



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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USDA Provides Assistance to Asparagus Producers

(EAST LANSING, MI), July 8, 2010 -- Christine White, State Executive Director for Michigan's Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that asparagus producers will have until September 23, 2010 to apply for the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program for Farmers. The TAA for Farmers program provides technical training and cash benefits to eligible producers whose asparagus crops have been adversely affected by foreign competition.

“The purpose of the technical assistance training is to help participating producers compete more effectively with imported products or switch to the production of commodities that could be more profitable” said White.

To qualify, the producers must have produced asparagus during 2009 and at least one of the three marketing years preceding 2009. Producers must also provide documentation to verify the production and quantity of the commodity. Asparagus producers interested in applying for technical training and cash benefits must complete and submit a written application (form FSA-229-1) to their local FSA office.

Producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA county office before the deadline date. More information on about the TAA for Farmers Program can be found on the Foreign Agricultural Service Web site at www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa.

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