

**For:** Alaska, Florida, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico State and County Offices

**Loading FSA-218, Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment (RTCP-II) Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Application and Payment Processing**

**Approved by:** Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

The Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011 authorizes \$1.996 million for FY 2011 to assist geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers according to Section 1621 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act).

The RTCP-II Program provides monetary assistance to geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers by reimbursing them for a portion of the transportation cost of their agricultural commodity, or transported inputs used to produce an agricultural commodity during FY 2011.

FY 2011 signup began July 25, 2011, and ended September 9, 2011. The deadline for State Offices to submit State Master Worksheets to PSD containing the total of all transportation costs obtained from each applicant for FY 2011 was December 9, 2011. Notice SP-64 informed State and County Offices that software to enter calculated payment amounts for FY 2011 applicants and process RTCP-II payments was forthcoming.

**B Purpose**

This notice provides instructions to State and County Offices for loading FSA-218 calculated payment amounts and processing payments using FSA’s Intranet web site for the following geographical areas:

- Alaska
- American Samoa
- Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Guam
- Hawaii
- Republic of Palau
- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Virgin Islands of the United States.

<b>Disposal Date</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
November 1, 2012	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

## Notice PS-693

### 2 Getting Started

#### A Recording FSA-218's

County Offices shall see 2-SP, Part 6, paragraphs 51 and 52 for instructions on entering calculated payment amounts in the RTCP-II software.

#### B Recording Deadline

All FSA-218 calculated RTCP-II payment amounts must be recorded into the system by **COB January 13, 2012**, to determine if a payment factor will be necessary. RTCP-II shall not be funded to process payments before the payment factor is determined by the National Office, based on all approved FSA-218's processed, if applicable.

#### C Payment Processing

After PSD determines if a payment factor is necessary, eFunds will be populated with the appropriate funding amount. State and County Offices will be notified when to begin payment processing through NPS.

#### D Action

County Offices shall:

- access RTCP-II functions through the FSA Intranet Home Page at <http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov/fsa/> to record FSA-218
- immediately begin entering FSA-218 calculated payment amounts in the RTCP-II software
- have all FSA-218 calculated payments amounts entered in the RTCP-II software by the recording deadline provided in subparagraph B.