

users of credit, local rural communities, and the Federal Government, including—

(A) any added risk to the safety and soundness of the Farm Credit System that may result from approval of a proposal; and

(B) any positive or adverse impacts on competition between the Farm Credit System and the banks of the United States in providing credit to rural users;

(8) the nature and extent of the unsatisfied rural credit need that the Farm Credit System proposals are supposed to address and what aspects of the present Farm Credit System prevent the Farm Credit System from meeting the need;

(9) the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal by commercial bankers to allow banks access to the Farm Credit System as a funding source on the Farm Credit System, the United States banking system, rural users of credit, local rural communities, and the Federal Government, including—

(A) any added risk to the safety and soundness of the Farm Credit System that may result from approval of the proposal; and

(B) any positive or adverse impacts on competition between the Farm Credit System and the banks of the United States in providing credit to rural users; and

(10) problems that commercial banks have in obtaining capital for lending in rural areas, how access to Farm Credit System funds would improve the availability of capital in rural areas in ways that cannot be achieved in the system in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, and the possible effects on the viability of the Farm Credit System of granting banks access to Farm Credit System funds.

(d) INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.—In completing the study, the Secretary shall use, among other things, data and information obtained by the interagency task force on rural credit.

Subtitle E—General Provisions

SEC. 661. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) Section 307(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1927(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “304(b), 306(a)(1), and 310B” and inserting “306(a)(1) and 310B”; and

(2) in paragraph (6)(B)—

(A) by striking clauses (i), (ii), (iv), and (vii);

(B) in clause (v), by adding “and” at the end;

(C) in clause (vi), by striking “, and” at the end and inserting a period; and

(D) by redesignating clauses (iii), (v), and (vi) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively.

(b) The second sentence of section 309(g)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1929(g)(1)) is amended by striking “section 308.”

(c) Section 309A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1929a) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence of subsection (a), by striking “304(b), 306(a)(1), 306(a)(14), 310B, and 312(b)” and inserting “306(a)(1), 306(a)(14), and 310B”; and

(2) in the first sentence of subsection (b), by striking “and section 308”.

(d) Section 310B(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking “sections 304(b), 310B, and 312(b)” each place it appears in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) and inserting “this section”; and

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking “this section, section 304, or section 312” and inserting “this section”.

(e) The first sentence of section 310D(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1934(a)) is amended by striking “paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 303(a), or subparagraphs (A) through (E) of section 304(a)(1)” and inserting “section 303(a), or paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 304(a)”.

(f) Section 311(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1941(b)(1)) is amended by striking “and for the purposes specified in section 312”.

(g) Section 316(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1946(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(h) Section 343 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(10), by striking “recreation loan (RL) under section 304,”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “351(h),”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) PRESERVATION LOAN SERVICE PROGRAM.—The term ‘preservation loan service program’ means homestead retention as authorized under section 352.”

(i) The first sentence of section 344 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1992) is amended by striking “304(b), 306(a)(1), 310B, 312(b), or 312(c)” and inserting “306(a)(1), 310B, or 312(c)”.

(j) Section 353(l) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (as redesignated by section 645(3)) is amended by striking “and subparagraphs (A)(i) and (C)(i) of section 335(e)(1),”.

SEC. 662. ELECTRONIC FILING OF EFFECTIVE FINANCING STATEMENTS UNDER THE CLEAR TITLE PROVISIONS OF THE FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 1985.

Section 1324(c)(4) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1631(c)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “thereof” and inserting “of the statement, or, in the case of a State which (under the applicable State law provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code) allows the electronic filing of financing statements without the signature of the debtor, is an electronically reproduced copy of the statement”; and

(2) in each of subparagraphs (B) and (C), by inserting “other than in the case of an electronically reproduced copy of the statement,” before “is”.

7 USC 1922 note. **SEC. 663. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (b), the amendments made by this title shall become effective on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATES.**—The amendments made by sections 601, 606, 611, 612, 622, 623, 625, 633, 640(1), 642, 645(1), 648(a), and 649 shall become effective 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) **TRANSITION PROVISION.**—The amendments made by sections 638 and 644 shall not apply with respect to a complete application to acquire inventory property submitted prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) **REGULATIONS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, regulations to implement the amendments made by this title shall be published as interim final rules with request for comments and may be made effective immediately on publication.

TITLE VII—RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Subtitle A—Amendments to the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990

CHAPTER 1—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 701. RURAL INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS.

Subtitle B of title XXIII of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2007 et seq.) is repealed.

SEC. 702. WATER AND WASTE FACILITY FINANCING.

Section 2322 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 1926-1) is repealed.

SEC. 703. RURAL WASTEWATER CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM.

Section 2324 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-624; 7 U.S.C. 1926 note) is repealed.

SEC. 704. TELEMEDICINE AND DISTANCE LEARNING SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS.

Chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XXIII of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“CHAPTER 1—TELEMEDICINE AND DISTANCE LEARNING SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS

7 USC 950aaa. **“SEC. 2331. PURPOSE.**

“The purpose of this chapter is to encourage and improve telemedicine services and distance learning services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents.

7 USC 950aaa-1. **“SEC. 2332. DEFINITIONS.**

“In this chapter:

“(1) CONSTRUCT.—The term ‘construct’ means to construct, acquire, install, improve, or extend a facility or system.

“(2) COST OF MONEY LOAN.—The term ‘cost of money loan’ means a loan made under this chapter bearing interest at a rate equal to the then current cost to the Federal Government of loans of similar maturity.

“(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Agriculture.

“SEC. 2333. TELEMEDICINE AND DISTANCE LEARNING SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS. 7 USC 950aaa-2.

“(a) SERVICES TO RURAL AREAS.—The Secretary may provide financial assistance for the purpose of financing the construction of facilities and systems to provide telemedicine services and distance learning services in rural areas.

“(b) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Financial assistance shall consist of grants or cost of money loans, or both.

“(2) FORM.—The Secretary shall determine the portion of the financial assistance provided to a recipient that consists of grants and the portion that consists of cost of money loans so as to result in the maximum feasible repayment to the Federal Government of the financial assistance, based on the ability to repay of the recipient and full utilization of funds made available to carry out this chapter.

“(c) RECIPIENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide financial assistance under this chapter to—

“(A) entities using telemedicine services or distance learning services; and

“(B) entities providing or proposing to provide telemedicine service or distance learning service to other persons at rates calculated to ensure that the benefit of the financial assistance is passed through to the other persons.

“(2) ELECTRIC OR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS.—

“(A) LOANS TO BORROWERS.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary may provide a cost of money loan under this chapter to a borrower of an electric or telecommunications loan under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.). A borrower receiving a cost of money loan under this paragraph shall—

“(i) make the funds provided available to entities that qualify under paragraph (1) for projects satisfying the requirements of this chapter;

“(ii) use the funds provided to acquire, install, improve, or extend a system referred to in subsection (a); or

“(iii) use the funds provided to install, improve, or extend a facility referred to in subsection (a).

“(B) LIMITATIONS.—A borrower of an electric or telecommunications loan under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 shall—

“(i) make a system or facility funded under subparagraph (A) available to entities that qualify under paragraph (1); and

“(ii) neither retain from the proceeds of a loan provided under subparagraph (A), nor assess a qualifying entity under paragraph (1), any amount except as may be required to pay the actual costs incurred in administering the loan or making the system or facility available.

“(3) APPEAL.—If the Secretary rejects the application of a borrower who applies for a cost of money loan or grant under this section, the borrower may appeal the decision to the Secretary not later than 10 days after the borrower is notified of the rejection.

“(4) ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE OR IMPROVE SERVICES.—Financial assistance may be provided under this chapter for a facility regardless of the location of the facility if the Secretary determines that the assistance is necessary to provide or improve telemedicine services or distance learning services in a rural area.

“(d) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to prioritize financial assistance under this chapter considering—

“(1) the need for the assistance in the affected rural area;

“(2) the financial need of the applicant;

“(3) the population sparsity of the affected rural area;

“(4) the local involvement in the project serving the affected rural area;

“(5) geographic diversity among the recipients of financial assistance;

“(6) the utilization of the telecommunications facilities of any telecommunications provider serving the affected rural area;

“(7) the portion of total project financing provided by the applicant from the funds of the applicant;

“(8) the portion of project financing provided by the applicant with funds obtained from non-Federal sources;

“(9) the joint utilization of facilities financed by other financial assistance;

“(10) the coordination of the proposed project with regional projects or networks;

“(11) service to the greatest practical number of persons within the general geographic area covered by the financial assistance;

“(12) conformity with the State strategic plan as prepared under section 381D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act; and

“(13) other factors determined appropriate by the Secretary.

Federal Register,
publication.

“(e) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary may establish the maximum amount of financial assistance to be made available to an individual recipient for each fiscal year under this chapter, by publishing notice of the maximum amount in the Federal Register not more than 45 days after funds are made available for the fiscal year to carry out this chapter.

“(f) USE OF FUNDS.—Financial assistance provided under this chapter shall be used for—

“(1) the development and acquisition of instructional programming;

“(2) the development and acquisition, through lease or purchase, of computer hardware and software, audio and visual

equipment, computer network components, telecommunications terminal equipment, telecommunications transmission facilities, data terminal equipment, or interactive video equipment, or other facilities that would further telemedicine services or distance learning services;

“(3) providing technical assistance and instruction for the development or use of the programming, equipment, or facilities referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2); or

“(4) other uses that are consistent with this chapter, as determined by the Secretary.

“(g) SALARIES AND EXPENSES.—Notwithstanding subsection (f), financial assistance provided under this chapter shall not be used for paying salaries or administrative expenses.

“(h) EXPEDITING COORDINATED TELEPHONE LOANS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may establish and carry out procedures to ensure that expedited consideration and determination is given to applications for loans and advances of funds submitted by local exchange carriers under this chapter and the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) to enable the exchange carriers to provide advanced telecommunications services in rural areas in conjunction with any other projects carried out under this chapter.

“(2) DEADLINE IMPOSED ON SECRETARY.—Not later than 45 days after the receipt of a completed application for an expedited telephone loan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall notify the applicant in writing of the decision of the Secretary regarding the application.

“(i) NOTIFICATION OF LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIER.—

“(1) APPLICANTS.—Each applicant for a grant for a telemedicine or distance learning project established under this chapter shall notify the appropriate local telephone exchange carrier regarding the application filed with the Secretary for the grant.

“(2) SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) publish notice of applications received for grants under this chapter for telemedicine or distance learning projects; and

“(B) make the applications available for inspection.

“SEC. 2334. ADMINISTRATION.

“(a) NONDUPLICATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that facilities constructed using financial assistance provided under this chapter do not duplicate adequate established telemedicine services or distance learning services.

“(b) LOAN MATURITY.—The maturities of cost of money loans shall be determined by the Secretary, based on the useful life of the facility being financed, except that the loan shall not be for a period of more than 10 years.

“(c) LOAN SECURITY AND FEASIBILITY.—The Secretary shall make a cost of money loan only if the Secretary determines that the security for the loan is reasonably adequate and that the loan will be repaid within the period of the loan.

“(d) ENCOURAGING CONSORTIA.—The Secretary shall encourage the development of consortia to provide telemedicine services or distance learning services through telecommunications in rural areas served by a telecommunications provider.

Notification.

7 USC 950aaa-3.

“(e) COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.—The Secretary shall coordinate, to the extent practicable, with other Federal and State agencies with similar grant or loan programs to pool resources for funding meritorious proposals in rural areas.

“(f) INFORMATIONAL EFFORTS.—The Secretary shall establish and implement procedures to carry out informational efforts to advise potential end users located in rural areas of each State about the program authorized by this chapter.

7 USC 950aaa-4. **“SEC. 2335. REGULATIONS.**

“Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, the Secretary shall issue regulations to carry out this chapter.

7 USC 950aaa-5. **“SEC. 2335A. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this chapter \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1996 through 2002.”.

SEC. 705. LIMITATION ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR RURAL TECHNOLOGY GRANTS.

Section 2347 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-624; 104 Stat. 4034) is amended—

7 USC 1932.

- (1) by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—”; and
- (2) by striking subsection (b).

SEC. 706. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

Section 2348 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2662a) is repealed.

SEC. 707. MONITORING THE ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF RURAL AMERICA.

Section 2382 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-624; 13 U.S.C. 141 note) is repealed.

SEC. 708. ANALYSIS BY OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT.

Section 2385 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-624; 7 U.S.C. 950aaa-4 note) is repealed.

SEC. 709. RURAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT.

Section 2391 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-624; 7 U.S.C. 2662 note) is repealed.

SEC. 710. CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE.

13 USC 142 note.

Section 2392 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-624; 104 Stat. 4057) is repealed.

15 USC 714 note.

SEC. 711. STUDY OF THE TRANSPORTATION OF FERTILIZER AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS TO FARMERS.

Section 2517 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-624; 104 Stat. 4077) is repealed.

CHAPTER 2—ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND COMMERCIALIZATION

SEC. 721. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1657(c) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5901(c)) is amended—

- (1) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4);

- (2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (3);
- (3) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (12) as paragraphs (7) through (13), respectively; and
- (4) by inserting after paragraph (3) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)) the following:

“(4) CORPORATE BOARD.—The term ‘Corporate Board’ means the Board of Directors of the Corporation described in section 1659.

“(5) CORPORATION.—The term ‘Corporation’ means the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Corporation established under section 1658.

“(6) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Executive Director’ means the Executive Director of the Corporation appointed under section 1659(e).”

SEC. 722. ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND COMMERCIALIZATION CORPORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1658 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5902) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1658. ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND COMMERCIALIZATION CORPORATION.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—To carry out this subtitle, there is created a body corporate to be known as the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Corporation, which shall be an agency of the United States, within the Department of Agriculture, subject to the general supervision and direction of the Secretary, except as specifically provided for in this subtitle.

“(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Corporation is to—

“(1) expedite the development and market penetration of industrial, nonfood, nonfeed products from agricultural and forestry materials; and

“(2) assist the private sector in bridging the gap between the results of research into nonfood, nonfeed products and the commercialization of the research.

“(c) PLACE OF INCORPORATION.—The Corporation shall be incorporated in the District of Columbia.

“(d) CENTRAL OFFICE.—The Secretary shall provide facilities for the principal office of the Corporation within the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

“(e) WHOLLY-OWNED GOVERNMENT CORPORATION.—The Corporation shall be considered a wholly-owned government corporation in accordance with chapter 91 of title 31, United States Code.

“(f) GENERAL POWERS.—In addition to any other powers granted to the Corporation under this subtitle, the Corporation—

“(1) shall have succession in its corporate name;

“(2) may adopt, alter, and rescind any bylaw and adopt and alter a corporate seal, which shall be judicially noticed;

“(3) may enter into any agreement or contract with a person or private or governmental agency, except that the Corporation shall not provide any financial assistance unless specifically authorized by this subtitle;

“(4) may lease, purchase, accept a gift or donation of, or otherwise acquire, use, own, hold, improve, or otherwise deal in or with, and sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, any property or interest in property, as the Corporation considers necessary in the transaction of

District of
Columbia.

the business of the Corporation, except that this paragraph shall not provide authority for carrying out a program of real estate investment;

“(5) may sue and be sued in the corporate name of the Corporation, except that—

“(A) no attachment, injunction, garnishment, or similar process shall be issued against the Corporation or property of the Corporation; and

Courts.

“(B) exclusive original jurisdiction shall reside in the district courts of the United States, but the Corporation may intervene in any court in any suit, action, or proceeding in which the Corporation has an interest;

“(6) may independently retain legal representation;

“(7) may provide for and designate such committees, and the functions of the committees, as the Corporate Board considers necessary or desirable;

“(8) may indemnify the Executive Director and other officers of the Corporation, as the Corporate Board considers necessary and desirable, except that the Executive Director and officers shall not be indemnified for an act outside the scope of employment;

“(9) may, with the consent of any board, commission, independent establishment, or executive department of the Federal Government, including any field service, use information, services, facilities, officials, and employees in carrying out this subtitle, and pay for the use, which payments shall be transferred to the applicable appropriation account that incurred the expense;

“(10) may obtain the services and fix the compensation of any consultant and otherwise procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code;

“(11) may use the United States mails on the same terms and conditions as the Executive agencies of the Federal Government;

“(12) shall have the rights, privileges, and immunities of the United States with respect to the right to priority of payment with respect to debts due from bankrupt, insolvent, or deceased creditors;

“(13) may collect or compromise any obligations assigned to or held by the Corporation, including any legal or equitable rights accruing to the Corporation;

“(14) shall determine the character of, and necessity for, obligations and expenditures of the Corporation and the manner in which the obligations and expenditures shall be incurred, allowed, and paid, subject to provisions of law specifically applicable to Government corporations;

“(15) may make final and conclusive settlement and adjustment of any claim by or against the Corporation or a fiscal officer of the Corporation;

“(16) may sell assets, loans, and equity interests acquired in connection with the financing of projects funded by the Corporation; and

“(17) may exercise all other lawful powers necessarily or reasonably related to the establishment of the Corporation to carry out this subtitle and the powers, purposes, functions, duties, and authorized activities of the Corporation.

“(g) **SPECIFIC POWERS.**—To carry out this subtitle, the Corporation may—

“(1) make grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements and contracts with, eligible applicants for research, development, and demonstration projects in accordance with section 1660;

“(2) make loans and interest subsidy payments and invest venture capital in accordance with section 1661;

“(3) collect and disseminate information concerning State, regional, and local commercialization projects;

“(4) search for new nonfood, nonfeed products that may be produced from agricultural commodities and for processes to produce the products;

“(5) administer, maintain, and dispense funds from the Fund to facilitate the conduct of activities under this subtitle; and

“(6) engage in other activities incident to carrying out the functions of the Corporation.”

(b) **WHOLLY-OWNED GOVERNMENT CORPORATION.**—Section 9101(3) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (N) (relating to the Uranium Enrichment Corporation) as subparagraph (O); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(Q) the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Corporation.”

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 211(b)(5) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6911(b)(5)) is amended by striking “Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Board” and inserting “Corporate Board of the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Corporation”.

SEC. 723. BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, AND FACILITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1659 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5903) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1659. BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, AND FACILITIES.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The powers of the Corporation shall be vested in a Corporate Board.

“(b) **MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATE BOARD.**—The Corporate Board shall consist of 11 members as follows:

“(1) The Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

“(2) The Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

“(3) 5 members appointed by the Secretary, of whom—

“(A) at least 1 member shall be a representative of the leading scientific disciplines relevant to the activities of the Corporation;

“(B) at least 1 member shall be a producer or processor of agricultural commodities;

“(C) at least 1 member shall be a person who is privately engaged in the commercialization of new nonfood, nonfeed products from agricultural commodities; and

“(D) at least 1 member shall have expertise in financial management.

A different member shall be appointed pursuant to each subparagraph of this paragraph.

“(4) 2 members appointed by the Secretary who—

“(A) have expertise in areas of applied research relating to the development or commercialization of new nonfood, nonfeed products; and

“(B) shall be appointed from a group of at least 4 individuals nominated by the Director of the National Science Foundation if the nominations are made not later than 60 days after the date a vacancy occurs.

“(5) 2 members appointed by the Secretary who—

“(A) have expertise in financial and managerial matters; and

“(B) shall be appointed from a group of at least 4 individuals nominated by the Secretary of Commerce if the nominations are made not later than 60 days after the date a vacancy occurs.

“(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CORPORATE BOARD.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Corporate Board shall—

“(A) be responsible for the general supervision of the Corporation and Regional Centers established under section 1663;

“(B) determine (in consultation with Regional Centers) high priority commercialization areas to receive assistance under section 1663;

“(C) review any grant, contract, or cooperative agreement to be made or entered into by the Corporation under section 1660 and any financial assistance to be provided under section 1661;

“(D) make the final decision, by majority vote, on whether and how to provide assistance to an applicant; and

“(E) develop and establish a budget plan and a long-term operating plan to carry out this subtitle.

“(2) AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall vacate and remand to the Corporate Board for reconsideration any decision made pursuant to paragraph (1)(D) if the Secretary determines that there has been a violation of subsection (j), or any conflict of interest provisions of the bylaws of the Corporate Board, with respect to the decision.

“(B) REASONS.—In the case of any violation and referral of a funding decision to the Corporate Board, the Secretary shall inform the Corporate Board of the reasons for any remand pursuant to subparagraph (A).

“(d) CHAIRPERSON.—The members of the Corporate Board shall select a Chairperson from among the members of the Corporate Board. The term of office of the Chairperson shall be 2 years. The members referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) may not serve as Chairperson.

“(e) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—

“(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Corporate Board shall appoint an Executive Director, subject to the approval of the Secretary.

“(2) DUTIES.—The Executive Director shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation, with such power and authority as may be conferred by the Corporate Board.

“(3) COMPENSATION.—The Executive Director shall receive basic pay at the rate provided for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

“(f) OFFICERS.—The Corporate Board shall establish the offices and appoint the officers of the Corporation, including a Secretary, and define the duties of the officers in a manner consistent with this subtitle.

“(g) MEETINGS.—The Corporate Board shall meet at least 3 times each fiscal year at the call of the Chairperson or at the request of the Executive Director. The location of the meetings shall be subject to approval of the Executive Director. A quorum of the Corporate Board shall consist of a majority of the members. The decisions of the Corporate Board shall be made by majority vote.

“(h) TERM; VACANCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term of office of a member of the Corporate Board shall be 4 years, except that the members initially appointed shall be appointed to serve staggered terms. A member appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term may be appointed only for the remainder of the term. A vacancy on the Corporate Board shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The Secretary may remove a member of the Corporate Board only for cause.

“(2) TRANSITION MEASURE.—The Secretary may appoint to the Corporate Board an individual who, on the day before the date of enactment of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, was serving on the former Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Board, for a term that does not exceed the term for which the individual was appointed to the former Board.

“(i) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Corporate Board who is an officer or employee of the United States shall not receive any additional compensation by reason of service on the Corporate Board. Any other member shall receive, for each day (including travel time) the member is engaged in the performance of the functions of the Corporate Board, compensation at a rate not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate in effect for Level IV of the Executive Schedule. A member of the Corporate Board shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by the member in the performance of the duties of the member.

“(j) CONFLICT OF INTEREST; FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.—

“(1) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), no member of the Corporate Board shall vote on any matter respecting any application, contract, claim, or other particular matter pending before the Corporation, in which, to the knowledge of the member, the member, spouse, or child of the member, partner, or organization in which the member is serving as officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee, or any person or organization with whom the member is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment, has a financial interest.

“(2) VIOLATIONS.—Violation of paragraph (1) by a member of the Corporate Board shall be cause for removal of the member, but shall not impair or otherwise affect the validity of any otherwise lawful action by the Corporation in which the member participated.

“(3) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibitions contained in paragraph (1) shall not apply if a member of the Corporate Board advises the Corporate Board of the nature of the particular matter in which the member proposes to participate, and if the member makes a full disclosure of the financial interest, prior to any participation, and the Corporate Board determines, by majority vote, that the financial interest is too remote or too inconsequential to affect the integrity of the member’s services to the Corporation in that matter. The member involved shall not vote on the determination.

“(4) FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.—A Board member shall be subject to the financial disclosure requirements set forth in subchapter B of chapter XVI of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations (or any corresponding or similar regulation or ruling), applicable to a special Government employee (as defined in section 202(a) of title 18, United States Code).

“(k) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Corporate Board may, by resolution, delegate to the Chairperson, the Executive Director, or any other officer or employee any function, power, or duty assigned to the Corporation under this subtitle, other than a function, power, or duty expressly vested in the Corporate Board by subsections (c) through (n).

“(2) PROHIBITION ON DELEGATION.—Notwithstanding any other law, the Secretary and any other officer or employee of the United States shall not make any delegation to the Corporate Board, the Chairperson, the Executive Director, or the Corporation of any power, function, or authority not expressly authorized by this subtitle, unless the delegation is made pursuant to an authority in law that expressly makes reference to this section.

“(3) REORGANIZATION ACT.—Notwithstanding any other law, the President (through authorities provided under chapter 9 of title 5, United States Code) may not authorize the transfer to the Corporation of any power, function, or authority in addition to powers, functions, and authorities provided by law.

“(l) BYLAWS.—Notwithstanding section 1658(f)(2), the Corporate Board shall adopt, and may from time to time amend, any bylaw that is necessary for the proper management and functioning of the Corporation. The Corporate Board shall not adopt any bylaw that has not been reviewed and approved by the Secretary.

“(m) ORGANIZATION.—The Corporate Board shall provide a system of organization to fix responsibility and promote efficiency.

“(n) PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES OF CORPORATION.—

“(1) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION OF PERSONNEL.—The Corporation may select and appoint officers, attorneys, employees, and agents, who shall be vested with such powers and duties as the Corporation may determine.

“(2) USE OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, to perform the responsibilities of the Corporation under this subtitle, the Corporation may partially or jointly utilize the facilities of and the services of employees of the Department of Agriculture, without cost to the Corporation.

“(3) GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT LAWS.—An officer or employee of the Corporation shall be subject to all laws of the United States relating to governmental employment.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Executive Director of the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Corporation.”

SEC. 724. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND AGREEMENTS.

Section 1660 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5904) is amended—

(1) by striking “Center” each place it appears and inserting “Corporation”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “Board” and inserting “Corporate Board”; and

(3) in subsection (f), by striking “non-Center” and inserting “non-Corporation”.

SEC. 725. COMMERCIALIZATION ASSISTANCE.

Section 1661 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5905) is amended—

(1) by striking “Center” each place it appears and inserting “Corporation”;

(2) by striking “Board” each place it appears and inserting “Corporate Board”;

(3) by striking subsection (c);

(4) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively; and

(5) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the subsection heading of paragraph (1), by striking “DIRECTOR” and inserting “EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR”; and

(B) by striking “Director” each place it appears and inserting “Executive Director”.

SEC. 726. GENERAL RULES REGARDING THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.

Section 1662 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5906) is amended—

(1) by striking “Center” each place it appears (except in subsection (b)) and inserting “Corporation”;

(2) by striking “Board” each place it appears and inserting “Corporate Board”; and

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the second sentence, by striking “Board, a Regional Center, or the Advisory Council” and inserting “Board or a Regional Center”; and

(B) by striking the third sentence.

SEC. 727. REGIONAL CENTERS.

Section 1663 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5907) is amended—

(1) by striking “Board” each place it appears and inserting “Corporate Board”;

(2) in subsection (e)(8), by striking “Center” and inserting “Corporation”; and

(3) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “in consultation with the Advisory Council appointed under section 1661(c)”; and

(B) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4) and inserting the following:

“(3) RECOMMENDATION.—The Regional Director, based on the comments of the reviewers, shall make and submit a recommendation to the Board, which shall not be binding on the Board.”

SEC. 728. ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND COMMERCIALIZATION REVOLVING FUND.

Section 1664 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5908) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1664. ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND COMMERCIALIZATION REVOLVING FUND.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a revolving fund to be known as the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Revolving Fund. The Fund shall be available to the Corporation, without fiscal year limitation, to carry out this subtitle.

“(b) CONTENTS OF FUND.—There shall be deposited in the Fund—

“(1) such amounts as may be appropriated or transferred to support programs and activities of the Corporation;

“(2) payments received from any source for products, services, or property furnished in connection with the activities of the Corporation;

“(3) fees and royalties collected by the Corporation from licensing or other arrangements relating to commercialization of products developed through projects funded in whole or part by grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements executed by the Corporation;

“(4) proceeds from the sale of assets, loans, and equity interests made in furtherance of the purposes of the Corporation;

“(5) donations or contributions accepted by the Corporation to support authorized programs and activities; and

“(6) any other funds acquired by the Corporation.

“(c) FUNDING ALLOCATIONS.—Funding of projects and activities under this subtitle shall be subject to the following restrictions:

“(1) Of the total amount of funds made available for a fiscal year under this subtitle—

“(A) not more than the lesser of 15 percent or \$3,000,000 may be set aside to be used for authorized administrative expenses of the Corporation;

“(B) not more than 1 percent may be set aside to be used for generic studies and specific reviews of individual proposals for financial assistance; and

“(C) except as provided in subsection (e), not less than 84 percent shall be set aside to be awarded to qualified applicants who file project applications with, or respond to requests for proposals from, the Corporation under sections 1660 and 1661.

“(2) Any funds remaining uncommitted at the end of a fiscal year shall be credited to the Fund and added to the total program funds available to the Corporation for the next fiscal year.

“(d) AUTHORIZED ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—For the purposes of this section, authorized administrative expenses shall include

all ordinary and necessary expenses, including all compensation for personnel and consultants, expenses for computer usage, or space needs of the Corporation and similar expenses. Funds authorized for administrative expenses shall not be available for the acquisition of real property.

“(e) PROJECT MONITORING.—The Corporate Board may establish, in the bylaws of the Corporate Board, that a percentage (which shall not exceed 1 percent) of the funds provided under subsection (c) for any commercialization project shall be expended to ensure that project funds are being utilized in accordance with the project agreement.

“(f) TERMINATION OF THE FUND.—On expiration of the authority provided by this subtitle, all assets (after payment of all outstanding obligations) of the Fund shall revert to the general fund of the Treasury.

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; CAPITALIZATION.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1996 through 2002.

“(2) CAPITALIZATION.—The Executive Director may pay in as capital of the Corporation, out of dollar receipts made available through annual appropriations, \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1996 through 2002. On the payment of an amount of capital by the Executive Director, the Corporation shall issue an equivalent amount of capital stock to the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(3) TRANSFER.—All obligations, assets, and related rights and responsibilities of the former Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Center established under former section 1658 of this Act (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996) are transferred to the Corporation.”.

SEC. 729. PROCUREMENT PREFERENCES FOR PRODUCTS RECEIVING CORPORATION ASSISTANCE.

Subtitle G of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5901 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1665. PROCUREMENT OF ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND COMMERCIALIZATION PRODUCTS. 7 USC 5909.

“(a) DEFINITION OF EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—In this section, the term ‘executive agency’ has the meaning provided the term in section 4(1) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403(1)).

“(b) PROCUREMENT.—To further the achievement of the purposes specified in section 1657(b), an executive agency may, for any procurement involving the acquisition of property, establish set-asides and preferences for property that has been commercialized with assistance provided under this subtitle.

“(c) SET-ASIDES.—Procurements solely for property may be set aside exclusively for products developed with commercialization assistance provided under section 1661.

“(d) PREFERENCES.—Preferences for property developed with assistance provided under this subtitle in procurements involving the acquisition of property may be—

“(1) a price preference, if the procurement is solely for property, of not greater than a percentage to be determined

within the sole discretion of the head of the procuring agency;
or

“(2) a technical evaluation preference included as an award factor or subfactor as determined within the sole discretion of the head of the procuring agency.

“(e) NOTICE.—Each competitive solicitation or invitation for bids selected by an executive agency for a set-aside or preference under this section shall contain a provision notifying offerors where a list of products eligible for the set-aside or preference may be obtained.

“(f) ELIGIBILITY.—Offerors shall receive the set-aside or preference required under this section if, in the case of products developed with financial assistance under—

“(1) section 1660, less than 10 years have elapsed since the expiration of the grant, cooperative agreement, or contract;

“(2) paragraph (1) or (2) of section 1661(a), less than 5 years have elapsed since the date the loan was made or insured;

“(3) section 1661(a)(3), less than 5 years have elapsed since the date of sale of any remaining government equity interest in the company; or

“(4) section 1661(a)(4), less than 5 years have elapsed since the date of the final payment on the repayable grant.”

7 USC 5902 note.

SEC. 730. BUSINESS PLAN AND FEASIBILITY STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) BUSINESS PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Corporation established by section 1658 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 shall—

(1) develop a 5-year business plan pursuant to section 1659(c)(1)(E) of the Act; and

(2) submit the plan to the Secretary of Agriculture, the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(b) FEASIBILITY STUDY AND REPORT.—

(1) STUDY.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct a study of, and prepare a report on, the continued feasibility of the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Corporation. In conducting the study, the Secretary shall examine options for privatizing the Corporation and converting the Corporation to a Government-sponsored enterprise.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2001, the Secretary shall transmit the report required by paragraph (1) to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

Subtitle B—Amendments to the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act

CHAPTER 1—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 741. WATER AND WASTE FACILITY LOANS AND GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of paragraph (2), by striking “\$500,000,000” and inserting “\$590,000,000”;

(2) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

“(7) DEFINITION OF RURAL AND RURAL AREAS.—For the purpose of water and waste disposal grants and direct and guaranteed loans provided under paragraphs (1) and (2), the terms ‘rural’ and ‘rural area’ mean a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of no more than 10,000 inhabitants.”;

(3) by striking paragraphs (9), (10), and (11) and inserting the following:

“(9) CONFORMITY WITH STATE DRINKING WATER STANDARDS.—No Federal funds shall be made available under this section for a water system unless the Secretary determines that the water system will make significant progress toward meeting the standards established under title XIV of the Public Health Service Act (commonly known as the ‘Safe Drinking Water Act’) (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.).

“(10) CONFORMITY WITH FEDERAL AND STATE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL STANDARDS.—No Federal funds shall be made available under this section for a water treatment discharge or waste disposal system unless the Secretary determines that the effluent from the system conforms with applicable Federal and State water pollution control standards.

“(11) RURAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants, not to exceed \$1,500,000 annually, to public bodies, private nonprofit community development corporations or entities, or such other agencies as the Secretary may select to enable the recipients—

“(i) to identify and analyze business opportunities, including opportunities in export markets, that will use local rural economic and human resources;

“(ii) to identify, train, and provide technical assistance to existing or prospective rural entrepreneurs and managers;

“(iii) to establish business support centers and otherwise assist in the creation of new rural businesses, the development of methods of financing local businesses, and the enhancement of the capacity of local individuals and entities to engage in sound economic activities;

“(iv) to conduct regional, community, and local economic development planning and coordination, and leadership development; and

“(v) to establish centers for training, technology, and trade that will provide training to rural businesses in the utilization of interactive communications technologies to develop international trade opportunities and markets.

“(B) CRITERIA.—In awarding the grants, the Secretary shall consider, among other criteria to be established by the Secretary—

“(i) the extent to which the applicant provides development services in the rural service area of the applicant; and

“(ii) the capability of the applicant to accomplish the activities described in the relevant clauses of subparagraph (A).

“(C) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that assistance provided under this paragraph is coordinated with and delivered in cooperation with similar services or assistance provided to rural residents by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service or other Federal agencies.

“(D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph \$7,500,000 for each of fiscal years 1996 through 2002.”;

(4) by striking paragraphs (14) and (15);

(5) by redesignating paragraphs (16) through (20) as paragraphs (14) through (18), respectively; and

(6) in paragraph (14) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking “(14)(A) The” and inserting the following:

“(14) RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The”;

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “(i) identify” and inserting the following:

“(i) identify”;

(ii) by striking “(ii) prepare” and inserting the following:

“(ii) prepare”; and

(iii) by striking “(iii) improve” and inserting the following:

“(iii) improve”;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “(B) In” and inserting the following:

“(B) SELECTION PRIORITY.—In”; and

(D) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking “(C) Not” and inserting the following:

“(C) FUNDING.—Not”; and

(ii) by striking “2 per centum of any funds provided in appropriations Acts” and inserting “3 percent of any funds appropriated”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The second sentence of section 309A(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1929a(a)) (as amended by section 661(c)(1)) is amended by striking “, 306(a)(14),”.

SEC. 742. EMERGENCY COMMUNITY WATER ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES.

Section 306A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “15,000” and inserting “10,000”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “5,000” and inserting “3,000”; and

(2) by striking subsection (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1996 through 2002.”

SEC. 743. EMERGENCY COMMUNITY WATER ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM FOR SMALLEST COMMUNITIES.

Section 306B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926b) is repealed.

SEC. 744. AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND.

Section 309(f) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1929(f)) is amended—

- (1) by striking paragraph (1); and
- (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (1) through (5), respectively.

SEC. 745. RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSURANCE FUND.

Section 309A(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1929a(g)) is amended—

- (1) by striking paragraph (1); and
- (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as paragraphs (1) through (7), respectively.

SEC. 746. INSURED WATERSHED AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT LOANS.

Section 310A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1931) is repealed.

SEC. 747. RURAL INDUSTRIALIZATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932) is amended—

- (1) in the first sentence of subsection (a)—
 - (A) by striking “and” at the end of clause (2); and
 - (B) by inserting before the period the following: “, and (4) to facilitate economic opportunity for industries undergoing adjustment from terminated Federal agricultural price and income support programs or increased competition from foreign trade”;
- (2) in subsection (b), by striking “(b)(1)” and all that follows through “(2) The” and inserting the following:

“(b) SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT GRANTS.—The”;
- (3) in subsection (c)—
 - (A) by striking “(c)(1) The” and inserting the following:

“(c) RURAL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE GRANTS.—
 - “(1) IN GENERAL.—The”;
 - (B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “(including nonprofit entities)” after “private business enterprises”;
 - (C) in paragraph (2)—
 - (i) by striking “(2) The” and inserting the following:

“(2) PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION SERVICES OR FACILITIES.—
 - The”; and
 - (ii) by striking “make grants” and inserting “award grants on a competitive basis”; and
 - (D) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) GRANTS TO AID INDUSTRIES IN ADJUSTING TO TERMINATED FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS OR INCREASED FOREIGN COMPETITION.—The Secretary may make grants under this section to facilitate economic opportunity for industries

undergoing adjustment from terminated Federal agricultural price and income support programs or increased competition from foreign trade.”;

(4) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) NONPROFIT INSTITUTION.—The term ‘nonprofit institution’ means any organization or institution, including an accredited institution of higher education, no part of the net earnings of which inures, or may lawfully inure, to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

“(B) UNITED STATES.—The term ‘United States’ means the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the other territories and possessions of the United States.

“(2) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make grants under this subsection to nonprofit institutions for the purpose of enabling the institutions to establish and operate centers for rural cooperative development.

“(3) GOALS.—The goals of a center funded under this subsection shall be to facilitate the creation of jobs in rural areas through the development of new rural cooperatives, value added processing, and rural businesses.

“(4) APPLICATION.—Any nonprofit institution seeking a grant under paragraph (2) shall submit to the Secretary an application containing a plan for the establishment and operation by the institution of a center or centers for cooperative development. The Secretary may approve the application if the plan contains the following:

“(A) A provision that substantiates that the center will effectively serve rural areas in the United States.

“(B) A provision that the primary objective of the center will be to improve the economic condition of rural areas through cooperative development.

“(C) A description of the activities that the center will carry out to accomplish the objective. The activities may include the following:

“(i) Programs for applied research and feasibility studies that may be useful to individuals, cooperatives, small businesses, and other similar entities in rural areas served by the center.

“(ii) Programs for the collection, interpretation, and dissemination of information that may be useful to individuals, cooperatives, small businesses, and other similar entities in rural areas served by the center.

“(iii) Programs providing training and instruction for individuals, cooperatives, small businesses, and other similar entities in rural areas served by the center.

“(iv) Programs providing loans and grants to individuals, cooperatives, small businesses, and other similar entities in rural areas served by the center.

“(v) Programs providing technical assistance, research services, and advisory services to individuals, cooperatives, small businesses, and other similar entities in rural areas served by the center.

“(vi) Programs providing for the coordination of services and sharing of information among the center.

“(D) A description of the contributions that the activities are likely to make to the improvement of the economic conditions of the rural areas for which the center will provide services.

“(E) Provisions that the center, in carrying out the activities, will seek, where appropriate, the advice, participation, expertise, and assistance of representatives of business, industry, educational institutions, the Federal Government, and State and local governments.

“(F) Provisions that the center will take all practicable steps to develop continuing sources of financial support for the center, particularly from sources in the private sector.

“(G) Provisions for—

“(i) monitoring and evaluating the activities by the nonprofit institution operating the center; and

“(ii) accounting for money received by the institution under this section.

“(5) AWARDING GRANTS.—Grants made under paragraph (2) shall be made on a competitive basis. In making grants under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall give preference to grant applications providing for the establishment of centers for rural cooperative development that—

“(A) demonstrate a proven track record in administering a nationally coordinated, regionally or State-wide operated project;

“(B) demonstrate previous expertise in providing technical assistance in rural areas;

“(C) demonstrate the ability to assist in the retention of businesses, facilitate the establishment of cooperatives and new cooperative approaches, and generate employment opportunities that will improve the economic conditions of rural areas;

“(D) demonstrate the ability to create horizontal linkages among businesses within and among various sectors in rural areas of the United States and vertical linkages to domestic and international markets;

“(E) commit to providing technical assistance and other services to underserved and economically distressed areas in rural areas of the United States; and

“(F) commit to providing greater than a 25 percent matching contribution with private funds and in-kind contributions.

“(6) 1-YEAR GRANTS; AUTHORITY TO APPROVE GRANT FOR 1 ADDITIONAL YEAR WITHOUT APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall make grants under this subsection for a period of 1 year. The Secretary shall evaluate programs receiving assistance under this subsection. If the Secretary determines it to be in the best interest of the program, the Secretary may award an additional grant to the program for the immediately succeeding year without application for the grant.

“(7) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT EXCESSIVE UNEMPLOYMENT OR UNDEREMPLOYMENT.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary may provide technical assistance to alleviate or prevent conditions of excessive unemployment,

underemployment, outmigration, or low employment growth in economically distressed rural areas that the Secretary determines have a substantial need for the assistance. The assistance may include planning and feasibility studies, management and operational assistance, and studies evaluating the need for development potential of projects that increase employment and improve economic growth in the areas.

“(8) GRANTS TO DEFRAY ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary may make grants to defray not to exceed 75 percent of the costs incurred by organizations and public bodies to carry out projects for which grants or loans are made under this subsection. For purposes of determining the non-Federal share of the costs, the Secretary shall consider contributions in cash and in kind, fairly evaluated, including premises, equipment, and services.

“(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1996 through 2002.”;

(5) by striking subsections (f), (g), (h), and (i);

(6) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (f); and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) LOAN GUARANTEES FOR THE PURCHASE OF COOPERATIVE STOCK.—

“(1) DEFINITION OF FARMER.—In this subsection, the term ‘farmer’ means any farmer that the Secretary determines is a family farmer.

“(2) LOAN GUARANTEES.—The Secretary may guarantee loans under this section to individual farmers for the purpose of purchasing start-up capital stock of a farmer cooperative established for the purpose of processing an agricultural commodity.

“(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a loan guarantee under this subsection, a farmer must produce the agricultural commodity that will be processed by the cooperative.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Clause (iii) of section 307(a)(6)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1927(a)(6)(B)) (as redesignated by section 661(a)(2)) is amended by striking “subsections (d) and (e) of section 310B” and inserting “section 310B(d)”.

(2) Section 232(c)(2) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6942(c)(2)) is amended—

(A) by striking “310B(b)(2)” and inserting “310B(b)”; and

(B) by striking “1932(b)(2)” and inserting “1932(b)”.

(3) Section 233(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6943(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (2); and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

SEC. 748. ADMINISTRATION.

Section 331(b)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981(b)(4)) is amended—

(1) by inserting after “claims” the following: “(including debts and claims arising from loan guarantees);”

(2) by striking “Farmers Home Administration or” and inserting “Consolidated Farm Service Agency, Rural Utilities

TITLE VIII—RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION

Subtitle A—Modification and Extension of Activities Under 1977 Act

SEC. 801. PURPOSES OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION.

Section 1402 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1402. PURPOSES OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION.

“The purposes of federally supported agricultural research, extension, and education are to—

“(1) enhance the competitiveness of the United States agriculture and food industry in an increasingly competitive world environment;

“(2) increase the long-term productivity of the United States agriculture and food industry while maintaining and enhancing the natural resource base on which rural America and the United States agricultural economy depend;

“(3) develop new uses and new products for agricultural commodities, such as alternative fuels, and develop new crops;

“(4) support agricultural research and extension to promote economic opportunity in rural communities and to meet the increasing demand for information and technology transfer throughout the United States agriculture industry;

“(5) improve risk management in the United States agriculture industry;

“(6) improve the safe production and processing of, and adding of value to, United States food and fiber resources using methods that maintain the balance between yield and environmental soundness;

“(7) support higher education in agriculture to give the next generation of Americans the knowledge, technology, and applications necessary to enhance the competitiveness of United States agriculture; and

“(8) maintain an adequate, nutritious, and safe supply of food to meet human nutritional needs and requirements.”

SEC. 802. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, EDU- CATION, AND ECONOMICS ADVISORY BOARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1408. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, EDU- CATION, AND ECONOMICS ADVISORY BOARD.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish within the Department of Agriculture a board to be known as the ‘National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board’.

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Board shall consist of 30 members, appointed by the Secretary.

“(2) SELECTION OF MEMBERS.—The Secretary shall appoint members of the Advisory Board from nominations submitted by organizations, associations, societies, councils, federations, groups, and companies fitting the criteria specified in paragraph (3).

“(3) MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES.—The Advisory Board shall consist of members from each of the following categories:

“(A) 1 member representing a national farm organization.

“(B) 1 member representing farm cooperatives.

“(C) 1 member actively engaged in the production of a food animal commodity.

“(D) 1 member actively engaged in the production of a plant commodity.

“(E) 1 member representing a national animal commodity organization.

“(F) 1 member representing a national crop commodity organization.

“(G) 1 member representing a national aquaculture association.

“(H) 1 member representing a national food animal science society.

“(I) 1 member representing a national crop, soil, agronomy, horticulture, or weed science society.

“(J) 1 member representing a national food science organization.

“(K) 1 member representing a national human health association.

“(L) 1 member representing a national nutritional science society.

“(M) 1 member representing the land-grant colleges and universities eligible to receive funds under the Act of July 2, 1862 (7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.).

“(N) 1 member representing the land-grant colleges and universities eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including Tuskegee University.

“(O) 1 member representing the 1994 Institutions (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note)).

“(P) 1 member representing Hispanic-serving institutions.

“(Q) 1 member representing the American Colleges of Veterinary Medicine.

“(R) 1 member representing that portion of the scientific community not closely associated with agriculture.

“(S) 1 member engaged in the transportation of food and agricultural products to domestic and foreign markets.

“(T) 1 member representing food retailing and marketing interests.

“(U) 1 member representing food and fiber processors.

“(V) 1 member actively engaged in rural economic development.

“(W) 1 member representing a national consumer interest group.

“(X) 1 member representing a national forestry group.

“(Y) 1 member representing a national conservation or natural resource group.

“(Z) 1 member representing private sector organizations involved in international development.

“(AA) 1 member representing an agency within the Department of Agriculture that lacks research capabilities.

“(BB) 1 member representing a research agency of the Federal Government (other than the Department of Agriculture).

“(CC) 1 member representing a national social science association.

“(DD) 1 member representing national organizations directly concerned with agricultural research, education, and extension.

“(4) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Secretary, the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics, the Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service, the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, the Administrator of the Economic Research Service, and the Administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service shall serve as ex officio members of the Advisory Board.

“(5) OFFICERS.—At the first meeting of the Advisory Board each year, the members shall elect from among the members of the Advisory Board a chairperson, vice chairperson, and 7 additional members to serve on the executive committee established under paragraph (6).

“(6) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—The Advisory Board shall establish an executive committee charged with the responsibility of working with the Secretary and officers and employees of the Department of Agriculture to summarize and disseminate the recommendations of the Advisory Board.

“(c) DUTIES.—The Advisory Board shall—

“(1) review and provide consultation to the Secretary and land-grant colleges and universities on long-term and short-term national policies and priorities, as set forth in section 1402, relating to agricultural research, extension, education, and economics;

“(2) evaluate the results and effectiveness of agricultural research, extension, education, and economics with respect to the policies and priorities;

“(3) review and make recommendations to the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics on the research, extension, education, and economics portion of the draft strategic plan required under section 306 of title 5, United States Code; and

“(4) review the mechanisms of the Department of Agriculture for technology assessment (which should be conducted by qualified professionals) for the purposes of—

“(A) performance measurement and evaluation of the implementation by the Secretary of the strategic plan required under section 306 of title 5, United States Code;

“(B) implementation of the national research policies and priorities set forth in section 1402; and

“(ii) one or more individuals who are employed by, or are officials of—

“(I) a State cooperative institution or State cooperative agency; or

“(II) a public college or university or other postsecondary institution.”.

SEC. 804. COORDINATION AND PLANNING OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION.

The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended by inserting after section 1413 (7 U.S.C. 3128) the following:

7 USC 3129.

“SEC. 1413A. ACCOUNTABILITY.

“(a) REVIEW OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS.—The Secretary shall conduct a comprehensive review of state-of-the-art information technology systems that are available for use in developing the system required by subsection (b).

“(b) MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall develop and carry out a system to monitor and evaluate agricultural research and extension activities conducted or supported by the Department of Agriculture that will enable the Secretary to measure the impact and effectiveness of research, extension, and education programs according to priorities, goals, and mandates established by law. In developing the system, the Secretary shall incorporate information transfer technologies to optimize public access to research information.

“(c) CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall develop and implement the system in a manner consistent with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-62; 107 Stat. 285) and amendments made by the Act.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

7 USC 3129a.

“SEC. 1413B. FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT EXEMPTION FOR COMPETITIVE RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

“The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) and title XVIII of this Act shall not apply to any committee, board, commission, panel, or task force, or similar entity, created solely for the purpose of reviewing applications or proposals requesting funding under any competitive research, extension, or education program carried out by the Secretary.”.

SEC. 805. GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES EDUCATION.

(a) PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—Section 1417(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) to design and implement food and agricultural programs to build teaching and research capacity at colleges and universities having significant minority enrollments;”.

(b) RESEARCH FOUNDATIONS.—Section 1417(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) RESEARCH FOUNDATIONS.—An eligible college or university under subsection (b) includes a research foundation maintained by the college or university.”

(c) EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.—Section 1417(i) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152(i)) is amended by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”.

(d) SECONDARY EDUCATION AND 2-YEAR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION TEACHING PROGRAMS.—Section 1417 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152) is amended—

- (1) by redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (i) and (j), respectively; and
- (2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) SECONDARY EDUCATION AND 2-YEAR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION TEACHING PROGRAMS.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given the term in section 1201(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1141(a)).

“(B) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term ‘secondary school’ has the meaning given the term in section 14101(25) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801(25)).

“(2) AGRISCIENCE AND AGRIBUSINESS EDUCATION.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) promote and strengthen secondary education and 2-year postsecondary education in agriscience and agribusiness in order to help ensure the existence in the United States of a qualified workforce to serve the food and agricultural sciences system; and

“(B) promote complementary and synergistic linkages among secondary, 2-year postsecondary, and higher education programs in the food and agricultural sciences in order to promote excellence in education and encourage more young Americans to pursue and complete a baccalaureate or higher degree in the food and agricultural sciences.

“(3) GRANTS.—The Secretary may make competitive or non-competitive grants, for grant periods not to exceed 5 years, to public secondary schools, and institutions of higher education that award an associate’s degree, that the Secretary determines have made a commitment to teaching agriscience and agribusiness—

“(A) to enhance curricula in agricultural education;

“(B) to increase faculty teaching competencies;

“(C) to interest young people in pursuing higher education in order to prepare for scientific and professional careers in the food and agricultural sciences;

“(D) to promote the incorporation of agriscience and agribusiness subject matter into other instructional programs, particularly classes in science, business, and consumer education;

“(E) to facilitate joint initiatives by the grant recipient with other secondary schools, institutions of higher education that award an associate’s degree, and institutions

of higher education that award a bachelor's degree to maximize the development and use of resources, such as faculty, facilities, and equipment, to improve agriscience and agribusiness education; and

“(F) to support other initiatives designed to meet local, State, regional, or national needs related to promoting excellence in agriscience and agribusiness education.”

SEC. 806. GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF ALCOHOLS AND INDUSTRIAL HYDROCARBONS FROM AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND FOREST PRODUCTS.

Section 1419(d) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3154(d)) is amended by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”.

SEC. 807. POLICY RESEARCH CENTERS.

The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended by inserting after section 1419 (7 U.S.C. 3154) the following:

7 USC 3155.

“SEC. 1419A. POLICY RESEARCH CENTERS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with this section, the Secretary may make grants, competitive grants, and special research grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements and other contracting instruments with, policy research centers described in subsection (b) to conduct research and education programs that are objective, operationally independent, and external to the Federal Government and that concern the effect of public policies on—

“(1) the farm and agricultural sectors;

“(2) the environment;

“(3) rural families, households, and economies; and

“(4) consumers, food, and nutrition.

“(b) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—State agricultural experiment stations, colleges and universities, other research institutions and organizations, private organizations, corporations, and individuals shall be eligible to apply for funding under subsection (a).

“(c) ACTIVITIES.—Under this section, funding may be provided for disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and education concerning policy research activities consistent with this section, including activities that—

“(1) quantify the implications of public policies and regulations;

“(2) develop theoretical and research methods;

“(3) collect and analyze data for policymakers, analysts, and individuals; and

“(4) develop programs to train analysts.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for fiscal years 1996 and 1997.”

SEC. 808. HUMAN NUTRITION INTERVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION RESEARCH PROGRAM.

The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended by striking section 1424 (7 U.S.C. 3174) and inserting the following:

“SEC. 1424. HUMAN NUTRITION INTERVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION RESEARCH PROGRAM. 7 USC 3174.

“(a) **AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.**—The Secretary may establish, and award grants for projects for, a multi-year research initiative on human nutrition intervention and health promotion.

“(b) **EMPHASIS OF INITIATIVE.**—In administering human nutrition research projects under this section, the Secretary shall give specific emphasis to—

“(1) coordinated longitudinal research assessments of nutritional status; and

“(2) the implementation of unified, innovative intervention strategies,

to identify and solve problems of nutritional inadequacy and contribute to the maintenance of health, well-being, performance, and productivity of individuals, thereby reducing the need of the individuals to use the health care system and social programs of the United States.

“(c) **ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS.**—The Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service shall administer funds made available to carry out this section to ensure a coordinated approach to health and nutrition research efforts.

“(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for fiscal years 1996 and 1997.

“SEC. 1424A. PILOT RESEARCH PROGRAM TO COMBINE MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH. 7 USC 3174a.

“(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

“(1) Although medical researchers in recent years have demonstrated that there are several naturally occurring compounds in many vegetables and fruits that can aid in the prevention of certain forms of cancer, coronary heart disease, stroke, and atherosclerosis, there has been almost no research conducted to enhance these compounds in food plants by modern breeding and molecular genetic methods.

“(2) By linking the appropriate medical and agricultural research scientists in a highly-focused, targeted research program, it should be possible to develop new varieties of vegetables and fruits that would provide greater prevention of diet-related diseases that are a major cause of death in the United States.

“(b) **PILOT RESEARCH PROGRAM.**—The Secretary shall conduct, through the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, a pilot research program to link major cancer and heart and other circulatory disease research efforts with agricultural research efforts to identify compounds in vegetables and fruits that prevent these diseases. Using information derived from such combined research efforts, the Secretary shall assist in the development of new varieties of vegetables and fruits having enhanced therapeutic properties for disease prevention.

“(c) **AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program through agreements entered into with land-grant colleges or universities, other universities, State agricultural experiment stations, the State cooperative extension services, nonprofit organizations with demonstrable expertise, or Federal or State governmental entities. The Secretary shall enter into the agreements on a competitive basis.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1997 to carry out the pilot program.”

SEC. 809. FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Section 1425(c)(3) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3175(c)(3)) is amended by striking “\$63,000,000” and all that follows through “fiscal year 1995” and inserting “, \$83,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1996 and 1997”.

SEC. 810. PURPOSES AND FINDINGS RELATING TO ANIMAL HEALTH AND DISEASE RESEARCH.

Section 1429 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3191) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1429. PURPOSES AND FINDINGS RELATING TO ANIMAL HEALTH AND DISEASE RESEARCH.

“(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this subtitle are to—

“(1) promote the general welfare through the improved health and productivity of domestic livestock, poultry, aquatic animals, and other income-producing animals that are essential to the food supply of the United States and the welfare of producers and consumers of animal products;

“(2) improve the health of horses;

“(3) facilitate the effective treatment of, and, to the extent possible, prevent animal and poultry diseases in both domesticated and wild animals that, if not controlled, would be disastrous to the United States livestock and poultry industries and endanger the food supply of the United States;

“(4) improve methods for the control of organisms and residues in food products of animal origin that could endanger the human food supply;

“(5) improve the housing and management of animals to improve the well-being of livestock production species;

“(6) minimize livestock and poultry losses due to transportation and handling;

“(7) protect human health through control of animal diseases transmissible to humans;

“(8) improve methods of controlling the births of predators and other animals; and

“(9) otherwise promote the general welfare through expanded programs of research and extension to improve animal health.

“(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

“(1) the total animal health and disease research and extension efforts of State colleges and universities and of the Federal Government would be more effective if there were close coordination between the efforts; and

“(2) colleges and universities having accredited schools or colleges of veterinary medicine and State agricultural experiment stations that conduct animal health and disease research are especially vital in training research workers in animal health and related disciplines.”

SEC. 811. ANIMAL HEALTH AND DISEASE CONTINUING RESEARCH.

Section 1433 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3195) is amended—

- (1) in the first sentence of subsection (a), by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”;
- (2) in subsection (b)(2)—
 - (A) by striking “domestic livestock and poultry” each place it appears and inserting “domestic livestock, poultry, and commercial aquaculture species”; and
 - (B) in the second sentence, by striking “horses, and poultry” and inserting “horses, poultry, and commercial aquaculture species”;
- (3) in subsection (d), by striking “domestic livestock and poultry” and inserting “domestic livestock, poultry, and commercial aquaculture species”; and
- (4) in subsection (f), by striking “domestic livestock and poultry” and inserting “domestic livestock, poultry, and commercial aquaculture species”.

SEC. 812. ANIMAL HEALTH AND DISEASE NATIONAL OR REGIONAL RESEARCH.

Section 1434 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3196) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (a)—
 - (A) by inserting “or national or regional problems relating to pre-harvest, on-farm food safety, or animal well-being,” after “problems,”; and
 - (B) by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”;
- (2) in subsection (b), by striking “eligible institutions” and inserting “State agricultural experiment stations, colleges and universities, other research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, private organizations or corporations, and individuals”;
- (3) in subsection (c)—
 - (A) in the first sentence, by inserting “, food safety, and animal well-being” after “animal health and disease”; and
 - (B) in the fourth sentence—
 - (i) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and
 - (ii) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:
 - “(2) any food safety problem that has a significant pre-harvest (on-farm) component and is recognized as posing a significant health hazard to the consuming public;
 - “(3) issues of animal well-being related to production methods that will improve the housing and management of animals to improve the well-being of livestock production species;”;
- (4) in the first sentence of subsection (d), by striking “to eligible institutions”; and
- (5) by adding at the end the following:
 - “(f) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) and title XVIII of this Act shall not apply to a panel or board created solely for the purpose of reviewing applications or proposals submitted under this subtitle.”.

SEC. 813. GRANT PROGRAM TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AT 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES.

Section 1447(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222b(b)) is amended by striking “\$8,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1991 through 1995” and inserting “, \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1996 and 1997”.

SEC. 814. NATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTENNIAL CENTERS.

Section 1448 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222c) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “, or fiscal years 1996 and 1997,” after “1995”; and
- (2) in subsection (f), by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”.

SEC. 815. PROGRAMS FOR HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended by inserting after section 1448 (7 U.S.C. 3222c) the following:

“Subtitle H—Programs for Hispanic-Serving Institutions

7 USC 3241.

“SEC. 1455. EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAMS FOR HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

“(a) **GRANT AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may make competitive grants (or grants without regard to any requirement for competition) to Hispanic-serving institutions for the purpose of promoting and strengthening the ability of Hispanic-serving institutions to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs.

“(b) **USE OF GRANT FUNDS.**—Grants made under this section shall be used—

“(1) to support the activities of consortia of Hispanic-serving institutions to enhance educational equity for underrepresented students;

“(2) to strengthen institutional educational capacities, including libraries, curriculum, faculty, scientific instrumentation, instruction delivery systems, and student recruitment and retention, in order to respond to identified State, regional, national, or international educational needs in the food and agricultural sciences;

“(3) to attract and support undergraduate and graduate students from underrepresented groups in order to prepare them for careers related to the food, agricultural, and natural resource systems of the United States, beginning with the mentoring of students at the high school level and continuing with the provision of financial support for students through their attainment of a doctoral degree; and

“(4) to facilitate cooperative initiatives between 2 or more Hispanic-serving institutions, or between Hispanic-serving institutions and units of State government or the private sector, to maximize the development and use of resources, such as faculty, facilities, and equipment, to improve food and agricultural sciences teaching programs.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to make grants under this section \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 1997.”

(b) HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION DEFINED.—Paragraph (9) of section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103) is amended to read as follows:

“(9) the term ‘Hispanic-serving institution’ has the meaning given the term by section 316(b)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)(1));”.

SEC. 816. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.

Section 1458(a)(8) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3291(a)(8)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “establish” and inserting “continue”; and
- (2) by striking “to be”.

SEC. 817. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS.

Section 1463 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3311) is amended by striking “1995” both places it appears and inserting “1997”.

SEC. 818. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR EXTENSION EDUCATION.

Section 1464 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3312) is amended by striking “fiscal year 1995” and inserting “each of fiscal years 1995 through 1997”.

SEC. 819. SUPPLEMENTAL AND ALTERNATIVE CROPS RESEARCH.

(a) EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.—Section 1473D(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319d(a)) is amended by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”.

(b) ELIMINATION OF PILOT NATURE OF PROGRAM.—Section 1473D of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319d) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (a), by striking “and pilot”;
- (2) in subsection (c)(2)(B), by striking “at pilot sites” and all that follows through “the area”;
- (3) in subsection (c)(2)(C), by striking “from pilot sites”;
- (4) in subsection (c)(2)(D)—
 - (A) by striking “near such pilot sites”; and
 - (B) by striking “successful pilot program” and inserting “successful program”; and
- (5) in paragraph (3), by striking “pilot”.

(c) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—Section 1473D(c)(3) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319d(c)(3)) is amended—

- (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at the end;
- (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and
- (3) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) to conduct fundamental and applied research related to the development of new commercial products derived from

natural plant material for industrial, medical, and agricultural applications; and

“(F) to participate with colleges and universities, other Federal agencies, and private sector entities in conducting research described in subparagraph (E).”

SEC. 820. AQUACULTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) **DEFINITION.**—Section 1404(3) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(3)) is amended by inserting “ornamental fish,” after “reptile.”

(b) **REPORTS.**—Section 1475 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3322) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (e); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR AQUACULTURE RESEARCH FACILITIES.**—Section 1476(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3323(b)) is amended by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.**—Section 1477 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3324) is amended by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”.

SEC. 821. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR RANGELAND RESEARCH.

Section 1483(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3336(a)) is amended by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”.

Subtitle B—Modification and Extension of Activities Under 1990 Act

SEC. 831. WATER QUALITY RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND COORDINATION.

Section 1481(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5501(d)) is amended by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”.

SEC. 832. NATIONAL GENETICS RESOURCES PROGRAM.

(a) **FUNCTIONS.**—Section 1632(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5841(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) unless otherwise prohibited by law, have the right to make available on request, without charge and without regard to the country from which the request originates, the genetic material that the program assembles;”

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 1635(b) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5844(b)) is amended by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”.

SEC. 833. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WEATHER INFORMATION SYSTEM.

Section 1641(c) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5855(c)) is amended by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”.

SEC. 834. LIVESTOCK PRODUCT SAFETY AND INSPECTION PROGRAM.

Section 1670(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5923(e)) is amended by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”.

SEC. 835. PLANT GENOME MAPPING PROGRAM.

Section 1671(g) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5924(g)) is amended by inserting “for fiscal years 1996 and 1997” after “appropriated”.

SEC. 836. CERTAIN SPECIALIZED RESEARCH PROGRAMS.

Subsections (d)(4), (e)(4), and (i) of section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925) are each amended by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”.

SEC. 837. AGRICULTURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM.

Section 1673(h) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5926(h)) is amended by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”.

SEC. 838. NATIONAL CENTERS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT QUALITY RESEARCH.

(a) **PURPOSES OF NATIONAL CENTERS.**—Section 1675(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5928(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) enhance agricultural competitiveness through product quality research and technology implementation;”

(b) **REGIONAL BASIS OF CENTERS.**—Section 1675(b) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5928(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) **REGIONAL BASIS.**—The centers shall be regionally based units that conduct a broad spectrum of research, development, and education programs to enhance the competitiveness, quality, safety and wholesomeness of agricultural products.”

(c) **PROGRAM PLAN AND REVIEW.**—Section 1675(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5928(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking the second sentence; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “, but not less” and all that follows through “the Secretary”.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 1675(g)(1) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5928(g)(1)) is amended by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”.

SEC. 839. RED MEAT SAFETY RESEARCH CENTER.

Section 1676 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5929) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1676. RED MEAT SAFETY RESEARCH CENTER.

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall award a grant, on a competitive basis, to a research facility described in subsection (b) to establish a red meat safety research center.

Grants.

“(b) ELIGIBLE RESEARCH FACILITY DESCRIBED.—A research facility eligible for a grant under subsection (a) is a research facility that—

“(1) is part of a land-grant college or university, or other federally supported agricultural research facility, located in close proximity to a livestock slaughter and processing facility; and

“(2) is staffed by professionals with a wide diversity of scientific expertise covering all aspects of meat science.

“(c) RESEARCH CONDUCTED.—The red meat safety research center established under subsection (a) shall carry out research related to general food safety, including—

“(1) the development of intervention strategies that reduce microbiological contamination of carcass surfaces;

“(2) research regarding microbiological mapping of carcass surfaces; and

“(3) the development of model hazard analysis and critical control point plans.

“(d) ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall administer funds appropriated to carry out this section.

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 1997 to carry out this section.”.

SEC. 840. INDIAN RESERVATION EXTENSION AGENT PROGRAM.

Section 1677 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5930) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) REDUCED REGULATORY BURDEN.—On a determination by the Secretary of Agriculture that a program carried out under this section has been satisfactorily administered for not less than 2 years, the Secretary shall implement a reduced reapplication process for the continued operation of the program in order to reduce regulatory burdens on participating university and tribal entities.”.

SEC. 841. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR FARMERS WITH DISABILITIES.

Section 1680 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5933) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(6)(B), by striking “1996” and inserting “1997”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “1996” and inserting “1997”.

SEC. 842. NATIONAL RURAL INFORMATION CENTER CLEARINGHOUSE.

Section 2381(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 3125b(e)) is amended by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”.

SEC. 843. GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE.

Section 2412 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6710) is amended by striking “1996” and inserting “1997”.

Subtitle C—Repeal of Certain Activities and Authorities

SEC. 851. SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND FORESTRY RESEARCH.

Section 401(h) of the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6651(h)) is amended by striking the second through fifth sentences.

SEC. 852. JOINT COUNCIL ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 1407 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3122) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 1405 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3121) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking “Joint Council, Advisory Board,” and inserting “Advisory Board”; and

(B) in paragraph (11), by striking “the Joint Council.”

(2) Section 1410(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3125(2)) is amended by striking “the recommendations of the Joint Council developed under section 1407(f).”

(3) Section 1412 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3127) is amended—

(A) in the section heading, by striking “THE JOINT COUNCIL, ADVISORY BOARD,” and inserting “ADVISORY BOARD”;

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “Joint Council, the Advisory Board,” and inserting “Advisory Board”;

(ii) by striking “the cochairpersons of the Joint Council and” each place it appears; and

(iii) in paragraph (2), by striking “one shall serve as the executive secretary to the Joint Council, one shall serve as the executive secretary to the Advisory Board,” and inserting “one shall serve as the executive secretary to the Advisory Board”; and

(C) in subsections (b) and (c), by striking “Joint Council, Advisory Board,” each place it appears and inserting “Advisory Board”.

(4) Section 1413 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3128) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “Joint Council, the Advisory Board,” and inserting “Advisory Board”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “Joint Council, Advisory Board,” and inserting “Advisory Board”.

(5) Section 1434(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3196(c)) is amended—

(A) in the second sentence, by striking “Joint Council, the Advisory Board,” and inserting “Advisory Board”; and

(B) in the fourth sentence, by striking “the Joint Council.”

SEC. 853. AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY REVIEW BOARD.

(a) **REPEAL.**—Section 1408A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123a) is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (16)(F), by adding “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (17), by striking “; and” at the end and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking paragraph (18).

(2) Section 1405(12) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3121(12)) is amended by striking “, after coordination with the Technology Board,”

(3) Section 1410(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3125(2)) (as amended by section 802(b)(2)) is amended by striking “and the recommendations of the Technology Board developed under section 1408A(d)”

(4) Section 1412 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3127) (as amended by section 852(b)(3)) is amended—

(A) in the section heading, by striking “**AND TECHNOLOGY BOARD**”;

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “and the Technology Board” each place it appears; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “and one shall serve as the executive secretary to the Technology Board”; and

(C) in subsections (b) and (c), by striking “and Technology Board” each place it appears.

(5) Section 1413 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3128) (as amended by section 852(b)(4)) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “or the Technology Board”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “and the Technology Board”.

SEC. 854. ANIMAL HEALTH SCIENCE RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD.

Section 1432 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3194) is repealed.

SEC. 855. RESIDENT INSTRUCTION PROGRAM AT 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES.

Section 1446 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222a) is repealed.

SEC. 856. GRANTS TO STATES FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.

Section 1458A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292) is repealed.

SEC. 857. RANGELAND RESEARCH.

(a) **REPORTS.**—Section 1481 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3334) is repealed.

(b) **ADVISORY BOARD.**—Section 1482 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3335) is repealed.

SEC. 858. COMPOSTING RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.

Section 1456 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 3130) is repealed.

SEC. 859. EDUCATION PROGRAM REGARDING HANDLING OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL CONTAINERS.

(a) **REPEAL.**—Section 1499A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 3125c) is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 1499(b) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5506(b)) is amended by striking “and section 1499A”.

SEC. 860. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION REGARDING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

(a) **REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—Section 1622 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5812) is amended by striking subsection (b).

(b) **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—Section 1622 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5812) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2);

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “subsection (e)” and inserting “subsection (b)”; and

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively;

(2) by striking subsections (c) and (d);

(3) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (b); and

(4) in subsection (b)(2) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (F) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively.

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Section 1619(b) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (7); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (8), (9), and (10) as paragraphs (7), (8), and (9), respectively.

(2) Section 1621(c) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5811(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (E) as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (F) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively.

(3) Section 1628(b) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5831(b)) is amended by striking "Advisory Council, the Soil Conservation Service," and inserting "Natural Resources Conservation Service".

SEC. 861. RESEARCH REGARDING PRODUCTION, PREPARATION, PROCESSING, HANDLING, AND STORAGE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Subtitle E of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5871 et seq.) is repealed.

SEC. 862. PLANT AND ANIMAL PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM.

(a) REPEAL.—Subtitle F of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5881 et seq.) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 28(b)(2)(A) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w-3(b)(2)(A)) is amended by striking "and the information required by section 1651 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990".

(2) Section 1627(a)(3) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5821(a)(3)) is amended by striking "and section 1650".

(3) Section 1628 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5831) is amended by striking "section 1650," each place it appears in subsections (a) and (d).

(4) Section 1629 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5832) is amended by striking "section 1650," each place it appears in subsections (f) and (g)(11).

SEC. 863. CERTAIN SPECIALIZED RESEARCH PROGRAMS.

Section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a), (f), (g), (h), and (j); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (i) and (k) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively.

SEC. 864. COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FACILITIES.

Section 1674 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5927) is repealed.

SEC. 865. SPECIAL GRANT TO STUDY CONSTRAINTS ON AGRICULTURAL TRADE.

Section 1678 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5931) is repealed.

SEC. 866. PILOT PROJECT TO COORDINATE FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Section 1679 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5932) is repealed.

SEC. 867. DEMONSTRATION AREAS FOR RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Section 2348 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2662a) is repealed.

SEC. 868. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGARDING GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE.

Section 2404 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6703) is repealed.

SEC. 869. COMMITTEE OF NINE UNDER HATCH ACT OF 1887.

Section 3(c)3 of the Act of March 2, 1887 (commonly known as the "Hatch Act of 1887"; 7 U.S.C. 361c(c)3) is amended by striking ", and shall be used" and all that follows through "by this paragraph".

SEC. 870. COTTON CROP REPORTS.

The Act of May 3, 1924 (43 Stat. 115, chapter 149; 7 U.S.C. 475), is repealed.

SEC. 871. RURAL ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ADDITIONAL RESEARCH GRANTS UNDER TITLE V OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1972.

Section 502 of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2662) is amended by striking subsections (g) and (j).

SEC. 872. HUMAN NUTRITION RESEARCH.

Section 1452 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1985 (Public Law 99-198; 7 U.S.C. 3173 note) is repealed.

SEC. 873. GRANTS TO UPGRADE 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGE EXTENSION FACILITIES.

Section 1416 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 3224) is repealed.

SEC. 874. INDIAN SUBSISTENCE FARMING DEMONSTRATION GRANT PROGRAM.

Subtitle C of title IX of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act Amendments of 1991 (Public Law 102-237; 7 U.S.C. 5930 note) is repealed.

Subtitle D—Miscellaneous Research Provisions

SEC. 881. CRITICAL AGRICULTURAL MATERIALS RESEARCH.

(a) **REPORTS.**—Section 4 of the Critical Agricultural Materials Act (7 U.S.C. 178b) is amended—

- (1) by striking subsection (g); and
- (2) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (g).

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 16(a) of the Critical Agricultural Materials Act (7 U.S.C. 178n(a)) is amended by striking "1995" and inserting "1997".

SEC. 882. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT REGARDING 1994 INSTITUTIONS.

Section 533 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.**—Not later than January 6, 1997, the Secretary shall develop and implement a formal memo-

Native
Americans.

randum of agreement with the 1994 Institutions to establish programs to ensure that tribally controlled colleges and Native American communities equitably participate in Department of Agriculture employment, programs, services, and resources.”

SEC. 883. SMITH-LEVER ACT FUNDING FOR 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.

(a) **ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDS.**—Section 3(d) of the Act of May 8, 1914 (commonly known as the “Smith-Lever Act”; 7 U.S.C. 343(d)), is amended by adding at the end the following: “A college or university eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including Tuskegee University, may apply for and receive directly from the Secretary of Agriculture—

“(1) amounts made available under this subsection after September 30, 1995, to carry out programs or initiatives for which no funds were made available under this subsection for fiscal year 1995, or any previous fiscal year, as determined by the Secretary; and

“(2) amounts made available after September 30, 1995, to carry out programs or initiatives funded under this subsection prior to that date that are in excess of the highest amount made available for the programs or initiatives under this subsection for fiscal year 1995, or any previous fiscal year, as determined by the Secretary.”

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The third sentence of section 1444(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221(a)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, except that for the purpose of this calculation, the total appropriations shall not include amounts made available after September 30, 1995, under section 3(d) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 343(d)), to carry out programs or initiatives for which no funds were made available under section 3(d) of that Act for fiscal year 1995, or any previous fiscal year, as determined by the Secretary, and shall not include amounts made available after September 30, 1995, to carry out programs or initiatives funded under section 3(d) of that Act prior to that date that are in excess of the highest amount made available for the programs or initiatives for fiscal year 1995, or any previous fiscal year, as determined by the Secretary”.

SEC. 884. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FACILITIES.

(a) **RESEARCH FACILITIES.**—The Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

7 USC 390 note.

“SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

“This Act may be cited as the ‘Research Facilities Act’.

7 USC 390.

“SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

“In this Act:

“(1) **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FACILITY.**—The term ‘agricultural research facility’ means a proposed facility for research in food and agricultural sciences for which Federal funds are requested by a college, university, or nonprofit institution to assist in the construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, or remodeling of the facility.

“(2) **CONGRESSIONAL AGRICULTURE COMMITTEES.**—The term ‘congressional agriculture committees’ means the Committee

on Appropriations and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

“(3) **FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES.**—The term ‘food and agricultural sciences’ means—

“(A) agriculture, including soil and water conservation and use, the use of organic materials to improve soil tilth and fertility, plant and animal production and protection, and plant and animal health;

“(B) the processing, distribution, marketing, and utilization of food and agricultural products;

“(C) forestry, including range management, production of forest and range products, multiple use of forests and rangelands, and urban forestry;

“(D) aquaculture (as defined in section 1404(3) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(3));

“(E) human nutrition;

“(F) production inputs, such as energy, to improve productivity; and

“(G) germ plasm collection and preservation.

“(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Agriculture.

“(5) **TASK FORCE.**—The term ‘task force’ means the Strategic Planning Task Force established under section 4.

“SEC. 3. REVIEW PROCESS.

7 USC 390a.

“(a) **SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY.**—Each proposal for an agricultural research facility shall be submitted to the Secretary for review. The Secretary shall review the proposals in the order in which the proposals are received.

“(b) **APPLICATION PROCESS.**—In consultation with the congressional agriculture committees, the Secretary shall establish an application process for the submission of proposals for agricultural research facilities.

“(c) **CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.**—

“(1) **DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY.**—With respect to each proposal for an agricultural research facility submitted under subsection (a), the Secretary shall determine whether the proposal meets the criteria set forth in paragraph (2).

“(2) **CRITERIA.**—A proposal for an agricultural research facility shall meet the following criteria:

“(A) **NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**—The proposal shall certify the availability of at least a 50 percent non-Federal share of the cost of the facility. The non-Federal share shall be paid in cash and may include funding from private sources or from units of State or local government.

“(B) **NONDUPLICATION OF FACILITIES.**—The proposal shall demonstrate how the agricultural research facility would be complementary to, and not duplicative of, facilities of colleges, universities, and nonprofit institutions, and facilities of the Agricultural Research Service, within the State and region.

“(C) **NATIONAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES.**—The proposal shall demonstrate how the agricultural research facility would serve—

“(i) 1 or more of the national research policies and priorities set forth in section 1402 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101); and

“(ii) regional needs.

“(D) LONG-TERM SUPPORT.—The proposal shall demonstrate that the recipient college, university, or nonprofit institution has the ability and commitment to support the long-term, ongoing operating costs of—

“(i) the agricultural research facility after the facility is completed; and

“(ii) each program to be based at the facility.

“(d) EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS.—Not later than 90 days after receiving a proposal under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

“(1) evaluate and assess the merits of the proposal, including the extent to which the proposal meets the criteria set forth in subsection (c); and

“(2) report to the congressional agriculture committees on the results of the evaluation and assessment.

Reports.

7 USC 390b.

“SEC. 4. TASK FORCE ON 10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FACILITIES.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, the Secretary shall establish a task force, to be known as the ‘Strategic Planning Task Force’. The task force shall be comprised of 15 members.

“(b) COMPOSITION.—The Secretary shall select the members of the task force from a list of individuals recommended by the Advisory Board established under section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123). In submitting the list to the Secretary, the Board may recommend for selection individuals (including members of the Advisory Board) who have expertise in facilities development, modernization, construction, consolidation, and closure.

“(c) DUTIES.—The task force shall review all currently operating agricultural research facilities constructed in whole or in part with Federal funds, and all planned agricultural research facilities proposed to be constructed with Federal funds, pursuant to criteria established by the Secretary, to ensure that a comprehensive research capacity is maintained.

“(d) 10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 2 years after the task force is established, the task force shall prepare and submit to the Secretary and the congressional agriculture committees a 10-year strategic plan, reflecting both national and regional perspectives, for development, modernization, construction, consolidation, and closure of Federal agricultural research facilities and agricultural research facilities proposed to be constructed with Federal funds.

“(e) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—

“(1) PUBLIC MEETINGS.—All meetings of the task force shall be publicly announced in advance and shall be open to the public. Detailed minutes of meetings and other appropriate records of the activities of the task force shall be kept and made available to the public on request.

“(2) EXEMPTION.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) and title XVIII of the Food and Agriculture Act

Records.

of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2281 et seq.) shall not apply to the task force.

“(f) DEFINITION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FACILITY.—Notwithstanding section 2(1), in this section the term ‘agricultural research facility’ means a facility for research in food and agricultural sciences.

“SEC. 5. APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.

7 USC 390c.

“The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) and title XVIII of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2281 et seq.) shall not apply to a panel or board created solely for the purpose of reviewing applications or proposals submitted under this Act.

“SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

7 USC 390d.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary for fiscal years 1996 and 1997 for the study, plan, design, structure, and related costs of agricultural research facilities under this Act.

“(b) ALLOWABLE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 3 percent of the funds made available for any project for an agricultural research facility shall be available for administration of the project.”

(b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT.—The amendment made by subsection (a), other than section 4 of the Research Facilities Act (as amended by subsection (a)), shall not apply to any project for an agricultural research facility for which funds have been made available for a feasibility study or for any phase of the project prior to October 1, 1995.

7 USC 390 note.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FEDERAL FACILITIES.—Section 1431 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1985 (Public Law 99-198; 99 Stat. 1556) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “(a)”; and

(B) by striking “1995” and inserting “1997”; and

(2) by striking subsection (b).

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1463(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3311(a)) is amended by striking “1416.”

SEC. 885. NATIONAL COMPETITIVE RESEARCH INITIATIVE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—Subsection (b)(10) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)(10)) is amended—

(1) by striking “fiscal year 1995” and inserting “each of fiscal years 1995 through 1997”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “20 percent” and inserting “40 percent”.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(11) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds made available under paragraph (10) shall be available for obligation for a 2-year period beginning on October 1 of the fiscal year for which the funds are made available.”

SEC. 886. RURAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

Section 502(a) of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2662(a)) is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: "The rural development extension programs shall also promote coordinated and integrated rural community initiatives that advance and empower capacity building through leadership development, entrepreneurship, business development and management training, and strategic planning to increase jobs, income, and quality of life in rural communities."

SEC. 887. DAIRY GOAT RESEARCH PROGRAM.

Section 1432(b)(5) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1981 (Public Law 97-98; 7 U.S.C. 3222 note) is amended by striking "1995" and inserting "1997".

SEC. 888. COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR RESEARCH TO ERADICATE AND CONTROL BROWN CITRUS APHID AND CITRUS TRISTEZA VIRUS.

Section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925) (as amended by section 863) is amended by inserting before subsection (b) the following:

"(a) BROWN CITRUS APHID AND CITRUS TRISTEZA VIRUS.—

"(1) RESEARCH GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Agriculture may make competitive grants available to support research for the purpose of—

"(A) developing methods to eradicate the brown citrus aphid and the citrus tristeza virus from citrus crops grown in the United States; or

"(B) adapting citrus crops grown in the United States to the brown citrus aphid and the citrus tristeza virus.

"(2) METHOD OF PROVIDING GRANTS.—Grants authorized under this subsection shall be made in the same manner, and shall be subject to the same conditions, as provided for competitive grants under the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i).

"(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 1997."

Arkansas.

SEC. 889. STUTTGART NATIONAL AQUACULTURE RESEARCH CENTER.

(a) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS TO SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.—

(1) PURPOSE.—The first section of Public Law 85-342 (16 U.S.C. 778) is amended—

(A) by striking "Secretary of the Interior" and all that follows through "directed to" and inserting "Secretary of Agriculture shall";

(B) by striking "an experiment station or stations" and inserting "1 or more centers"; and

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking "Department of Agriculture" and inserting "Secretary of the Interior".

(2) AUTHORITY.—Section 2 of Public Law 85-342 (16 U.S.C. 778a) is amended by striking ", the Secretary" and all that follows through "authorized" and inserting ", the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized".

(3) ASSISTANCE.—Section 3 of Public Law 85-342 (16 U.S.C. 778b) is amended—

(A) by striking “Secretary of the Interior” and inserting “Secretary of Agriculture”; and

(B) by striking “Department of Agriculture” and inserting “Secretary of the Interior”.

(b) TRANSFER OF FISH FARMING EXPERIMENTAL LABORATORY TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—

(1) DESIGNATION OF STUTTGART NATIONAL AQUACULTURE RESEARCH CENTER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Fish Farming Experimental Laboratory in Stuttgart, Arkansas (including the facilities in Kelso, Arkansas), shall be known and designated as the “Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center”.

(B) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the laboratory referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center”.

(2) TRANSFER OF LABORATORY TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—Subject to section 1531 of title 31, United States Code, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, there are transferred to the Department of Agriculture—

(A) the personnel employed in connection with the laboratory referred to in paragraph (1)(A);

(B) the assets, liabilities, contracts, and real and personal property of the laboratory;

(C) the records of the laboratory; and

(D) the unexpended balance of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds employed in connection with, held in connection with, arising from, available to, or to be made available in connection with the laboratory.

(3) NONDUPLICATION OF FACILITIES.—The research center referred to in paragraph (1)(A) shall be complementary to, and not duplicative of, facilities of colleges, universities, and nonprofit institutions, and facilities of the Agricultural Research Service, within the State and region, as determined by the Administrator of the Service.

SEC. 890. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITIES RELATED TO NATIONAL ARBORETUM.

(a) SOLICITATION OF GIFTS, BENEFITS, AND DEVICES.—The first sentence of section 5 of the Act of March 4, 1927 (20 U.S.C. 195), is amended by inserting “solicit,” after “authorized to”.

(b) CONCESSIONS, FEES, AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES.—The Act of March 4, 1927 (20 U.S.C. 191 et seq.), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 6. CONCESSIONS, FEES, AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES.

20 USC 196.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 471 et seq.) and section 321 of the Act of June 30, 1932 (40 U.S.C. 303b), the Secretary of Agriculture, in furtherance of the mission of the National Arboretum, may—

“(1) negotiate agreements granting concessions at the National Arboretum to nonprofit scientific or educational organizations the interests of which are complementary to the mission of the National Arboretum, except that the net proceeds

of the organizations from the concessions shall be used exclusively for research and educational work for the benefit of the National Arboretum;

“(2) provide by concession, on such terms as the Secretary of Agriculture considers appropriate and necessary, for commercial services for food, drink, and nursery sales, if an agreement for a permanent concession under this paragraph is negotiated with a qualified person submitting a proposal after due consideration of all proposals received after the Secretary of Agriculture provides reasonable public notice of the intent of the Secretary to enter into such an agreement;

“(3) dispose of excess property, including excess plants and fish, in a manner designed to maximize revenue from any sale of the property, including by way of public auction, except that this paragraph shall not apply to the free dissemination of new varieties of seeds and germ plasm in accordance with section 520 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the ‘Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1862’) (7 U.S.C. 2201);

“(4) charge such fees as the Secretary of Agriculture considers reasonable for temporary use by individuals or groups of National Arboretum facilities and grounds for any purpose consistent with the mission of the National Arboretum;

“(5) charge such fees as the Secretary of Agriculture considers reasonable for the use of the National Arboretum for commercial photography or cinematography;

“(6) publish, in print and electronically and without regard to laws relating to printing by the Federal Government, informational brochures, books, and other publications concerning the National Arboretum or the collections of the Arboretum; and

“(7) license use of the National Arboretum name and logo for public service or commercial uses.

“(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Any funds received or collected by the Secretary of Agriculture as a result of activities described in subsection (a) shall be retained in a special fund in the Treasury for the use and benefit of the National Arboretum as the Secretary of Agriculture considers appropriate.

“(c) ACCEPTANCE OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES.—The Secretary of Agriculture may accept the voluntary services of organizations described in subsection (a)(1), and the voluntary services of individuals (including employees of the National Arboretum), for the benefit of the National Arboretum.”

Alabama.

SEC. 891. TRANSFER OF AQUACULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER.

(a) TRANSFER OF FISH CULTURE LABORATORY TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—

(1) DESIGNATION OF CLAUDE HARRIS NATIONAL AQUACULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Southeastern Fish Culture Laboratory in Marion, Alabama, shall be known and designated as the “Claude Harris National Aquacultural Research Center”.

(B) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the laboratory referred to in subparagraph (A) shall

be deemed to be a reference to the "Claude Harris National Aquacultural Research Center".

(2) **TRANSFER OF LABORATORY TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**—Subject to section 1531 of title 31, United States Code, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may transfer, in whole or in part, to the Department of Agriculture, with the consent of the Secretary of Agriculture—

(A) the personnel employed in connection with the laboratory referred to in paragraph (1);

(B) the assets, liabilities, contracts, and real and personal property of the laboratory;

(C) the records of the laboratory; and

(D) the unexpended balance of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds employed in connection with, held in connection with, arising from, available to, or to be made available in connection with the laboratory.

(b) **NONDUPLICATION OF FACILITIES.**—The research center designated by subsection (a) shall be complementary to, and not duplicative of, facilities of colleges, universities, and nonprofit institutions, and facilities of the Agricultural Research Service, within the State and region, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 892. USE OF REMOTE SENSING DATA AND OTHER DATA TO ANTICIPATE POTENTIAL FOOD, FEED, AND FIBER SHORTAGES OR EXCESSES AND TO PROVIDE TIMELY INFORMATION TO ASSIST FARMERS WITH PLANTING DECISIONS.

7 USC 5935.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) remote sensing data can be useful to predict impending famine problems and forest infestations in time to allow remedial action;

(2) remote sensing data can inform the agricultural community as to the condition of crops and the land that sustains those crops; and

(3) remote sensing data and other data can be valuable, when received on a timely basis, in determining the need for additional plantings of a particular crop or a substitute crop.

(b) **INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT.**—The Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, maximizing private funding and involvement, shall provide farmers and other interested persons with timely information, through remote sensing, on crop conditions, fertilization and irrigation needs, pest infiltration, soil conditions, projected food, feed, and fiber production, and any other information available through remote sensing.

(c) **COORDINATION.**—The Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall jointly develop a proposal to provide farmers and other prospective users with supply and demand information for food and fibers.

(d) **SUNSET.**—The authorities provided by this section shall expire 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 893. SENSE OF SENATE REGARDING METHYL BROMIDE ALTERNATIVE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Department of Agriculture should continue to make methyl bromide alternative research and extension activities a high priority of the Department; and

(2) the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, producer and processor organizations, environmental organizations, and State agencies should continue their dialogue on the risks and benefits of extending the 2001 phaseout deadline.

Subtitle E—Research Authority After Fiscal Year 1997

SEC. 897. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Subject to section 898, there are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 1998 through 2002 such sums as are necessary to carry out the agricultural research, extension, and education activities and initiatives of the Department of Agriculture.

SEC. 898. ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.

During each of fiscal years 1998 through 2002, the Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct only those agricultural research, extension, and education activities and initiatives of the Department of Agriculture for which funds are specifically provided for the fiscal year in an appropriation Act.

TITLE IX—MISCELLANEOUS

7 USC 1901 note.

Subtitle A—Commercial Transportation of Equine for Slaughter

SEC. 901. FINDINGS.

Because of the unique and special needs of equine being transported to slaughter, Congress finds that it is appropriate for the Secretary of Agriculture to issue guidelines for the regulation of the commercial transportation of equine for slaughter by persons regularly engaged in that activity within the United States.

SEC. 902. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION.**—The term “commercial transportation” means the regular operation for profit of a transport business that uses trucks, tractors, trailers, or semitrailers, or any combination thereof, propelled or drawn by mechanical power on any highway or public road.

(2) **EQUINE FOR SLAUGHTER.**—The term “equine for slaughter” means any member of the Equidae family being transferred to a slaughter facility, including an assembly point, feedlot, or stockyard.

(3) **PERSON.**—The term “person”—

(A) means any individual, partnership, corporation, or cooperative association that regularly engages in the commercial transportation of equine for slaughter; but

(B) does not include any individual or other entity referred to in subparagraph (A) that occasionally transports

equine for slaughter incidental to the principal activity of the individual or other entity in production agriculture.

SEC. 903. REGULATION OF COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION OF EQUINE FOR SLAUGHTER.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of Agriculture may issue guidelines for the regulation of the commercial transportation of equine for slaughter by persons regularly engaged in that activity within the United States.

(b) **ISSUES FOR REVIEW.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall review the food, water, and rest provided to equine for slaughter in transit, the segregation of stallions from other equine during transit, and such other issues as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) **ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Agriculture may—

- (1) require any person to maintain such records and reports as the Secretary considers necessary;
- (2) conduct such investigations and inspections as the Secretary considers necessary; and
- (3) establish and enforce appropriate and effective civil penalties.

SEC. 904. LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY TO EQUINE FOR SLAUGHTER.

Nothing in this subtitle authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to regulate the routine or regular transportation, to slaughter or elsewhere, of—

- (1) livestock other than equine; or
- (2) poultry.

SEC. 905. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This subtitle shall become effective on the first day of the first month that begins 30 days or more after the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle B—General Provisions

SEC. 911. INTERSTATE QUARANTINE.

The fourth sentence of section 8 of the Act of August 20, 1912 (7 U.S.C. 161), is amended by inserting after “*Provided, That*” the following: “if the Secretary of Agriculture determines under this section that it is necessary to quarantine a State entirely comprised of islands, the Secretary of Agriculture, in implementing the restrictions authorized under this section, shall give consideration to enhancing passenger movement and commerce on and between islands in the State: *Provided further, That*”.

SEC. 912. COTTON CLASSIFICATION SERVICES.

(a) **EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION.**—The first sentence of section 3a of the Act of March 3, 1927 (commonly known as the “Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act”) (7 U.S.C. 473a), is amended by striking “1996” and inserting “2002”.

(b) **COTTON CLASSING OFFICE LOCATIONS.**—Section 4 of the Act of March 3, 1927 (commonly known as the “Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act”) (7 U.S.C. 474), is amended by adding at the end the following: “The Secretary of Agriculture shall maintain

Missouri.

until at least January 1, 1999, all cotton classing office locations in the State of Missouri that existed on January 1, 1996.”

SEC. 913. PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION FOR CERTAIN TUBER PROPAGATED PLANT VARIETIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 42(a)(1)(B)(i) of the Plant Variety Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 2402(a)(1)(B)(i)) is amended by inserting after “filing” the following: “, except that in the case of a tuber propagated plant variety the Secretary may waive the 4-year limitation for a period ending 1 year after the date of enactment of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996”.

(b) **TERM OF PROTECTION.**—Section 83(b) of the Plant Variety Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 2483(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(b) The term” and inserting the following:

“(b) **TERM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the term”;

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “If the certificate” and inserting the following:

“(2) **EXCEPTIONS.**—If the certificate”; and

(3) in paragraph (2) (as so designated), by striking “except that, in the case” and inserting the following: “except that—

“(A) in the case of a tuber propagated plant variety subject to a waiver granted under section 42(a)(1)(B)(i), the term of the plant variety protection shall expire 20 years after the date of the original grant of the plant breeder’s rights to the variety outside the United States; and

“(B) in the case”.

SEC. 914. SWINE HEALTH PROTECTION.

(a) **TERMINATION OF STATE PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITY.**—Section 10 of the Swine Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 3809) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) **REQUEST OF STATE OFFICIAL.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—On request of the Governor or other appropriate official of a State, the Secretary may terminate, effective as soon as the Secretary determines is practicable, the primary enforcement responsibility of a State under subsection (a). In terminating the primary enforcement responsibility under this subsection, the Secretary shall work with the appropriate State official to determine the level of support to be provided to the Secretary by the State under this Act.

“(2) **REASSUMPTION.**—Nothing in this subsection shall prevent a State from reassuming primary enforcement responsibility if the Secretary determines that the State meets the requirements of subsection (a).”

(b) **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—The Swine Health Protection Act is amended—

(1) by striking section 11 (7 U.S.C. 3810); and

(2) by redesignating sections 12, 13, and 14 (7 U.S.C. 3811, 3812, and 3813) as sections 11, 12, and 13, respectively.

SEC. 915. DESIGNATION OF MOUNT PLEASANT NATIONAL SCENIC AREA.

Sections 1, 2, and 3(a)(1) of the George Washington National Forest Mount Pleasant Scenic Area Act (Public Law 103-314; 16 U.S.C. 545 note) are each amended by striking "George Washington National Forest Mount Pleasant Scenic Area" and inserting "Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area".

SEC. 916. PSEUDORABIES ERADICATION PROGRAM.

Section 2506(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (21 U.S.C. 114i(d)) is amended by striking "1995" and inserting "2002".

SEC. 917. COLLECTION AND USE OF AGRICULTURAL QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION FEES.

Section 2509 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (21 U.S.C. 136a) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

"(a) QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION FEES.—

"(1) FEES AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Agriculture may prescribe and collect fees sufficient—

"(A) to cover the cost of providing agricultural quarantine and inspection services in connection with the arrival at a port in the customs territory of the United States, or the preclearance or preinspection at a site outside the customs territory of the United States, of an international passenger, commercial vessel, commercial aircraft, commercial truck, or railroad car;

"(B) to cover the cost of administering this subsection; and

"(C) through fiscal year 2002, to maintain a reasonable balance in the Agricultural Quarantine Inspection User Fee Account established under paragraph (5).

"(2) LIMITATION.—In setting the fees under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that the amount of the fees is commensurate with the costs of agricultural quarantine and inspection services with respect to the class of persons or entities paying the fees. The costs of the services with respect to passengers as a class includes the costs of related inspections of the aircraft or other vehicle.

"(3) STATUS OF FEES.—Fees collected under this subsection by any person on behalf of the Secretary are held in trust for the United States and shall be remitted to the Secretary in such manner and at such times as the Secretary may prescribe.

"(4) LATE PAYMENT PENALTIES.—If a person subject to a fee under this subsection fails to pay the fee when due, the Secretary shall assess a late payment penalty, and the overdue fees shall accrue interest, as required by section 3717 of title 31, United States Code.

"(5) AGRICULTURAL QUARANTINE INSPECTION USER FEE ACCOUNT.—

"(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the 'Agricultural Quarantine Inspection User Fee Account', which shall contain all of the fees collected under this

subsection and late payment penalties and interest charges collected under paragraph (4) through fiscal year 2002.

“(B) USE OF ACCOUNT.—For each of fiscal years 1996 through 2002, funds in the Agricultural Quarantine Inspection User Fee Account shall be available, in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriations Acts, to cover the costs associated with the provision of agricultural quarantine and inspection services and the administration of this subsection. Amounts made available under this subparagraph shall be available until expended.

“(C) EXCESS FEES.—Fees and other amounts collected under this subsection in any of fiscal years 1996 through 2002 in excess of \$100,000,000 shall be available for the purposes specified in subparagraph (B) until expended, without further appropriation.

“(6) USE OF AMOUNTS COLLECTED AFTER FISCAL YEAR 2002.—After September 30, 2002, the unobligated balance in the Agricultural Quarantine Inspection User Fee Account and fees and other amounts collected under this subsection shall be credited to the Department of Agriculture accounts that incur the costs associated with the provision of agricultural quarantine and inspection services and the administration of this subsection. The fees and other amounts shall remain available to the Secretary until expended without fiscal year limitation.

“(7) STAFF YEARS.—The number of full-time equivalent positions in the Department of Agriculture attributable to the provision of agricultural quarantine and inspection services and the administration of this subsection shall not be counted toward the limitation on the total number of full-time equivalent positions in all agencies specified in section 5(b) of the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-226; 5 U.S.C. 3101 note) or other limitation on the total number of full-time equivalent positions.”

SEC. 918. MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF SAFE MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION PANEL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Meat Inspection Act is amended—

(A) by redesignating section 410 (21 U.S.C. 680) as section 411; and

(B) by inserting after section 409 (21 U.S.C. 679) the following:

21 USC 679a.

“SEC. 410. SAFE MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION PANEL.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department of Agriculture a permanent advisory panel to be known as the ‘Safe Meat and Poultry Inspection Panel’ (referred to in this section as the ‘panel’).

“(b) DUTIES.—

“(1) REVIEW AND EVALUATION.—The panel shall review and evaluate, as the panel considers necessary, the adequacy, necessity, safety, cost-effectiveness, and scientific merit of—

“(A) inspection procedures of, and work rules and worker relations involving Federal employees employed in, plants inspected under this Act;

“(B) informal petitions or proposals for changes in inspection procedures, processes, and techniques of plants inspected under this Act;

“(C) formal changes in meat inspection regulations promulgated under this Act, whether in notice, proposed, or final form; and

“(D) such other matters as may be referred to the panel by the Secretary regarding the quality or effectiveness of a safe and cost-effective meat inspection system under this Act.

“(2) REPORTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The panel shall submit to the Secretary a report on the results of each review and evaluation carried out under paragraph (1), including such recommendations as the panel considers appropriate.

“(B) REPORTS ON FORMAL CHANGES.—In the case of a report concerning a formal change in meat inspection regulations, the report shall be made within the time limits prescribed for formal comments on such changes.

“(C) PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER.—Each report of the panel to the Secretary shall be published in the Federal Register.

“(c) SECRETARIAL RESPONSE.—Not later than 90 days after the publication of a panel report under subsection (b)(2)(C), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register any response required of the Secretary to the report.

Federal Register,
publication.

“(d) COMPOSITION OF PANEL.—The panel shall be composed of 7 members, not fewer than 5 of whom shall be from the food science, meat science, or poultry science profession, appointed to staggered terms not to exceed 3 years by the Secretary from nominations received from the National Institutes of Health and the Federation of American Societies of Food Animal Science and based on the professional qualifications of the nominees.

“(e) NOMINATIONS.—

“(1) INITIAL PANEL.—In constituting the initial panel, the Secretary shall solicit 6 nominees from the National Institutes of Health and 6 nominees from the Federation of American Societies of Food Animal Science for membership on the panel.

“(2) VACANCIES.—Any subsequent vacancy on the panel shall be filled by the Secretary after soliciting 2 nominees from the National Institutes of Health and 2 nominees from the Federation of American Societies of Food Animal Science.

“(3) REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINEES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each nominee provided under paragraph (1) or (2) shall have a background in public health issues and a scientific expertise in food, meat, or poultry science or in veterinary science.

“(B) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary may require nominees to submit such information as the Secretary considers necessary prior to completing the selection process.

“(4) ADDITIONAL NOMINEES.—If any list of nominees provided under paragraph (1) or (2) is unsatisfactory to the Secretary, the Secretary may request the nominating entities to submit an additional list of nominees.

“(f) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While away from the home or regular place of business of a member of the panel in the performance

of services for the panel, the member shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at the same rate as a person employed intermittently in the Government service would be allowed under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

Regulations.

“(g) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations regarding conflicts of interest with respect to the members of the panel.

“(h) EXEMPTION.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) and title XVIII of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2281 et seq.) shall not apply to the panel.

“(i) FUNDING.—From funds available to the Secretary to carry out this Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.), the Secretary shall allocate such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.”

(2) CROSS REFERENCE IN POULTRY PRODUCTS INSPECTION ACT.—The Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

21 USC 471.

“SEC. 30. SAFE MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION PANEL.

“(a) REVIEW AND EVALUATION.—The advisory panel known as the ‘Safe Meat and Poultry Inspection Panel’ established by section 410 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act shall review and evaluate, as the panel considers necessary, the adequacy, necessity, safety, cost-effectiveness, and scientific merit of—

“(1) inspection procedures of, and work rules and worker relations involving Federal employees employed in, plants inspected under this Act;

“(2) informal petitions or proposals for changes in inspection procedures, processes, and techniques of plants inspected under this Act;

“(3) formal changes in poultry inspection regulations promulgated under this Act, whether in notice, proposed, or final form; and

“(4) such other matters as may be referred to the panel by the Secretary regarding the quality or effectiveness of a safe and cost-effective poultry inspection system under this Act.

“(b) REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Safe Meat and Poultry Inspection Panel shall submit to the Secretary a report on the results of each review and evaluation carried out under paragraph (1), including such recommendations as the panel considers appropriate.

“(2) REPORTS ON FORMAL CHANGES.—In the case of a report concerning a formal change in poultry inspection regulations, the report shall be made within the time limits prescribed for formal comments on such changes.”

(b) INTERSTATE SHIPMENT OF STATE-INSPECTED MEAT AND POULTRY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress recommendations concerning the steps necessary to achieve interstate shipment of—

(1) meat inspected under a State meat inspection program developed and administered under section 301 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 661); and

(2) poultry inspected under a State poultry product inspection program developed and administered under section 5 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 454).

SEC. 919. REIMBURSABLE AGREEMENTS.

7 USC 2260a.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) may enter into reimbursable fee agreements with persons for preclearance at locations outside the United States of plants, plant products, animals, and articles for movement into the United States.

(b) **OVERTIME, NIGHT, AND HOLIDAY WORK.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may pay an employee of the Department of Agriculture performing services relating to imports into and exports from the United States for overtime, night, and holiday work performed by the employee at a rate of pay established by the Secretary.

(c) REIMBURSEMENT.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may require persons for whom preclearance services are performed to reimburse the Secretary for any amounts paid by the Secretary for performance of the services.

(2) **CREDITING OF FUNDS.**—All funds collected under paragraph (1) shall be credited to the account that incurs the costs and shall remain available until expended without fiscal year limitation.

(3) LATE PAYMENT PENALTY.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—On failure of a person to reimburse the Secretary for the costs of performance of preclearance services—

(i) the Secretary may assess a late payment penalty; and

(ii) the overdue funds shall accrue interest in accordance with section 3717 of title 31, United States Code.

(B) **CREDITING OF FUNDS.**—Any late payment penalty and any accrued interest collected under this paragraph shall be credited to the account that incurs the costs and shall remain available until expended without fiscal year limitation.

SEC. 920. OVERSEAS TORT CLAIMS.

7 USC 2262a.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Agriculture may pay a tort claim in the manner authorized by section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, if the claim arises outside the United States in connection with activities of individuals who are performing services for the Secretary.

(b) **PERIOD FOR PRESENTATION OF CLAIM.**—A claim may not be allowed under this section unless the claim is presented in writing to the Secretary of Agriculture within 2 years after the date on which the claim accrues.

(c) **FINALITY.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an award or denial of a claim by the Secretary of Agriculture under this section is final.

SEC. 921. OPERATION OF GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AS NONAPPROPRIATED FUND INSTRUMENTALITY.

7 USC 2279b.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **GRADUATE SCHOOL.**—The term “Graduate School” means the Graduate School of the Department of Agriculture.

(2) **BOARD.**—The term “Board” means the General Administration Board of the Graduate School.

(3) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the Graduate School.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) **OPERATION AS NONAPPROPRIATED FUND INSTRUMENTALITY.**—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, the Graduate School of the Department of Agriculture shall continue to operate as a nonappropriated fund instrumentality of the United States under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture.

(c) **ACTIVITIES OF GRADUATE SCHOOL.**—Under the general supervision of the Secretary, the Graduate School shall develop, administer, and provide educational, training, and professional development activities, including educational activities for Federal agencies, Federal employees, nonprofit organizations, other entities, and members of the general public.

(d) **FEES AND DONATIONS.**—

(1) **COLLECTION OF FEES.**—The Graduate School may charge and retain fair and reasonable fees for the activities provided by the Graduate School. The amount of the fees shall be based on the cost of the activities to the Graduate School.

(2) **ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.**—

(A) **ACCEPTANCE AND USE AUTHORIZED.**—The Graduate School may accept, use, hold, dispose, and administer gifts, bequests, and devises of money, securities, and other real or personal property made for the benefit of, or in connection with, the Graduate School.

(B) **EXCEPTION.**—The Graduate School shall not accept a donation from a person that is actively engaged in a procurement activity with the Graduate School or has an interest that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of an official duty of a member of the Board or an employee of the Graduate School.

(3) **NOT FEDERAL FUNDS.**—Fees collected under paragraph (1) and amounts received under paragraph (2) shall not be considered to be Federal funds and shall not be required to be deposited in the Treasury of the United States.

(e) **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION BOARD AND DIRECTOR.**—

(1) **APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNING BOARD.**—The Secretary shall appoint a General Administration Board to serve as a governing board for the Graduate School and to supervise and direct the activities of the Graduate School. The Board shall be subject to regulation by the Secretary.

(2) **DUTIES OF BOARD.**—The Board shall—

(A) formulate broad policies in accordance with which the Graduate School shall be administered;

(B) take all steps necessary to ensure that the highest possible educational standards are maintained by the Graduate School;

(C) exercise general supervision over the administration of the Graduate School; and

(D) establish such bylaws, rules, and procedures as may be necessary for the fulfillment of the duties described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C).

(3) **APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR AND OTHER OFFICERS.**—The Board shall select a Director and such other officers as the Board considers necessary to administer the Graduate School. The Director and other officers shall serve on such terms and perform such duties as the Board may prescribe.

(4) **DUTIES OF DIRECTOR.**—The Director shall be responsible, subject to the supervision and direction of the Board, for carrying out the functions of the Graduate School.

(5) **BORROWING AND INVESTMENT AUTHORITY.**—The Board may authorize the Director—

(A) to borrow money on the credit of the Graduate School; and

(B) to invest funds held in excess of the current operating requirements of the Graduate School for purposes of maintaining a reasonable reserve.

(6) **LIABILITY.**—The Director and the members of the Board shall not be held personally liable for any loss or damage that may accrue to the funds of the Graduate School as the result of any act or exercise of discretion performed in carrying out their duties under this section.

(f) **EMPLOYEES.**—Employees of the Graduate School are employees of a nonappropriated fund instrumentality and shall not be considered to be Federal employees.

(g) **NOT A FEDERAL AGENCY.**—The Graduate School shall not be considered to be a Federal agency for purposes of—

(1) the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.);

(2) section 552 or 552a of title 5, United States Code;

or

(3) chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

(h) **ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY.**—In order to carry out the activities of the Graduate School, the Graduate School may—

(1) acquire real property in the District of Columbia and in other places by lease, purchase, or otherwise;

(2) maintain, enlarge, or remodel any such property;

(3) have sole control of any such property; and

(4) dispose of real and personal property without regard to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 471 et seq.).

(i) **CONTRACT AUTHORITY.**—The Graduate School may enter into contracts without regard to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 471 et seq.) or any other law that prescribes procedures for the procurement of property or services by an executive agency.

(j) **USE OF DEPARTMENT FACILITIES AND RESOURCES.**—The Graduate School may use the facilities and resources of the Department of Agriculture, on the condition that any costs incurred by the Department that are attributable solely to Graduate School operations and all costs incurred by the Graduate School arising out of such operations shall be paid using funds of the Graduate School. Federal funds may not be used to pay the costs.

SEC. 922. STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS.

7 USC 2279c.

(a) **STUDENT INTERN SUBSISTENCE PROGRAM.**—

(1) **DEFINITION OF STUDENT INTERN.**—In this subsection, the term “student intern” means a person who—

(A) is employed by the Department of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the "Department") to assist scientific, professional, administrative, or technical employees of the Department; and

(B) is a student in good standing at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 1201 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1141)) pursuing a course of study related to the field in which the person is employed by the Department.

(2) PAYMENT OF CERTAIN EXPENSES BY THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") may, out of user fee funds or funds appropriated to any agency of the Department, pay for lodging expenses, subsistence expenses, and transportation expenses of a student intern at the agency (including expenses of transportation to and from the student intern's residence at or near the institution of higher education attended by the student intern and the official duty station at which the student intern is employed).

(b) COOPERATION WITH ASSOCIATIONS OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO COOPERATE.—Notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements on an annual basis with 1 or more associations of institutions of higher education (as defined in section 1201 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1141)) for the purpose of providing for Department participation in internship programs for graduate and undergraduate students who are selected by the associations from students attending member institutions of the associations and other institutions of higher education.

(2) INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.—An internship program supported under this subsection (referred to in this subsection as an "internship program") shall provide work assignments for students within the Department and such other activities as the association that enters into the cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) with respect to the internship program (referred to in this subsection as the "cooperating association") and the Secretary shall determine. The nature of Department participation in an internship program shall be developed jointly by the Secretary and the cooperating association.

(3) PROGRAM COORDINATION.—The cooperating association shall coordinate an internship program, including—

- (A) the recruitment of students;
- (B) arrangements for travel of the students to Washington, District of Columbia, and to agency field locations;
- (C) the provision of housing for students, if required;

and

(D) all activities for the students that take place outside the Department work assignments of the students.

(4) NUMBER AND SELECTION OF STUDENTS.—

(A) NUMBER.—A cooperative agreement entered into under paragraph (1) shall specify the number of students that the Department will host each year and a list of work assignments to be provided for the students.

(B) SELECTION.—The cooperating association shall provide the Department with a pool of student candidates

meeting the requirements for each work assignment identified by the Secretary. Final selection of the students for Department internship positions shall be made by the Secretary.

(5) **COST REIMBURSEMENT.**—From such amounts as the Secretary determines are available each fiscal year for internship programs, and subject to such regulations as the Secretary may issue, the Secretary may reimburse a cooperating association for the Department share of all direct and indirect costs of an internship program, including student stipends, transportation costs to the internship site, and other costs of an internship program.

(6) **LEAD AGENCY.**—The Secretary may designate a lead agency within the Department to carry out this subsection.

(7) **INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS.**—Agencies and offices within the Department other than the lead agency—

(A) may enter into interagency agreements with the lead agency to provide work assignments for students participating in an internship program; and

(B) shall reimburse the lead agency for the direct and indirect costs of each student assigned to the agency under an internship program.

(8) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEE STATUS.**—A student who participates in an internship program shall not be considered a Federal employee, except for purposes of chapter 81 of title 5, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 923. CONVEYANCE OF EXCESS FEDERAL PERSONAL PROPERTY. 7 USC 2206a.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture may—

(1) convey title to excess Federal personal property owned by the Department of Agriculture, with or without monetary compensation and for such purposes as are determined by the Secretary, to—

(A) any of the 1994 Institutions (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note));

(B) any Hispanic-serving institution (as defined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))); and

(C) any college or university eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including Tuskegee University; and

(2) acquire from, exchange with, or dispose of personal property to other Federal departments and agencies without monetary compensation in furtherance of the purposes of this section.

SEC. 924. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO WHITE OAK CEMETERY. Arkansas.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **RELEASE OF INTEREST.**—After execution of the agreement described in subsection (b), the Secretary of Agriculture shall release the condition stated in the deed on the land described in subsection (c) that the land be used for public purposes, and that if the land is not so used, that the land revert to the United States. The release shall be on the condition that the land be used exclusively for cemetery purposes,

and that if the land is not so used, that the land revert to the United States.

(2) **BANKHEAD-JONES FARM TENANT ACT.**—Section 32(c) of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(c)) shall not apply to the release under paragraph (1).

(b) **AGREEMENT.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall make the release under subsection (a) on execution by the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas, in consideration of the release, of an agreement, satisfactory to the Secretary of Agriculture, that—

(1) the Board of Trustees will not sell, lease, exchange, or otherwise dispose of the land described in subsection (c) except to the White Oak Cemetery Association of Washington County, Arkansas, or a successor organization, for exclusive use for an expansion of the cemetery maintained by the Association or successor organization; and

(2) the proceeds of such a disposition of the land will be deposited and held in an account open to inspection by the Secretary of Agriculture, and used, if withdrawn from the account, for public purposes.

(c) **LAND DESCRIPTION.**—The land described in this subsection is the land conveyed to the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas, with certain other land, by deed dated November 18, 1953, comprising approximately 2.2 acres located within property of the University of Arkansas in Washington County, Arkansas, commonly known as the “Savor property” and described as follows:

The part of Section 20, Township 17 north, range 31 west, beginning at the north corner of the White Oak Cemetery and the University of Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station farm at Washington County road #874, running west approximately 330 feet, thence south approximately 135 feet, thence southeast approximately 384 feet, thence north approximately 330 feet to the point of beginning.

SEC. 925. SALE OF LAND BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS.

The Act of March 2, 1887 (commonly known as the “Hatch Act of 1887”) (7 U.S.C. 361a et seq.) shall not apply to the sale by the University of Arkansas of the approximately 103.52 acres of land in Washington County, Arkansas, owned by the University and commonly known as the “Walker Tract”, if the sale is made on the condition that all of the proceeds of the sale are used for agricultural research facilities and programs of the University of Arkansas.

Arkansas.

SEC. 926. DESIGNATION OF DALE BUMPERS SMALL FARMS RESEARCH CENTER.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The small farms research facility of the Agricultural Research Service located near Booneville, Arkansas, shall be known and designated as the “Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center”.

(b) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the research facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center”.

Maryland.

SEC. 927. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WASHINGTON AREA STRATEGIC SPACE PLAN.

The Secretary of Agriculture may obligate not more than \$5,000,000, from funds appropriated for agriculture buildings and

facilities and rental payments, for the improvement of State and local roads relating to the construction of an office complex at the Beltsville Agriculture Research Center, Maryland, as part of the implementation of the Department of Agriculture Washington Area Strategic Space Plan.

SEC. 928. SEVERABILITY.

7 USC 7201 note.

If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without regard to the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.

Approved April 4, 1996.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 2854 (S. 1541):

HOUSE REPORTS: Nos. 104-462, Pt. 1 (Comm. on Agriculture) and 104-494 (Comm. of Conference).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 142 (1996):

Jan. 31, Feb. 1, 6, 7, S. 1541 considered and passed Senate.

Feb. 28, 29, H.R. 2854 considered and passed House.

Mar. 12, considered and passed Senate, amended, in lieu of S. 1541.

Mar. 27, Senate considered conference report.

Mar. 28, Senate and House agreed to conference report.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 32 (1996):

Apr. 4, Presidential statement.

○

History of the U.S. Department of Agriculture 1993-2000

Archival Documents

Chapter 1: Farm Policy Risk Management

Agency

Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 2000 (ARPA)

Statement from Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman regarding passage

Fact Sheet

Press releases announcing passage

Manager's Bulletin's announcing implementation of ARPA

Release No 0201.00

Statement

by

Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman on
President Clinton's Signing of Emergency Farm Assistance
And Crop Insurance Reform Bill

June 20, 2000

"The bill President Clinton signed today provides \$7.1 billion in emergency assistance to America's struggling farmers. Commodity prices remain extremely low and worldwide production continues at record levels. There is no doubt that this aid is sorely needed. The bill also makes crop insurance more affordable, extending greater protection to more crops and more farmers.

"For three years in a row now, U.S. taxpayers have provided billions of dollars in emergency farm assistance. This is a clear admission that the 1996 Freedom to Farm bill fails to provide an effective safety net for American farmers. The President, Vice President and I have implored Congress to avoid costly, ad hoc, emergency aid by addressing the fundamental flaws in the farm bill.

"Notwithstanding the need for emergency payments to producers -- there's no doubt the aid is needed -- the way Congress has decided to pay out this emergency money is seriously flawed. We should not make payments to farmers who have not planted a crop and who don't need the help. Instead, as the President proposes, we should target assistance to family farmers who really are struggling. And assistance should be countercyclical, with payments increasing as incomes decline, and vice versa. We should treat the land itself as our most precious commodity, rewarding good conservation practices. Ultimately, we must develop a farm policy with an effective safety net, one on which farmers and the American people can rely."

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News Release Logo

Fact Sheet

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVING THE FARM SAFETY NET

February 2, 2000

When Congress passed the 1996 Farm Bill, the Administration noted serious reservations because the bill's failed to provide farmers adequate protection when prices are low. The collapse in farm prices the past two years revealed serious problems with the farm income safety net, which resulted in the Federal government's providing over \$15 billion in emergency assistance.

The farm financial picture would be much different had Congress not passed emergency aid legislation in 1998 and 1999. Without the added government payments, net cash income would have likely fallen below \$50 billion in 1999, the lowest level since the farm financial crisis of the mid-1980s. Rising crop surpluses, continued low prices and declining incomes will contribute to increasing farm financial stress in 2000, indicating a need for further Federal assistance. However, added assistance should not be made in the form of emergency legislation with the bulk of the payments in the form of Agricultural Market Transition Act (AMTA) payments. That approach, taken the past two years, is not in the best interests of farmers and taxpayers, as the assistance is ad hoc and ineffectively targeted.

President Clinton's FY 2001 budget proposes a major new initiative to strengthen the farm safety net. The initiative is designed to broaden Federal support to more producers of more commodities in more areas of the country. The initiative includes four complementary proposals for new legislation that would: (1) enhance the farm income support provided by the 1996 Farm Bill with supplementary countercyclical income assistance, targeting payments to producers facing reduced revenues; (2) increase environmental benefits and farm income through expanded conservation programs; (3) improve risk management by reforming the crop insurance program to provide better protection against natural disasters; and (4) expand economic opportunities in farm and rural areas.

These legislative proposals, coupled with new initiatives to be undertaken using current authorities, will provide more than \$11 billion in additional assistance to the rural economy during 2000-2002.

Enhance farm income support through the Supplementary Income Assistance Program and other actions

The 2001 budget proposes an income assistance program to provide supplemental income assistance payments for the 2000 and 2001 crop years to eligible producers of wheat, feed grains, rice, upland cotton and oilseeds. Under the program, supplemental government payments would be provided to eligible producers if projected gross income for the crop falls below 92 percent of the preceding 5-year average. Gross income would include gross market revenues for the crop plus government payments, including AMTA payments, marketing loan gains and loan deficiency payments. Payments would be based on a

farmer's current production, not historical crop base acres. The program addresses a major shortcoming of the 1996 Farm Bill through providing countercyclical support that reflects a farmer's current production and market conditions. The program payment rates would be determined at the beginning of each crop year, and payments would be made to farmers when they establish production levels with the Farm Service Agency. Funding is expected to total \$3.1 billion during FYs 2000 and 2001.

To target the program to smaller farmers who typically have lower farm income, payments would be subject to a separate \$30,000 per person payment limitation. This payment limitation is adjusted downward to reflect the amount of ATMA payments a person receives (e.g., a person receiving more than \$30,000 in AMTA payments is not eligible for payments, while a person receiving \$10,000 in AMTA payments is eligible for up to \$20,000 in program payments). Based on 1998 data, only about 2 percent of those receiving AMTA payments would likely be ineligible for payments under the Supplementary Income Assistance Program.

Additional initiatives to improve the farm income safety net include:

A proposed extension of the dairy price support program to 2002 to maintain price support for milk at \$9.90 per cwt, costing an estimated \$150 million in 2001 and 2002.

Using existing authorities to maintain maximum marketing assistance loan rates for the 2000 crop, costing more than \$500 million. Loan rates for the 2000 crop year would be as follows:

Wheat \$2.58/bu.

Corn \$1.89/bu. (Other feed grains set in relation to their feed value relative to corn.)

Soybeans \$5.26/bu.

Rice \$6.50/cwt.

Upland cotton \$0.5192/lb.

Using existing authorities to implement a new on-farm storage loan program to facilitate farmers' marketing opportunities

Increase environmental benefits

An additional \$1.3 billion for a Farm Conservation Programs Initiative is proposed for FY 2001 as a key component of the Administration's Farm Safety Net Proposal to strengthen farm family income while promoting environmentally sound land management. As part of that initiative, a new \$600 million Conservation Security Program (CSP) is funded, to be administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The CSP would provide annual payments to farmers and ranchers who implement such conservation practices as nutrient management, prescribed grazing, and partial-field conservation practices such as grassed waterways and windbreaks. Payment levels would be based on the comprehensiveness of farmers' conservation plans. Within the total, funds will be made available to NRCS to provide necessary technical assistance to farmers.

Increases are also proposed for five ongoing conservation programs:

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). The initiative would remove the current cumulative

acreage cap of 975,000 acres and enroll an additional 210,000 acres in the WRP in FY 2001 and an additional 250,000 acres in each subsequent year.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The President's Conservation Program Initiative would increase the enrollment cap by 3.6 million acres to 40 million acres. Incentives totaling up to \$100 million in FY 2000 and up to \$125 million each year in FY 2001 and FY 2002 would also be offered to farmers who enroll land in the CRP through continuous sign up provisions. These incentives are expected to encourage enrollment of acreage with high environmental benefits.

Farmland Protection Program (FPP). Under the Farm Conservation Program Initiative, the FPP would be funded at \$65 million annually. This program, a key part of the President's Lands Legacy initiative, provides matching funds to state, local, and Tribal governments to purchase permanent easements and thereby protect farmland that may otherwise be threatened by urban and suburban sprawl.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). The Initiative proposes \$50 million annually for WHIP, which offers cost-share and technical assistance to farmers and landowners for habitat restoration.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Under the proposed Initiative, the annual authorized funding level for EQIP would be increased from \$200 million to \$325 million. This program, part of the President's Clean Water Action Plan, provides financial, technical and educational assistance to farmers and ranchers who wish to implement practices such as animal waste facilities, integrated pest management or habitat restoration.

Improve risk management

The 2001 budget would extend the premium discount available in 1999 and 2000 for farmers who purchase buy-up coverage for crop insurance. Farmers have expressed concerns over the high cost of higher levels of insurance coverage. Premium discounts made available in 1999 resulted in an increase in acreage enrolled in buy-up coverage of almost 20 percent over the previous year's levels. Early data for the 2000 crop year suggest similar levels of participation. It is anticipated that the extension of this discount to the 2001 crop year would result in higher participation levels at higher levels of coverage. The premium discount and the costs associated with higher participation are expected to total \$640 million. The budget also requests \$100 million annually to develop a policy that covers multi-year losses.

The Administration proposes to establish a pilot program for insuring livestock. Currently, there is no livestock coverage under the crop insurance program; yet almost half of all farm receipts come from the sale of livestock or livestock products. The proposed program would offer \$100 million annually to provide livestock producers with price protection.

The risk management proposal also includes a request for funds to undertake comprehensive risk management education and to increase funds for research and product development activities.

The Administration also proposes to replace the area-wide loss trigger on the non-insured assistance program with a disaster declaration. This change, funded at \$110 million per year, would give farmers of crops that are currently not covered under the crop insurance program individual yield coverage in the event of catastrophic crop losses.

Expand economic opportunities for farms and rural areas

The Administration proposes using \$130 million during FYs 2001 and 2002 to establish a new cooperative development program to provide equity capital for new livestock and other processing cooperatives. The proposal would address concerns about market concentration by encouraging new entrants into the livestock processing market. It could also provide an additional source of income for farmers through the ownership of value-added processing.

The Administration would also use existing authorities to develop a new bioenergy program to encourage greater use of farm products for production of biofuels. The program would increase energy security by decreasing America's dependency on foreign fossil fuels. It would provide payments on a portion of a processor's increased use of bioenergy feedstocks, with higher proportional payments for smaller bioenergy processors. By increasing the demand for corn and other feedstocks, much of the direct costs of this program are expected to be offset by lower costs of the marketing assistance loan program.

The budget proposal also includes \$15 million funding for the five rural Empowerment Zones (EZ) and 20 rural Enterprise Communities (EC) designated in January 1999. Unlike the initial round of Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities that received 10 years' funding in one grant, the second round communities have been dependent on annual appropriations.

INITIATIVES
 Program Level
 (Dollars in Millions)

Initiative	Increase In 2000		
	Current Estimate	2001 Budget	2000 - 2002 Total
Farm Safety Net Initiative:			
Farm Income:			
Freeze 2000 Crop Loan Rates.....	\$20	\$500	\$530
Supplementary Income Assistance.....	600	2,464	5,599
Dairy Price Support Extension.....	0	150	300
On-Farm Storage.....	350	150	500
Total, Farm Income.....	970	3,264	6,929
Risk Management:			
Premium Discount.....	0	640	640
Risk Management Education.....	0	40	65

Multi-Year Coverage.....	0	100	100
Research & Development.....	0	30	60
Non-Insured Assistance Program.....	110	110	220
Livestock Insurance Pilot.....	0	100	200
Total, Risk Management.....	110	1,020	1,285
Conservation Programs:			
Wetlands Reserve Program.....	0	213	472
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).....	0	a/	21
CRP Continuous Signup Bonuses.....	100	125	350
Conservation Security Program.....	0	600	1,200
Env. Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).....	0	125	250
Farmland Protection Program.....	0	65	130
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.....	0	50	100
Technical Assistance/Other.....	0	110	214
Total, Conservation Programs.....	100	1,288	2,737
Economic Opportunity:			
Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/ECs).....	0	15	30
Cooperative Development.....	0	80	130
Bioenergy Incentives.....	100	150	400
Total, Economic Opportunity.....	100	245	560
Total, Farm Safety Net.....	\$1,280	\$5,817	\$11,511

a/ Rental payments on CRP acres are made in the subsequent fiscal year.



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RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Eric Edgington (202) 690-2539
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RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY SET TO DELIVER NEW BENEFITS

WASHINGTON, June 21, 2000 -- Risk Management Agency Administrator Ken Ackerman announced that the agency will move quickly to make new program benefits available to farmers for insuring the 2001 crop. The new benefits are primarily in the form of increased premium subsidy and adjustments to the formulas used to calculate coverage.

“RMA is working non-stop to make these benefits available to producers as quickly as possible,” said Ackerman. “We are also anxious to develop and use the new authority we requested to curb program abuse. Ensuring a level playing field for all producers is critical to maintaining producer confidence in the program.”

Under the new law, premium subsidy levels at higher levels of coverage have increased.

Changes in Percent Premium Subsidy

Coverage Level	50/100	65/100	75/100
Old Subsidy Level	55 percent	42 percent	24 percent
New Subsidy Level	67 percent	59 percent	55 percent

All Federally backed plans of insurance, including revenue insurance plans, will receive the same percentage premium subsidy. This change will produce significant cost savings for producers purchasing revenue insurance compared to previous years.

In addition to lowering premiums for higher levels of coverage, the new legislation authorizes a pilot livestock insurance program, improves multi-year loss coverage and encourages private-sector development of new types of insurance products.

For most producers, the higher premium subsidies will be available to protect 2001 crops. Producers should contact a crop insurance agent for details. A listing of crop insurance agents is at the local office of the Farm Service Agency and at www.rma.usda.gov (Agent Locator).

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RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Eric Edgington (202) 690-2539
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CROP INSURANCE BENEFITS ON FAST TRACK

WASHINGTON, June 30, 2000 -- Days after President Clinton signed the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (2000 Act) into law, Risk Management Administrator Ken Ackerman highlighted a package of administrative and regulatory actions that will lower premiums, increase coverage, and reduce administrative costs. In total, the changes will make 90 percent of the new benefits immediately available to farmers.

“We’re enacting the bulk of the new provisions in time for farmers planting fall crops to benefit from higher levels of protection at less cost,” said Ackerman. “Revenue insurance will be much more affordable and a new coverage option will help producers suffering multiple years of losses retain a reasonable amount of insurance protection.”

Subsidy Changes

Coverage Level	50/100	55/100	60/100	65/100	70/100	75/100	80/100	85/100
Old Subsidy*	55%	46%	38%	42%	32%	24%	17%	13%
New Subsidy**	67%	64%	64%	59%	59%	55%	48%	38%

*Applied to major crops under APH coverage plan. For revenue plans, subsidy applied to yield portion of premium only. Rates of subsidy also could differ for price elections less than 100%.

** Applies to all plans of insurance (except group risk-based policies) and all price levels within a coverage level.

Surviving Multi-year Losses

Under current law, producers are required to report their actual yields and all such yields are used in computing a yield guarantee for the insured crop. Transitional yields (T-yields), based on average county yields, are used when there is an insufficient number of actual yields to establish the yield guarantee. Producers suffering multiple years of severe losses often find themselves with protection so low that they are unable to secure operating loans.

The new rules allow producers to substitute 60 percent of the applicable T-yields when their actual yields are lower than 60 percent of that T-yield. This change effectively increases yield guarantees. Premiums are adjusted to reflect this additional risk. A preliminary analysis indicates that as many as 40 to 50 percent of insured producers in 1998 had losses in prior years that would qualify them for the option of excluding actual yields.

Producers should contact a crop insurance agent for details. A listing of crop insurance agents is at the local office of the Farm Service Agency and at <http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents> (Agent Locator).



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services
Risk Management Agency

BULLETIN NO.: MGR-00-020.1

TO: All Reinsured Companies
All Risk Management Agency Field Offices

FROM: Kenneth D. Ackerman /s/ Kenneth D. Ackerman 7/14/00
Administrator

SUBJECT: Implementation of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (ARPA) for Crops
With a 2001 Crop Year Contract Change Date of April 30, 2000

BACKGROUND:

Manager's Bulletin MGR-00-020 described program changes for the 2001 crop year (CY) for crops with a contract change date of June 30, 2000, or later. Questions have been raised regarding the applicability of these changes for 2001 CY county crop programs with a contract change date of April 30, 2000.

ACTION:

The following will apply to all county crop programs, including pilot programs, with a 2001 CY contract change date of April 30, 2000.

Changes made by the ARPA regarding subsidies, administrative fees, and Actual Production History are available provided each producer and his/her reinsured company agree to be bound by all such changes. Each company may determine the best means to implement these changes. However, the cancellation and rewriting of policies is not recommended. The Risk Management Agency will issue instructions, via Manual 13, that will permit companies to identify affected policies. An extended period for accepting applications or contract change forms will not be provided.

This action does not apply to any other 2001 CY contract change date.

DISPOSAL:

This bulletin is for the purpose of transmitting information and the expiration date is December 31, 2000.



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The Risk Management Agency Administers and Oversees
All Programs Authorized Under the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

An Equal Opportunity Employer



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services
Risk Management Agency

BULLETIN NO.: MGR-00-020.2

TO: All Reinsured Companies
All Risk Management Agency Field Offices

FROM: Kenneth D. Ackerman /s/ Kenneth D. Ackerman 8/25/00
Administrator

SUBJECT: Implementation of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (ARPA); Available
Price Election Percentages

BACKGROUND:

Questions have been asked regarding available price election percentages after the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act) was modified by the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (ARPA). Although some sections of the Act regarding price election percentages were changed by ARPA, section 508(c)(9) of the Act still requires that additional coverage be no lower than 50 percent of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at 100 percent of the expected market price, or an equivalent coverage. Therefore, in order to be an eligible additional coverage policy, the product of the price election percentage times the coverage level must be equal to or greater than 50 percent of the expected crop value.

ACTION:

The minimum price election percentages shown on the following table are applicable for the 2001 and following crop years for county crop programs with a contract change date of June 30, 2000, or later. For 2001 county crop programs with a contract change date earlier than June 30, 2000, minimum price election percentages will be determined in accordance with applicable producer premium percentage tables. The table applies only to additional levels of coverage and crop programs that permit price or price percentage elections less than 100 percent of the FCIC-published price. The Catastrophic Risk Protection (CAT) price election percentage is not changed.



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The Risk Management Agency Administers and Oversees
All Programs Authorized Under the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

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Coverage Level Percentage	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85
Minimum Price Elec. Percentage	100	91	84	77	72	67	63	59

DISPOSAL:

This bulletin is for the purpose of transmitting information and the expiration date is December 31, 2000.



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services
Risk Management Agency

BULLETIN NO.: MGR-00-020.3

TO: All Reinsured Companies
All Risk Management Agency Field Offices

FROM: Kenneth D. Ackerman /s/ Kenneth D. Ackerman 9/15/00
Administrator

SUBJECT: Implementation of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (ARPA) Actual
Production History (APH) Adjustments

BACKGROUND:

The following guidelines are provided to address implementation of actual production history (APH) adjustments as required by the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (ARPA). For APH yield calculation purposes, ARPA allows producers to substitute 60 percent of the applicable transitional yield (T-Yield) for actual yields that are less than 60 percent of the applicable transitional yield to mitigate the effect of catastrophic year(s).

ACTION:

Beginning with the 2001 crop year, producers insuring crops (including pilot program crops) using approved APH yields to calculate insurance guarantees, may elect to substitute 60 percent of the applicable T-Yield (APH Adjustment Election) for low actual yields caused by drought, flood, or other natural disasters. APH yields calculated for Revenue Assurance, Income Protection, Crop Revenue Coverage, and Avocado Revenue plans of insurance are also eligible for APH adjustments. Calculate approved APH yields and determine premium rates for APH adjustments according to the following guidelines:

1. **Eligible county crop programs.** County crop programs with a contract change date for the 2001 crop year:
 - A. Prior to April 30, 2000, will be eligible for the APH Adjustment Election (election) beginning with the 2002 crop year.



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- B. Of April 30, 2000, will be eligible for the election for the 2001 crop year only for producers that mutually agree with their reinsured company to be bound by changes made by ARPA regarding subsidies and administrative fees.
 - C. Later than April 30, 2000, will be eligible for the election for the 2001 crop year.
2. **Administration of the election** is similar to administration of options that producers may elect to change their insurance contracts. The election must be signed no later than the applicable sales closing date, except for the 2001 crop year. For the 2001 crop year, the election must be made no later than November 15, 2000, for any crop with a 2001 sales closing date of September 30, 2000, or earlier. The election is:
- A. Applicable on a crop and county basis as elected by the insured.
 - B. Continuous unless canceled by the cancellation date for the applicable crop year.
 - C. Available for CAT and additional coverage policies.
 - D. Applicable to Category B (annual) and C (perennial) APH crops. Refer to the FCIC 18010 Crop Insurance Handbook (CIH) for the list of Category B and C APH crops.
3. **Definitions used in the context of the APH Adjustment Election:**
- A. Actual yields, are considered actual, assigned and temporary yields as defined in the CIH. These yields are identified by the yield descriptors A, P, or J in APH databases.
 - B. Applicable T-Yields, are T-Yields for the current crop year for the county (including T-Yield Map Areas) and crop by practice, type, variety (P/T/V), age, density, etc., as indicated by the County Actuarial Document; Perennial Crop Transitional Yield and Acreage Tolerance Listing; assigned by Risk Management Agency's (RMA) Regional Office (RO); or calculated according to FCIC guidelines by insurance providers.
 - C. Approved APH yields, the amount of production per acre computed and approved by the verifier after substitution of 60 percent of the applicable T-Yield and in accordance with the Actual Production History Program 7 CFR part 400 subpart G, or for crops not listed under 7 CFR part 400 subpart G, the yield used to determine the guarantee in accordance with the crop provisions or the Special Provisions.

- D. Rate Yield, the per acre yield (average APH yield prior to any yield substitutions) used to determine the premium rate if different from the approved APH yield.

4. **Reporting Requirements.**

- A. Insureds must continue to provide to their insurance providers, production reports (APH forms) indicating actual acres and production as required by the crop insurance contract and APH procedures (no change).

- B. Insurance providers must continue to establish APH yields and maintain APH databases according to the CIH and report the actual production history to RMA. Insurance providers will submit to RMA the Type 15 Yield Record through the Data Acceptance System (DAS) containing:

- (1) Actual production history (prior to APH adjustments);
- (2) Rate yield;
- (3) Approved APH yield;
- (4) Applicable T-Yield other than those indicated by the Actuarial Data Master (Y-record). Examples include:
 - (a) Added land/P/T/V T-Yields,
 - (b) Determined factored irrigated T-Yields,
 - (c) Simple or weighted average T-Yields,
 - (d) Personal T-Yields (Montana Pilot),
 - (e) T-Yields assigned by RMA RO's, and
 - (f) Perennial Crop T-Yields.
- (5) Option code (YA) indicating that yield adjustments were elected.
- (6) Yield limitation flag (09) identifying each approved APH yield that has been adjusted under the election; and
- (7) Other Information and codes required by the DAS and indicated by the M-13 Data Acceptance System Handbook.

5. **Calculating Approved APH Yields Under the Election.**

- A. For Category B APH Crops (see Par. D for Category C Crop instructions) for each APH database:
- (1) Make the following calculations:
 - (a) Calculate the average adjusted APH yield by substituting 60 percent of the applicable T-Yield for actual yields that are less than 60 percent of the applicable T-Yield (yield substitutions);
 - (b) Calculate the cupped yield, if applicable;
 - (c) Calculate the yield floor (not applicable for CAT coverage), if applicable.
 - (2) Each insured may choose by the production reporting date, the method used to determine the approved APH yield:
 - (a) For CAT coverage, the average adjusted APH yield or the cupped yield as calculated under APH procedure.
 - (b) For additional coverage, the average adjusted APH yield or the higher of the yield floor or cupped yield calculated under APH procedure.
 - (3) APH yields (databases) that do not contain yield substitutions are eligible for cups or yield floors.
- B. If Master Yields are applicable, make yield substitutions after the individual unit data have been summarized on the Master Yield Summary. Separate Master Yields are required for T-Yield map areas, designated homogeneous Master Yield areas, and by P/T/V. (See Exhibit 7 of the CIH for Master Yield instructions and Par. 3D specifically for APH Master Yield Summary Form requirements).
- (1) Insurance Providers must submit ONE Type 15 Yield Record (Master Yield Summary Record) for EACH Master Yield to RMA. The Master Yield Summary Record must contain the SUMMARIZED data prior to APH adjustments. RMA will validate Master Yield Summary Records for which yield substitutions are applicable. It is NOT necessary to submit individual unit Type 15 records. For data reporting/processing purposes:

- (a) Each Master Yield will be assigned a Master Yield summary record number.
 - (b) The Master Yield summary record number will be entered on the Type 11 acreage record (by line) to identify the applicable approved Master Yield.
- (2) Yield substitutions, approved yields, and rates will be determined at the Master Yield level.
- C. For a Summerfallow (SF) practice using the special instructions in Sec. 6, Par. J(13)(h)3 of the CIH, make yield substitutions (if applicable) to both the SF practice and the continuous cropping practices (CC) prior to determining the "higher" yield to be used for the SF practice. Continue to duplicate the CC data if higher, identify it as SF, and submit the duplicated data (Type 15 record) to RMA.
- D. Additional instructions for Category C APH (perennial) crops. APH adjustments will be made as follows:
 - (1) Beginning with the 2001 crop year, indexed yield methodology for Georgia and South Carolina peach producers has been discontinued (R&D-00-037). Peaches in these states have been placed under standard APH procedures and are eligible for APH adjustments.
 - (2) For Avocado Revenue, the APH adjustment will adjust the average farm revenue. Refer to Par. 5A and make actual yield substitutions prior to calculating the average farm revenue. Follow the reporting requirements in Par. 4B by substituting average farm revenue for the actual production history in 4B(1) and the approved average revenue for the approved APH yield in 4B(3).
 - (3) The RMA RO will calculate approved APH yields if the Pre-acceptance Field Inspection (Sec. 7, Par. F(1)) or the Pre-acceptance Selection Criteria (Sec. 7, Par. F(2)) as indicated by the CIH is met or exceeded unless, the RO issues guidelines indicating how the approved APH yields will be calculated and gives insurance providers the authority to calculate the approved APH yields.
 - (a) Insurance Providers must determine variability of actual yields(Par. F(2)(b) of the CIH) prior to any APH yield adjustments.
 - (b) The RO or Insurance Provider as authorized will make appropriate APH yield adjustments.

- (i) When alternate bearing cycles are identified for crops that are subject to alternate bearing cycles (e.g., apples), yield substitutions will not be made for low yields occurring during the alternate bearing years.
 - (ii) If yields are declining (e.g., past peak production, orchard/grove/vineyard/bog is diseased, in poor condition, being renovated, etc.) the RO will determine whether yield substitutions should be made.
- (4) Yield substitutions will be made for actual yields reported on APH Forms/Type 15 records. Yield substitutions are not made on Block Production Worksheets when Block Production Worksheets are applicable.
- (a) A weighted average T-Yield (See Unit Summary Worksheet, Exhibit 16, Par. 3B, Example 4) for the current crop year must be calculated for each APH yield/Type 15 record, if more than one T-Yield is applicable (e.g., different ages, density, types that have different T-Yields are applicable). Weighted average T-Yield calculations will be based on the acres and T-Yields applicable for the current crop year.
 - (b) Weighted average T-Yields are applicable T-Yields for yield substitution purposes. They are not "set" and may change from year to year. If significant changes have occurred to Trees/Vines/Bushes/Bog as identified on the FCI-12-PAW Producer's Pre-Acceptance Worksheet; FCI-12-P Pre-acceptance Inspection Report; and the applicable Crop Addendum Worksheet, then questions concerning appropriate T-Yields on which to base the applicable T-Yield for yield substitution purposes, may be referred to the RMA RO.
 - (c) Sixty percent of the applicable T-Yield will be substituted for actual yields which are less than 60 percent of the applicable T-Yield. For each APH database:
 - (i) Calculate the average adjusted APH yield (after yield substitutions are made);

- (ii) Calculate the cupped yield (applicable for almonds, cranberries, citrus (AZ-CA), figs, grapes, Macadamia nuts, pears, plums, prunes, stonefruit, table grapes, Texas citrus fruit, and walnuts), if applicable;
 - (iii) Calculate the weighted average APH yield using Unit Summary Worksheets, if applicable.
 - (iv) Each insured may choose by the production reporting date the method used to determine the approved APH yield, either the average adjusted APH yield or, if applicable, the higher of the cupped yield or the weighted average APH yield calculated under APH procedure.
- (d) APH yields (databases) that do not contain yield substitutions remain eligible for cups, caps, or the weighted average APH yield determined using Unit Summary Worksheets consistent with current procedure.
- E. DAS will process the data and verify that approved APH yields for which yield substitutions were made are calculated correctly.
6. **Determining premium rates.** If the approved APH yield calculation chosen by the insured (by unit/P/T/V/T-Map area, etc.) includes at least one 60 percent T-Yield that was substituted for an actual yield:
- A. For a continuous rated crops and counties, the rate yield (average APH yield prior to any yield substitutions) is used to determine the premium rate. The average yield for continuous rated crops, is divided by the current year's reference yield to determine current year's yield ratio and the result (rounded to nearest hundredth) is then used in the continuous rating formula.
 - B. For crops and counties not utilizing continuous rating methodology, a 5 percent (1.05 factor) surcharge will be applied to the premium calculation unless the actuarial document indicates an APH adjustment surcharge. If an APH adjustment surcharge is indicated, the APH adjustment surcharge will apply to the premium calculation.

If you have questions, please contact Tim Hoffmann at 816-926-7829.

DISPOSAL:

This bulletin is for the purpose of transmitting information and the expiration date is December 31, 2001.