

**§ 613.3020 Financing for farm-related service businesses.**

(a) *Eligibility.* An individual or legal entity that furnishes farm-related services to farmers and ranchers that are directly related to their agricultural production is eligible to borrow from a Farm Credit bank or association that operates under titles I or II of the Act.

(b) *Purposes of financing.* A Farm Credit Bank, agricultural credit bank, or direct lender association may finance:

(1) All of the farm-related business activities of an eligible borrower who derives more than 50 percent of its annual income (as consistently measured on either a gross sales or net sales basis) from furnishing farm-related services that are directly related to the agricultural production of farmers and ranchers; or

(2) Only the farm-related services activities of an eligible borrower who derives 50 percent or less of its annual income (as consistently measured on either a gross sales or net sales basis) from furnishing farm-related services that are directly related to the agricultural production of farmers and ranchers.

**§ 613.3030 Rural home financing.**

(a) *Definitions.*

(1) *Rural homeowner* means an individual who is not a bona fide farmer, rancher, or producer or harvester of aquatic products.

(2) *Rural home* means a single-family moderately priced dwelling located in a rural area that will be the occupant's principal residence.

(3) *Rural area* means open country within a State or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, which may include a town or village that has a population of not more than 2,500 persons.

(4) *Moderately priced* means the price of any rural home that either:

(i) Satisfies the criteria in section 8.0 of the Act pertaining to rural home loans that collateralize securities that are guaranteed by the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation; or

(ii) Is otherwise determined to be moderately priced for housing values for the rural area where it is located, as documented by data from a credible, independent, and recognized national

or regional source, such as a Federal, State, or local government agency, or an industry source. Housing values at or below the 75th percentile of values reflected in such data will be deemed moderately priced.

(b) *Eligibility.* Any rural homeowner is eligible to obtain financing on a rural home. No borrower shall have a loan from the Farm Credit System on more than one rural home at any one time.

(c) *Purposes of financing.* Loans may be made to rural homeowners for the purpose of buying, building, remodeling, improving, repairing rural homes, and refinancing existing indebtedness thereon.

(d) *Portfolio limitations.*

(1) The aggregate of retail rural home loans by any Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank shall not exceed 15 percent of the total of all of its outstanding loans at any one time.

(2) The aggregate of rural home loans made by each direct lender association shall not exceed 15 percent of the total of its outstanding loans at the end of its preceding fiscal year, except with the prior approval of its funding bank.

(3) The aggregate of rural home loans made by all direct lender associations that are funded by the same Farm Credit bank shall not exceed 15 percent of the total outstanding loans of all such associations at the end of the funding bank's preceding fiscal year.

**Subpart B—Financing for Banks Operating Under Title III of the Farm Credit Act**

SOURCE: 62 FR 4442, Jan. 30, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 613.3100 Domestic lending.**

(a) *Definitions.* For purposes of this subpart, the following definitions apply:

(1) *Cooperative* means any association of farmers, ranchers, producers or harvesters of aquatic products, or any federation of such associations, or a combination of such associations and farmers, ranchers, or producers or harvesters of aquatic products that conducts business for the mutual benefit of its members and has the power to:

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(i) Process, prepare for market, handle, or market farm or aquatic products;

(ii) Purchase, test, grade, process, distribute, or furnish farm or aquatic supplies; or

(iii) Furnish business and financially related services to its members.

(2) *Farm or aquatic supplies and farm or aquatic business services* are any goods or services normally used by farmers, ranchers, or producers and harvesters of aquatic products in their business operations, or to improve the welfare or livelihood of such persons.

(3) *Public utility* means a cooperative or other entity that is licensed under Federal, State, or local law to provide electric, telecommunication, cable television, water, or waste treatment services.

(4) *Rural area* means all territory of a State that is not within the outer boundary of any city or town having a population of more than 20,000 inhabitants based on the latest decennial census of the United States.

(5) *Service cooperative* means a cooperative that is involved in providing business and financially related services (other than public utility services) to farmers, ranchers, aquatic producers or harvesters, or their cooperatives.

(b) *Cooperatives and other entities that serve agricultural or aquatic producers.*

(1) *Eligibility of cooperatives.* A bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank may lend to a cooperative that satisfies the following requirements:

(i) Unless the bank's board of directors establishes by resolution a higher voting control threshold for any type of cooperative, the percentage of voting control of the cooperative held by farmers, ranchers, producers or harvesters of aquatic products, or cooperatives shall be 80 percent except:

(A) Sixty (60) percent for a service cooperative;

(B) Sixty (60) percent for local farm supply cooperatives that have historically served the needs of a community that would not be adequately served by other suppliers and have experienced a reduction in the percentage of membership by agricultural or aquatic producers due to changed circumstances beyond their control; and

(C) Sixty (60) percent for local farm supply cooperatives that provide or will provide needed services to a community, and are or will be in competition with a cooperative specified in §613.3100(b)(1)(i)(B);

(ii) The cooperative deals in farm or aquatic products, or products processed therefrom, farm or aquatic supplies, farm or aquatic business services, or financially related services with or for members in an amount at least equal in value to the total amount of such business it transacts with or for non-members, excluding from the total of member and non-member business, transactions with the United States, or any agencies or instrumentalities thereof, or services or supplies furnished by a public utility; and

(iii) The cooperative complies with one of the following two conditions:

(A) No member of the cooperative shall have more than one vote because of the amount of stock or membership capital owned therein; or

(B) The cooperative restricts dividends on stock or membership capital to 10 percent per year or the maximum percentage per year permitted by applicable State law, whichever is less.

(iv) Any cooperative that has received a loan from a bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank shall, without regard to the requirements in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, continue to be eligible for as long as more than 50 percent (or such higher percentage as is established by the bank board) of the voting control of the cooperative is held by farmers, ranchers, producers or harvesters of aquatic products, or other eligible cooperatives.

(2) *Other eligible entities.* The following entities are eligible to borrow from banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit banks:

(i) Any legal entity that holds more than 50 percent of the voting control of a cooperative that is an eligible borrower under paragraph (b)(1) of this section and uses the proceeds of the loan to fund the activities of its cooperative subsidiary on the terms and conditions specified by the bank;

(ii) Any legal entity in which an eligible cooperative has an ownership interest, *provided that* if such interest is

less than 50 percent, financing shall not exceed the percentage that the eligible cooperative owns in such entity multiplied by the value of the total assets of such entity; or

(iii) Any creditworthy private entity operated on a non-profit basis that satisfies the requirements for a service cooperative and complies with the requirements of either paragraphs (b)(1)(i)(A) and (b)(1)(iii) of this section, or paragraph (b)(1)(iv) of this section, and any subsidiary of such entity. An entity that is eligible to borrow under this paragraph shall be organized to benefit agriculture in furtherance of the welfare of the farmers, ranchers, and aquatic producers or harvesters who are its members.

(c) *Electric and telecommunication utilities.*

(1) *Eligibility.* A bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank may lend to:

(i) Electric and telephone cooperatives as defined by section 3.8(a)(4)(A) of the Act that satisfy the eligibility criteria in paragraph (b)(1) of this section;

(ii) Cooperatives and other entities that:

(A) Have received a loan, loan commitment, insured loan, or loan guarantee from the Rural Utilities Service of the United States Department of Agriculture to finance rural electric and telecommunication services;

(B) Have received a loan or a loan commitment from the Rural Telephone Bank of the United States Department of Agriculture; or

(C) Are eligible under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended, for a loan, loan commitment, or loan guarantee from the Rural Utilities Service or the Rural Telephone Bank.

(iii) The subsidiaries of cooperatives or other entities that are eligible under paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section.

(iv) Any legal entity that holds more than 50 percent of the voting control of any public utility that is an eligible borrower under paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section, and uses the proceeds of the loan to fund the activities of the eligible subsidiary on the terms and conditions specified by the bank.

(v) Any legal entity in which an eligible utility under paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of

this section has an ownership interest, provided that if such interest is less than 50 percent, financing shall not exceed the percentage that the eligible utility owns in such entity multiplied by the value of the total assets of such entity.

(2) *Purposes for financing.* A bank for cooperatives or agricultural credit bank may extend credit to entities that are eligible to borrow under paragraph (c)(1) of this section in order to provide electric or telecommunication services in a rural area. A subsidiary that is eligible to borrow under paragraph (c)(1)(iii) of this section may also obtain financing from a bank for cooperatives or agricultural credit bank to operate a licensed cable television utility.

(d) *Water and waste disposal facilities.*

(1) *Eligibility.* A cooperative or a public agency, quasi-public agency, body, or other public or private entity that, under the authority of State or local law, establishes and operates water and waste disposal facilities in a rural area, as that term is defined by paragraph (a)(5) of this section, is eligible to borrow from a bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank.

(2) *Purposes for financing.* A bank for cooperatives or agricultural credit bank may extend credit to entities that are eligible under paragraph (d)(1) of this section solely for installing, maintaining, expanding, improving, or operating water and waste disposal facilities in rural areas.

(e) *Domestic lessors.* A bank for cooperatives or agricultural credit bank may lend to domestic parties to finance the acquisition of facilities or equipment that will be leased to shareholders of the bank for use in their operations located inside of the United States.

[62 FR 4442, Jan. 30, 1997; 62 FR 33746, June 23, 1997]

#### § 613.3200 International lending.

(a) *Definition.* For the purpose of this section only, the term “farm supplies” refers to inputs that are used in a farming or ranching operation, but excludes agricultural processing equipment, machinery used in food manufacturing or other capital goods which are