

§ 723.217 Release and reapportionment of old farm acreage allotments for Cigar-filler and Binder (types 42, 43, 44, 54, and 55) tobacco.

(a) *Annual or permanent release of acreage allotments to State committee.* Except as provided in this paragraph, all or any part of a farm acreage allotment on which Cigar-filler and Binder (types 42, 43, 44, 54, and 55) tobacco will not be produced and which the operator of the farm voluntarily releases on an annual basis, or both the owner and operator voluntarily releases on a permanent basis, in writing to the State FSA committee by not later than the final date for filing releases established by the State FSA committee for the current year shall be deducted from the allotment of such farm.

(1) For the farm voluntarily releasing tobacco farm acreage allotment on an annual basis, such acreage will be considered as having been planted on the releasing farm for the purpose of establishing allotments for subsequent years. For the farm receiving such annual released acreage, such acreage shall not be taken into account in establishing future allotments for the farm. The tobacco history acreage for a farm releasing on a permanent basis shall not be taken into account in establishing future allotments for the farm. The tobacco history acreage for a farm releasing on a permanent basis shall be adjusted to reflect the acreage permanently released.

(2) An acreage allotment shall not be released either annually or permanently:

(i) From the eminent domain allotment pool if an application for transfer from the pool has been filed in accordance with part 718 of this chapter;

(ii) From a new farm; or

(iii) To the extent such acreage is designated for reduction under a Conservation Reserve Program contract.

(b) *Reapportionment of released acreage allotment.* The acreage voluntarily released on an annual or permanent basis for the current year may be reapportioned by the State FSA committee to any farm in any county in the State including a farm receiving a new farm allotment. The State FSA committee shall select the counties to which the released acreage will be reapportioned.

The county FSA committee shall select the farms to which the released acreage will be reapportioned. The State FSA committee shall keep records on both an annual and permanent basis of the source of acreage released. Any acreage released for the current year on a permanent basis which is not reapportioned by the State FSA committee in the current year may be reapportioned in the following year. The county FSA committee for the county receiving released acreage may reapportion the tobacco allotment acreage on an annual or permanent basis to other farms in the county in amounts determined by the county FSA committee to be fair and reasonable on the basis of land, labor, and equipment available for production of Cigarfiller and binder (types 42, 43, 44, 54, and 55) tobacco; crop rotation practices; and the soil and other physical factors affecting the production of tobacco. Released acreage should not be reapportioned on a temporary or permanent basis to any farm unless there is assurance from the operator to the county FSA committee that the released acreage being received will be produced. Allotment reapportioned to a farm on an annual basis can only be used by the receiving farm for increased production during the current year. Allotment reapportioned to a farm on a permanent basis shall be added to the current year allotment or shall serve to establish an allotment for a farm without a current allotment. A farm shall be eligible to receive reapportionment of released acreage on either or both an annual or permanent basis only if a written request is filed by the farm owner or operator at the office of the county FSA committee not later than the final date for filing such requests established by the State FSA committee for the current year.

§ 723.218 Determining tobacco history acreage.

With respect to each respective kind of tobacco, the tobacco history acreage shall be determined for each farm for which a tobacco acreage allotment was established for such kind of tobacco for the current year.

(a) The history acreage shall be the same as the farm acreage allotment for the respective kind of tobacco if in the current year, or either of the two preceding years, the sum of the planted and considered planted acreage of such kind of tobacco was as much as 75 percent of the farm acreage allotment. Otherwise, the history acreage shall be the sum of the planted and considered planted acreage of such kind of tobacco.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, for the respective kind of tobacco, the history acres for the current year and for each year of the base period shall be reduced to zero if:

(1) A new farm allotment was canceled;

(2) The allotment was in a pool established in accordance with the eminent domain provision of part 718 of this chapter and the period of eligibility has expired for transferring the allotment from the pool; or

(3) The county FSA committee determines that the farm has been retired from agricultural production and the allotment is not eligible for pooling in accordance with the eminent domain provisions of part 718 of this chapter.

§ 723.219 Forfeiture of burley tobacco marketing quota.

(a) *Determination of quota subject to forfeiture.* (1) For purposes of paragraph (b) of this section, the phrase "owns a farm" means ownership of:

(i) A farm as constituted under part 718 of this chapter, if the entire farm shares a common ownership; or

(ii) All of the land within a farm which shares a common ownership if the parent farm consists of tracts of land having separate ownerships.

(2) For purposes of paragraph (b) of this section, the county FSA committee shall apportion, in accordance with the provisions of part 718 of this chapter, the burley tobacco quota assigned to a farm between the various tracts of land which are separately owned by:

(i) A person not using the land on the farm for which a burley tobacco marketing quota is established for agricultural purposes.

(ii) A person who uses the land on the farm for which the burley tobacco marketing quota is established for agricultural purposes or for educational, instructional, or demonstrational purposes.

(3) The farm marketing quota determined under this section for each farm or tract, as applicable, shall be the amount of quota subject to forfeiture under this section.

(b) *Person who does not use the land on the farm for which the marketing quota is established for agricultural purposes or does not use such marketing quota for educational, instructional, or demonstrational purposes.* For purposes of this paragraph, the term "person" means a person as defined in part 718 of this chapter, including any governmental entity, public utility, educational institution, religious institution or joint venture (but not including any farming operation involving only spouses), but excluding any individual.

(1) *Required forfeiture.* With respect to any person owning a farm for which a burley tobacco marketing quota is established, if the county FSA committee determines that such person does not use the land on such farm for agricultural purposes, or does not use such burley tobacco marketing quota for educational, instructional, or demonstrational purposes, such person shall forfeit such quota which is not sold on or before December 1 of the year after any year for which the county FSA committee makes such determination.

(2) *Agricultural purposes.* Land on the farm for which a burley tobacco marketing quota is established shall be considered to be used for agricultural purposes if the county FSA committee determines that:

(i) In the current year or either of the 2 preceding years such land is used for the production of:

(A) Row crops of any type;

(B) Livestock or poultry (including pasture and forage for livestock);

(C) Trees (including orchards and vineyards); or

(D) Hay or native grasses on open land; or

(ii) In the current year such farm is owned by an educational institution