

(c) **Conservation Contract Program**

You may request a Conservation Contract to protect highly erodible land, wetlands, or wildlife habitats located on your real estate property that serves as security for your FLP debt. In exchange for such contract, the Agency would reduce your FLP debt. The amount of land left after the contract must be sufficient to continue your farming operation.

(d) **Current Market Value Buyout**

If the analysis of your debt shows that you cannot achieve a feasible plan even if the present value of your FLP debt is reduced to the value of the security, the Agency may offer you buyout of your FLP debt. You would pay the market value of all FLP security and non-essential assets, minus any prior liens. The market value is determined by a current appraisal completed by a qualified appraiser. In exchange, your loans would be satisfied.

Limits

To receive a current market value buyout offer:

- (1) You must not have previously received any form of debt forgiveness from the Agency on any other direct FLP loan;
- (2) The maximum debt to be written off with buyout does not exceed \$300,000; and
- (3) You must not have non-essential assets with a net recovery value sufficient to pay your account current.

Eligibility

To qualify, you must prove that:

- (1) You cannot repay your delinquent FLP debt due to circumstances beyond your control; and
- (2) You have acted in good faith in all past dealings with the Agency and in accordance with your loan agreements.

Eligibility requirements

- (1) Your gross annual income from the farming operation must have been similar to other comparable operations in your area in at least two of the last 6 years.
- (2) Sixty percent (60%) of your gross annual income in at least two of the last 6 years must have come from the farming operation.
- (3) You must have lived in your homestead property for 6 years immediately before your application. If you had to leave for less than 12 months during the 6-year period and you had no control over the circumstances, you may still qualify.
- (4) You must be the owner of the property immediately prior to the Agency obtaining title.

Property restrictions and easements

The Agency may place restrictions or easements on your property which restrict your use if the property is located in a special area or has special characteristics. These restrictions and easements will be placed in leases and in deeds on properties containing wetlands, floodplains, endangered species, wild and scenic rivers, historic and cultural properties, coastal barriers, and highly erodible lands.