

# The information campaign for the 2016 direct payments has been launched

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*In 2016, Bulgarian producers will receive the largest funding for direct payments - 800 million euros (1.6 billion BGN). The deadlines for submitting documents are already fixed, but once again specialized software will be lacking in the Regional Agricultural Directorates.*

*Schedule for meetings with farmers regarding the changes in the Law on Support for Producers in the Agricultural Sector and the upcoming direct payments campaign.*

At the end of the month, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food begins its official information campaign to explain the application process for direct payments in 2016. This year, the deadlines for submitting documents are strictly regulated - from March 1 to May 15, with the final date announced as June 9. After May 15, 2016, for a period of 25 calendar days, applicants can make

corrections to already submitted applications, submit new applications, but it should be noted that a penalty of 1% of the approved aid amount is imposed for each day of delay when submitting a new application, and when making corrections to an already submitted application, the same penalty applies for each day after May 31.

The aid application is finalized only at the municipal agricultural service office at the address of registration for a natural person or the headquarters of a legal entity.

*2016 is the year in which Bulgarian producers will rely on the largest funding for direct payments of 800 million euros (1.6 billion BGN). Until 2020, this budget will gradually decrease. Therefore, it is necessary for them to be correctly and timely informed about their opportunities and benefits from European and national subsidies.*

Farmers will apply under 20 direct payment schemes and under four measures from the rural development program (RDP 2014-2020).

These include: the schemes for Single Area Payment (SAPS), for Redistributive Payment (RDP), for Greening Payment (GP), for Young Farmers (YF), and for Small Farmers (SF), Transitional National Aid per hectare (TNA), Transitional National Aid for tobacco, decoupled from production, Transitional National Aid for cattle, decoupled from production, Transitional National Aid for ewes and goats, coupled to production, for coupled support for dairy cows, for coupled support for suckler cows or heifers, for coupled support for dairy or suckler cows under breeding control, for coupled support for ewes and goats, for coupled support for buffalo, for vegetables, for fruits, and for coupled support for greenhouse vegetables, for protein crops and a special payment for cotton. Under the RDP, payments will be made under the measures for Agroecology and Climate, for Organic Farming, for Nature and payment under the Water Framework Directive, and for payments in areas facing natural and other specific constraints.

A change this year concerns land delineation. *This will be done according to real boundaries based on the submitted legal basis, and not collectively for all terrains in a given land area, as was the case last year.* The deadline for registration of legal bases expires on February 15. The system will allow only those areas that have a legal basis to be claimed for aid.

Unfortunately, this year's campaign will also be deprived of the long-awaited unified information system of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Currently, an appeal procedure for the public procurement is underway, which is in its final judicial phase. "The implementation of the new software for the 2016 Campaign in the Regional Agricultural Directorates definitely could have facilitated real-time application for direct payments, but we did not succeed," said Desislava Taneva, Minister of Agriculture and Food, in an interview for Farmer.BG WEB TV.

**Schedule for meetings with farmers regarding the changes in the Law on Support for Producers in the Agricultural Sector and the upcoming campaign - direct payments 2016.**