

## **Marketing Assistance Specialty Crop December 10, 2024, Brief Q&A**

Q1. If you don't cover it in the presentation, please discuss the AGI limitations that will apply to this program.

A1. 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.

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Q2. If a grower has received funding from another USDA program, are they barred from applying for this assistance?

A2. No, other USDA assistance does not limit participation under MASC. MASC assistance is targeted to expand markets.

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Q3. Will there be any required deliverables from the recipients following payments?

A3. No, there are not required deliverables, but the goal is to increase domestic consumption in 2025 and expand existing or new markets.

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Q4. Where can I receive an application:

A4. Applications are available at your local USDA Service Center or online at [Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops \(MASC\) | Farm Service Agency](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/marketing-assistance-specialty-crops-masc).  
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/marketing-assistance-specialty-crops-masc>

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Q5. In regard to fruit, if the ultimate use of the product will be processed is the producer who sells the fruit in its "raw product" state eligible for this program?

A5. Self-certified sales revenue will be limited to the value of the raw commodity prior to processing, etc.

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Q6. Is this program only for if you're self-selling the product, or can the product be sold through a broker?

A6. If the producer has eligible sales receipts and meets the criteria of an eligible producer, sales through a broker are eligible.

Q7. Are wine grape growers eligible to apply?

A7. Yes, however, sales revenue will be limited to the raw value of the wine grape.

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Q8. Just for clarification, you mentioned the possibility of reduced maximum payments if there is oversubscription to the program. Will all qualified applicants receive some level of payment?

A8. Proration of payments and reduced payment limitations will apply consistently to all participants.

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Q9. If a grower sells their crop through a broker, are they eligible to apply for MASC?

A9. To be eligible for MASC, a producer must be in the business of farming 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. To be considered in the business of farming at the time of application, a producer must have an active business operation with assets and resources needed to grow, harvest, and market a specialty crop in calendar year 2025.

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Q10. Is this program only for if you're self-selling the product, or can the product be sold through a broker?

A10. If the producer has eligible sales receipts and meets the criteria of an eligible producer, sales through a broker are eligible.

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Q11. Can packers apply for this if they don't grow raw product?

A11. No.

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