatments for hazardous fuel reductions or containment or reduction of disease or insect infestations and **must not** have an existing product market
- all eligible material owners **must** have a completed and approved BCAP-10 with FSA **before** eligible material is delivered to QBCF
- all eligible woody materials **must not** have a higher-product value or existing product market and eligible material owner certification will be required.

3 Submitting BCAP-1's and Agreements

A Submission Overview

Beginning November 14 through COB December 5, 2016, new BCAP-1's will be accepted at the State Office where the BCF is physically located.

Previous QBCF's from FY 2015 and FY 2016 are already qualified and need not re-apply or request an extension of their qualified status.

Note: Not every BCF that meets all the requirements will automatically be selected as a QBCF.

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3 Submitting BCAP-1's and Agreements (Continued)

A Submission Overview (Continued)

To be considered QBCF for BCAP matching payments, BCF **must** enter into an agreement with FSA by COB December 5, 2016.

See 1-BCAP, paragraphs 70 through 77 for qualification policy.

Notes: The targeted or prioritized eligible material for FY 2017 is agricultural residues collected or harvested directly from the land, and forest residues collected from the National Forest System and DOI, BLM public lands, that are by-products of a preventative treatment for hazardous fuels reduction or containment or reduction of disease and insect infestations.

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards used **must** be reported on BCAP-1 when the BCAP-1 is submitted. Some ASTM standards include, but are **not** limited to, ASTM E1358-97, ASTM E871-82, ASTM D4442-07, and ASTM E105-04.

The dry ton weight determined using ASTM standards **must** be recorded by QBCF on the eligible material owners' settlement sheets or scale tickets.

All complete BCAP-1's and SED-signed agreements **must** be e-mailed to Kelly Novak, CEPD at kelly.novak@wdc.usda.gov by COB. December 7, 2016.

This table provides QBCF dates for FY 2017.

Action	Date
BCF's submit new BCAP-1's and agreements to FSA State Office.	November 14 to December 5, 2016
Assignment and updated posting of the unique QBCF ID numbers to the BCAP web site at www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap .	On or about January 9, 2017

Note: All complete BCAP-1's and SED-signed agreements **must** be e-mailed to Kelly Novak, CEPD at kelly.novak@wdc.usda.gov by COB December 7, 2016.

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3 Submitting BCAP-1's and Agreements (Continued)

B Outreach

SEDs **must** ensure State outreach coordinator and communications coordinator collaborate to promote the availability and deadline to submit the BCAP-1 form with stakeholders using the following methods:

- Govdelivery newsletter/text
- informational BCAP meeting with stakeholders and partner organizations
- tribal non-consultation meeting.

Stakeholders include, but are not limited to:

- producers, including underserved producers (beginning farmers, ethnic minorities, women)
- limited resource farmers and ranchers
- tribal leaders/councils
- biomass industry groups:
 - conservation and environmental groups
 - ethanol industry
 - farm cooperatives
 - forest industry groups
 - potential project sponsors
 - power industry (including rural cooperative power utilities).

State Offices with questions specific to outreach responsibilities should contact Linda Cronin, DAFO outreach program manager at fsaoutreach@wdc.usda.gov or 202-690-1299.