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research, and final approval given to the proposed change by the Federal department or agency component.

§ 1c.120 Evaluation and disposition of applications and proposals for research to be conducted or supported by a Federal department or agency.

(a) The department or agency head will evaluate all applications and proposals involving human subjects submitted to the Federal department or agency through such officers and employees of the Federal department or agency and such experts and consultants as the department or agency head determines to be appropriate. This evaluation will take into consideration the risks to the subjects, the adequacy of protection against these risks, the potential benefits of the research to the subjects and others, and the importance of the knowledge gained or to be gained.

(b) On the basis of this evaluation, the department or agency head may approve or disapprove the application or proposal, or enter into negotiations to develop an approvable one.

§ 1c.121 [Reserved]**§ 1c.122 Use of Federal funds.**

Federal funds administered by a Federal department or agency may not be expended for research involving human subjects unless the requirements of this policy have been satisfied.

§ 1c.123 Early termination of research support: Evaluation of applications and proposals.

(a) The department or agency head may require that Federal department or agency support for any project be terminated or suspended in the manner prescribed in applicable program requirements, when the department or agency head finds an institution has materially failed to comply with the terms of this policy.

(b) In making decisions about supporting or approving applications or proposals covered by this policy the department or agency head may take into account, in addition to all other eligibility requirements and program criteria, factors such as whether the applicant has been subject to a termina-

nation or suspension under paragraph (a) of this section and whether the applicant or the person or persons who would direct or has/have directed the scientific and technical aspects of an activity has/have, in the judgment of the department or agency head, materially failed to discharge responsibility for the protection of the rights and welfare of human subjects (whether or not the research was subject to federal regulation).

§ 1c.124 Conditions.

With respect to any research project or any class of research projects the department or agency head of either the conducting or the supporting Federal department or agency may impose additional conditions prior to or at the time of approval when in the judgment of the department or agency head additional conditions are necessary for the protection of human subjects.

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- 2.700-2.701 [Reserved]

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 6912(a)(1); 5 U.S.C. 301; Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953, 3 CFR 1949-1953 Comp., p. 1024.

SOURCE: 60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

EDITORIAL NOTES: 1. Nomenclature changes to part 2 appear at 83 FR 22178, May 14, 2018.

2. Nomenclature changes to part 2 appear at 83 FR 61310, Nov. 29, 2018

3. Nomenclature changes to part 2 appear at 85 FR 65504, Oct. 15, 2020.

4. Nomenclature changes to part 2 appear at 87 FR 44266, July 26, 2022.

Subpart A—General

§ 2.1 Establishment of the Department.

The Department of Agriculture was created by the Act of May 15, 1862, and by the Act of February 9, 1889, it was made an executive department in the Federal Government under the supervision and control of the Secretary of Agriculture (7 U.S.C. 2201, 2202, 2204).

§ 2.2 Authority of the Secretary to prescribe regulations.

The general authority of the Secretary to prescribe regulations governing the work of the Department is based on 5 U.S.C. 301 which provides that the head of an Executive department may prescribe regulations for the government of his department, the conduct of its employees, the distribution and performance of its business, and the custody, use and preservation of its records, papers, and property.

Office of the Secretary, USDA**§ 2.5****§ 2.3 Authority of the Secretary to delegate authority.**

(a) The general authority of the Secretary to make delegations of his authority is based on:

(1) Section 4(a) of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953 (5 U.S.C. App.), which provides that the Secretary of Agriculture may from time to time make such provisions as he shall deem appropriate authorizing the performance by any other officer, or by an agency or employee, of the Department of Agriculture of any function of the Secretary, including any function transferred to the Secretary by the provisions of this reorganization plan; and

(2) Section 212(a)(1) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, Pub. L. No. 103-354, 7 U.S.C. 6912(a)(1), which provides that the Secretary may delegate to any agency, office, officer, or employee of the Department the authority to perform any function transferred to the Secretary under 7 U.S.C. 6912(a) or any other function vested in the Secretary as of the date of the enactment of the Act.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 2.4 General officers.

The work of the Department is under the supervision and control of the Secretary who is assisted by the following general officers: The Deputy Secretary, the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation; the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, the Under Secretary for Food Safety; the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs; the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment; the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics; the Under Secretary for Rural Development; the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs; the Assistant Secretary for Administration; the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights; the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations; the Chief Economist; the Chief Financial Officer; the Chief Information Officer; the General Counsel; the Inspector General; the Judicial Officer; the Director, National Appeals Division; the Director, Office of Budget and Program Analysis; the Director, Office of Communications; the Director, Office of

Partnerships and Public Engagement; the Director, Office of Tribal Relations; and the Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.

[85 FR 65504, Oct. 15, 2020]

§ 2.5 Order in which officers of the Department shall act as Secretary.

(a) Pursuant to Executive Order 13612, “Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of Agriculture” (77 FR 31153, May 24, 2012), during any period in which both the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary have died, resigned, or are otherwise unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officials designated in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(15) of this section shall act as Secretary, in the order in which they are listed. Each official shall act only in the event of the death, resignation, or inability to perform the functions and duties of Secretary of the immediately preceding official:

(1) Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services.

(2) Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.

(3) Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration.

(4) Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

(5) Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety.

(6) Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment.

(7) Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

(8) Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

(9) General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture.

(10) Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary.

(11) State Executive Directors of the Farm Service Agency for the States of California, Iowa, and Kansas, in order of seniority fixed by length of unbroken service as State Executive Director of that State.

(12) Regional Administrators of the Food and Nutrition Service for the

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Mountain Plains Regional Office (Denver, Colorado), Midwest Regional Office (Chicago, Illinois), and Western Regional Office (San Francisco, California), in order of seniority fixed by length of unbroken service as Regional Administrator of that Regional Office.

(13) Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Agriculture.

(14) Assistant Secretary of Agriculture (Civil Rights).

(15) Assistant Secretary of Agriculture (Congressional Relations).

(b) If any two or more individuals designated in paragraphs (a)(11) or (a)(12) of this section were sworn in to, or commenced service in, their respective offices on the same day, precedence shall be determined by the alphabetical order of the State in which the individual serves.

(c) No individual who is serving in an office listed in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(15) of this section shall, by virtue of so serving, act as Secretary pursuant to this section.

(d) No individual who is serving in an office listed in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(15) of this section shall act as Secretary unless that individual is otherwise eligible to so serve under the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 (5 U.S.C. 3345, *et seq.*).

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section and Executive Order 13612, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by law, to depart from the order of succession in paragraph (a) of this section in designating an acting Secretary.

[78 FR 40936, July 9, 2013]

Subpart B—General Delegations of Authority by the Secretary of Agriculture

§ 2.6 Designation of first assistants.

(a) Every office within the Department to which appointment is required to be made by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate (“PAS Office”) may have a First Assistant within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 3345–3349d.

(1) Where there is a position of principal deputy to the PAS Office, the principal deputy shall be the First Assistant.

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(2) Where there is only one deputy position to the PAS Office, the official in that position shall be the First Assistant.

(3) Where there is more than one deputy position to the PAS Office, and this part establishes which deputy is delegated the authority to perform all the duties and exercise all the powers of the PAS Office during the absence or unavailability of the PAS official, the deputy delegated such authority shall be the First Assistant.

(4) Where neither paragraph (a)(1), (2), nor (3) of this section is applicable to the PAS Office, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the Secretary may designate in writing the First Assistant position.

(b) The Inspector General of the Department shall determine any arrangements for the temporary performance of the functions and duties of the Inspector General when that office is vacant.

[81 FR 45963, July 15, 2016]

§ 2.7 Authority to supervise and direct.

Unless specifically reserved, or otherwise delegated (including delegations of legal functions to the General Counsel at § 2.31), the delegations of authority to each general officer of the Department and each agency head contained in this part includes the authority to direct and supervise the employees engaged in the conduct of activities under such official’s jurisdiction, and the authority to take any action, execute any document, authorize any expenditure, promulgate any rule, regulation, order, or instruction required by or authorized by law and deemed by the general officer or agency head to be necessary and proper to the discharge of his or her responsibilities. This authority will be exercised subject to applicable administrative directives. Unless otherwise provided, a general officer or agency head may, subject to his or her continuing responsibility for the proper discharge of delegations made to him, in this part, delegate and provide for the redelegation of his or her authority to appropriate officers and employees. Subject to the general supervision of the Secretary, agency heads who are delegated authority

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from a general officer, in this part, report to and are under the supervision of that general officer.

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 83 FR 22179, May 14, 2018]

§2.8 Delegations of authority to agency heads to order that the United States flag be flown at half-staff.

Pursuant to section 5 of Proclamation 3044, 3 CFR, 1954-1958 Comp., p. 4, each general officer and agency head is delegated authority to order that the United States flag shall be flown at half-staff on buildings and grounds under his or her jurisdiction or control. This authority shall be exercised in accordance with directives promulgated by the Director, Office of Operations.

§2.9 Additional delegations.

The authority granted to a general officer may be exercised in the discharge of any additional functions which the Secretary may assign.

§2.10 Limitations.

The delegations made in this part shall not be construed to confer upon any general officer or agency head the authority of the Secretary to prescribe regulations which by law require approval of the President.

§2.11 New principles and periodic reviews.

In the exercise of authority delegated by the Secretary, the application of new principles of major importance or a departure from principles established by the Secretary should be brought to the attention of the Secretary. General officers are responsible for assuring that periodic reviews are conducted of the activities of the agencies assigned to their direction and supervision, as required by 5 U.S.C. 305.

§2.12 Secretary and general officers not precluded from exercising delegated powers.

No delegation of authority by the Secretary or a general officer contained in this part shall preclude the Secretary or general officer from exercising any of the authority so delegated.

§2.13 Status of prior delegations.

Nothing in this part shall affect the bylaws of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, or the Rural Telephone Bank. All delegations previously made which are inconsistent with delegations made in this part are superseded; however, any regulation, order, authorization, expenditure, or other instrument, heretofore issued or made pursuant to any delegation of authority shall continue in full force and effect unless and until withdrawn or superseded pursuant to authority granted in this part.

Subpart C—Delegations of Authority to the Deputy Secretary, Under Secretaries, and Assistant Secretaries

EDITORIAL NOTE: Nomenclature changes to subpart C of part 2 appear at 60 FR 66713, Dec. 26, 1995.

§2.14 Deputy Secretary.

The following delegation of authority is made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Deputy Secretary: Perform all of the duties and exercise all of the powers and functions which are now or which may hereafter be, vested in the Secretary of Agriculture. This delegation is subject to the limitation in §2.10.

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995. Redesignated at 87 FR 44266, July 26, 2022]

§2.15 Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

(a) The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs:

(1) *Related to foreign agriculture.* (i) Coordinate the carrying out by Department agencies of their functions involving foreign agricultural policies and programs and their operations and activities in foreign areas. Act as liaison on these matters and functions relating to foreign agriculture between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of State, the United States Trade Representative, the Trade Policy

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Committee, the Agency for International Development, and other departments, agencies, and committees of the U.S. Government, foreign governments, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of American States, and other public and private U.S. and international organizations, and the contracting parties to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

(ii) Administer Departmental programs concerned with development of foreign markets for agricultural products of the United States except functions relating to export marketing operations under section 32 of the Act of August 23, 1935, as amended (7 U.S.C. 612c), delegated to the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and utilization research delegated to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

(iii) Conduct studies of worldwide production, trade, marketing, prices, consumption, and other factors affecting exports and imports of U.S. agricultural commodities; obtain information on methods used by other countries to move farm commodities in world trade on a competitive basis for use in the development of programs of this Department; provide information to domestic producers, the agricultural trade, the public and other interests; and promote normal commercial markets abroad. This delegation excludes basic and long-range analyses of world conditions and developments affecting supply, demand, and trade in farm products and general economic analyses of the international financial and monetary aspects of agricultural affairs as assigned to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

(iv) Conduct functions of the Department relating to WTO, the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (19 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2101 *et seq.*), the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. 2501 *et seq.*), the Omnibus Trade and Competition Act of 1988 (19 U.S.C. 2901 *et seq.*), and other legis-

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lation affecting international agricultural trade including the programs designed to reduce foreign tariffs and other trade barriers.

(v) Maintain a worldwide agricultural intelligence and reporting system, including provision for foreign agricultural representation abroad to protect and promote U.S. agricultural interests and to acquire information on demand, competition, marketing, and distribution of U.S. agricultural commodities abroad pursuant to title VI of the Agricultural Act of 1954, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1761-1768).

(vi) Exercise the Department's functions with respect to the International Coffee Agreement or any such future agreement.

(vii) Administer functions of the Department relating to import controls, except those functions reserved to the Secretary in paragraph (b) of this section and those relating to section 8e of the Agricultural Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 608e-1), as assigned to the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs. These include:

(A) Functions under section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933, as amended (7 U.S.C. 624);

(B) General note 15(c) to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (19 U.S.C. 1202);

(C) Requests for emergency relief from duty-free imports of perishable products filed with the Department of Agriculture under section 213(f) of the Caribbean Basin Recovery Act of 1983 (19 U.S.C. 2703(f));

(D) Section 404 of the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984 (19 U.S.C. 2112 note);

(E) Section 204(d) of the Andean Trade Preference Act (19 U.S.C. 3203(d));

(F) [Reserved]

(G) Section 301(a) of the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 2112 note); and

(H) Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854).

(viii) Conduct Department activities to carry out the provisions of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C. Chapter 56).

(ix) Exercise the Department's responsibilities in connection with international negotiations of the Grains

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Trade Convention and in the administration of such Convention.

(x) Plan and carry out programs and activities under the foreign market promotion authority of: The Wheat Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 1292 note); the Cotton Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 2101–2118); the Potato Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 2611–2627); the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act of 1974 (7 U.S.C. 2701–2718); the Beef Research and Information Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2901–2911); the Wheat and Wheat Foods Research and Nutrition Education Act (7 U.S.C. 3401–3417); the Floral Research and Consumer Information Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4301–4319); subtitle B of title I of the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 4501–4514); the Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act of 1984, as amended (7 U.S.C. 4601–4613); the Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 4801–4819); the Watermelon Research and Promotion Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 4901–4916); the Pecan Promotion and Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6001–6013); the Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6101–6112); the Lime Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6201–6212); the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6301–6311); the Fluid Milk Promotion Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6401–6417); the Fresh Cut Flowers and Fresh Cut Greens Promotion and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 6801–6814); the Sheep Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7101–7111); the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7411–7425); the Canola and Rapeseed Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7441–7452); the National Kiwifruit Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7461–7473); and, the Popcorn Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7481–7491). This authority includes determining the programs and activities to be undertaken and assuring that they are coordinated with the overall departmental programs to develop for

foreign markets for U.S. agricultural products.

(xi) Formulate policies and administer barter programs under which agricultural commodities are exported.

(xii) Perform functions of the Department in connection with the development and implementation of agreements to finance the sale and exportation of agricultural commodities under the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691, 1701 *et seq.*).

(xiii) [Reserved]

(xiv) Coordinate within the Department activities arising under the Food for Peace Act (except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics in §2.21(a)(8)), and represent the Department in its relationships in such matters with the Department of State, any interagency committee on the Food for Peace Act, and other departments, agencies and committees of the Government.

(xv)–(xvi) [Reserved]

(xvii) Carry out activities relating to the sale, reduction, or cancellation of debt, as authorized by title VI of the Agricultural Trade and Development Act of 1954, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1738 *et seq.*).

(xviii) [Reserved]

(xix) Allocate the agricultural commodities acquired under price support programs that have been determined by the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation or designee to be available for export among the various export programs.

(xx) Conduct economic analyses pertaining to the foreign sugar situation.

(xxi) Exercise the Department's functions with respect to the International Sugar Agreement or any such future agreements.

(xxii) Exercise the Department's responsibilities with respect to tariff-rate quotes for dairy products under chapter 4 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (19 U.S.C. 1202).

(xxiii) Serve as a focal point for handling quality or weight discrepancy inquiries from foreign buyers of U.S. agricultural commodities to insure that they are investigated and receive a timely response and that reports thereof are made to appropriate parties and

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government officials in order that corrective action may be taken.

(xxiv) Establish and administer regulations relating to foreign travel by employees of the Department. Regulations will include, but not be limited to, obtaining and controlling passports, obtaining visas, coordinating Department of State medical clearances and imposing requirements for itineraries and contacting the Foreign Agricultural Affairs Officers upon arrival in the Officers' country(ies) of responsibility.

(xxv) Formulate policies and administer programs and activities authorized by the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978, as amended (7 U.S.C. 5601 *et seq.*).

(xxvi) Administer the Foreign Service personnel system for the Department in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 3922, except as otherwise delegated to the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs in § 2.22(a)(2)(i), but including authority to approve joint regulations issued by the Department of State and authority to represent the Department of Agriculture in all interagency consultations and negotiations with the other foreign affairs agencies with respect to joint regulations.

(xxvii) Establish and maintain U.S. Agricultural Trade Offices, to develop, maintain and expand international markets for U.S. agricultural commodities in accordance with title IV of Public Law No. 95-501 (7 U.S.C. 1765a-g).

(xxviii) Administer the programs under section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1431(b)), relating to the foreign donation of CCC stocks of agricultural commodities, except as otherwise delegated in § 2.42(a)(43).

(xxix) Support remote sensing activities of the Department and research with satellite imagery including:

(A) Providing liaison with U.S. space programs;

(B) Providing administrative management of the USDA Remote Sensing Archive and the transfer of satellite imagery to all USDA agencies;

(C) Coordinating all agency satellite imagery data needs; and

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(D) Arranging for acquisition, and preparation of imagery for use to the extent of existing capabilities.

(xxx) Promote cooperation and co-ordination between 1862, 1890, 1994, and NLGCA Institutions, HSACUs, and co-operating forestry schools and international partner institutions in developing countries by exercising the Secretary's authority in 7 U.S.C. 3292, including coordinating with the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics to place interns from covered institutions in, or in service to benefit, developing countries.

(xxxi) Administer programs under the Food for Progress Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1736o), except as otherwise delegated in § 2.42(a)(43).

(xxxii) Serve as Department adviser on policies, organizational arrangements, budgets, and actions to accomplish international scientific and technical cooperation in food and agriculture.

(xxxiii) Administer and direct the Department's programs in international development, technical assistance, and training carried out under the Foreign Assistance Act, as amended, as requested under such act (22 U.S.C. 2151 *et seq.*).

(xxxiv) Administer and coordinate assigned Departmental programs in international research and scientific and technical cooperation with other governmental agencies, land grant universities, international organizations, international agricultural research centers, and other organizations, institutions, or individuals (7 U.S.C. 1624, 3291).

(xxxv) Direct and coordinate the Department's participation in scientific and technical matters and exchange agreements between the United States and other countries.

(xxxvi) Direct and coordinate the Department's work with international organizations and interagency committees concerned with food and agricultural development programs (7 U.S.C. 2201-2202).

(xxxvii) Coordinate policy formulation for USDA international science and technology programs concerning international agricultural research centers, international organizations,

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and international agricultural research and extension activities (7 U.S.C. 3291).

(xxxviii) Disseminate, upon request, information on subjects connected with agriculture which has been acquired by USDA agencies that may be useful to the U.S. private sector in expanding foreign markets and investment opportunities through the operation of a Department information center, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2201.

(xxxix) Enter into contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and cost reimbursable agreements relating to agricultural research, extension, or teaching activities (7 U.S.C. 3318, 3319a).

(xl) Determine amounts reimbursable for indirect costs under international agricultural programs and agreements (7 U.S.C. 3319).

(xli) Administer the Cochran Fellowship Program (7 U.S.C. 3293).

(xlii) Determine quantity trigger levels and impose additional duties under the special safeguard measures in accordance with U.S. note 2 to subchapter IV of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (19 U.S.C. 1202).

(xliii) Implement provisions of the Trade Act of 1974 regarding adjustment assistance for farmers (19 U.S.C. 2401-2401g).

(xliv) Implement section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1).

(xlv) Administer the International Agricultural Education Fellowship Program (7 U.S.C. 3295).

(xlvi) Implement section 3206 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1726c) regarding local and regional food aid procurement projects.

(xlvii) Administer the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship Program (7 U.S.C. 3319j).

(xlviii) Compile and make available information relating to the improvement of international food security, and provide technical assistance for the improvement of international food security to Federal, State, or local agencies; agencies or instrumentalities of the government of foreign country; domestic or international organizations; or intergovernmental organizations (7 U.S.C. 1736dd).

(xlix) Administer the following provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014, Public Law 113-79:

(A) Section 12314 relating to the Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Fund (7 U.S.C. 2101 note), in coordination with the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation.

(B) Section 12315 relating to the Agriculture Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund (7 U.S.C. 7101 note), in coordination with the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation.

(1) In consultation with the Tribal Advisory Committee and the Director of the Office of Tribal Relations, and in coordination with the Secretaries of Commerce, State, Interior, and the heads of any other relevant Federal agencies, implement section 3312 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 5608) to support greater inclusion of Tribal agricultural food products in Federal trade activities.

(2) [Reserved]

(3) Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), concerning foreign agricultural intelligence and other foreign agricultural matters.

(4) Carry out prize competition authorities in section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) related to functions otherwise delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, except for authorities delegated to the Chief Financial Officer in §2.28(a)(29) and authorities reserved to the Secretary in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(5) *Related to the U.S. Codex Office.* (i) Inform the public of the sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (19 U.S.C. 2578; Pres. Proc. 6780).

(ii) Enter into agreements with organizations, institutions or individuals throughout the world to conduct activities related to the sanitary and

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phytosanitary standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, including international outreach and education, in order to promote and support the development of a viable and sustainable global agricultural system; antihunger and improved international nutrition efforts; and increased quantity, quality, and availability of food (7 U.S.C. 3291).

(iii) Coordinate with institutions and other persons throughout the world performing agricultural and related research, extension, and teaching activities by exchanging research materials and results with such institutions or persons or by conducting with such institutions or persons joint or coordinated research, extension, or teaching activities that are related to the sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and that address problems of significance to food and agriculture in the United States (7 U.S.C. 3291).

(iv) Work with transitional and more advanced countries in food, agricultural, and related research, development, teaching, and extension activities related to the sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (7 U.S.C. 3291).

(v) Enter into contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and cost reimbursable agreements to carry out the Department's agricultural research, extension, or teaching activities related to the sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (7 U.S.C. 3318, 3319a).

(vi) Determine amounts reimbursable for indirect costs under international agricultural programs and agreements (7 U.S.C. 3319).

(vii) Coordinate policy formulation for USDA international science and technology programs concerning the sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (7 U.S.C. 3291).

(b) The following authorities are reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture:

(1) *Related to foreign agriculture.* (i) Approving export controls with respect to any agricultural commodity, includ-

ing fats and oils or animal hides or skins as provided for in the Export Administration Act of 1969, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2401 *et seq.*).

(ii) Advising the President that imports are having the effect on programs or operations of this Department required as a prerequisite for the imposition of import controls under section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933, as amended (7 U.S.C. 624a), recommending that the President cause an investigation to be made by the Tariff Commission of the facts so that a determination can be made whether import restrictions should be imposed under that Act, and determining under section 204(e) of the Andean Trade Preference Act (19 U.S.C. 3203(e)) that there exists a serious injury, or threat thereof and recommending to the President whether or not to take action.

(iii) Determining the agricultural commodities and the quantities thereof available for disposition under the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1731).

(2) Approval of prize competitions that may result in the award of more than \$1,000,000 in cash prizes under section 24(m)(4)(B) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719(m)(4)(B)).

[83 FR 22181, May 14, 2018, as amended at 85 FR 65512, Oct. 15, 2020. Redesignated and amended at 87 FR 44266, July 26, 2022]

§ 2.16 Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation.

(a) The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation:

(1) *Related to Farm Service Agency.* (i) Formulate policies and administer programs authorized by the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1282 *et seq.*).

(ii) Formulate policies and administer programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1441 *et seq.*).

(iii) Coordinate and prevent duplication of aerial photographic work of the Department, including:

(A) Clearing photography projects;

(B) Assigning symbols for new aerial photography, maintaining symbol records, and furnishing symbol books;

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(C) Recording departmental aerial photography flow and coordinating the issuance of aerial photography status maps of latest coverage;

(D) Promoting interchange of technical information and techniques to develop lower costs and better quality;

(E) Representing the Department on committees, task forces, work groups, and other similar groups concerned with aerial photography acquisition and reproduction, and serving as liaison with other governmental agencies on aerial photography but excluding mapping;

(F) Providing a Chairperson for the Photography Sales Committee of the Department;

(G) Coordinating development, preparation, and issuance of specifications for aerial photography for the Department;

(H) Coordinating and performing procurement, inspection, and application of specifications for USDA aerial photography;

(I) Providing for liaison with EROS Data Center to support USDA programs and research with satellite imagery reproductions; and

(J) Maintaining library and files of USDA aerial film and retrieving and supplying reproductions on request.

(iv) [Reserved]

(v) Administer the Emergency Conservation Program under the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978, as amended (16 U.S.C. 2201 *et seq.*).

(vi) Conduct fiscal, accounting and claims functions relating to Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs for which the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation has been delegated authority.

(vii) Conduct assigned activities under the Strategic and Critical Materials Stockpiling Act, as amended (50 U.S.C. 98 *et seq.*).

(viii) Supervise and direct Farm Service Agency State and county offices and delegate functions to be performed by Farm Service Agency State and county committees.

(ix) Administer the dairy indemnity program under the Act of August 13, 1968, as amended (7 U.S.C. 4551 *et seq.*).

(x) Administer procurement, processing, handling, distribution, disposition, transportation, payment, and re-

lated services with respect to surplus removal and supply operations which are carried out under section 210 of the Agricultural Act of 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1859), the Act of August 19, 1958, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1431 note), and section 709 of the Food and Agricultural Act of 1965, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1446a-1), except as delegated in paragraph (a)(3) of this section and to the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services in §2.19, and assist the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services and the Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs in the procurement, handling, payment, and related services under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, as amended (7 U.S.C. 612c), the Act of June 28, 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 713c), the National School Lunch Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1751, *et seq.*), section 8 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1777), section 311 of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3030a), section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973, as amended (7 U.S.C. 612c note), and section 1114 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 1431e).

(xi) Administer the Organic Certification Cost Share Programs authorized under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(b)(4)(C)(ii)), and under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act, as amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 6523). [Reserved]

(xii) Administer the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), except those functions delegated in §2.21(a)(8)(xi).

(xiii) Administer energy management activities as assigned.

(xiv) Conduct producer referenda of commodity promotion programs under the Beef Research and Information Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2901 *et seq.*), and the Agricultural Promotion Programs Act of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C. 6001 *et seq.*).

(xv) Conduct field operations of diversion programs for fresh fruits and vegetables under section 32 of the Act of August 29, 1935.

(xvi) [Reserved]

(xvii) Collect, summarize, and publish data on the production, distribution, and stocks of sugar.

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(xviii) Formulate and carry out the Conservation Reserve Program, including the implementation of technical assistance, under the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3831 *et seq.*), and the functions of the Grassland Reserve Program transferred to the Conservation Reserve Program.

(xix) Carry out functions relating to highly erodible land and wetland conservation under sections 1211–1213 and 1221–1223 of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3811–3813 and 3821–3823).

(xx)–(xxii) [Reserved]

(xxiii) Formulate and administer regulations regarding program ineligibility resulting from convictions under Federal or State law of planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting, or storing a controlled substance, as required under section 1764 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (21 U.S.C. 881a).

(xxiv) [Reserved]

(xxv) Administer all programs of the Commodity Credit Corporation that provide assistance with respect to the production of agricultural commodities or the income of producers, including disaster assistance and the domestic marketing of such commodities, except as may otherwise be reserved by the Secretary of Agriculture, and similar programs (including commodity quality development programs) consigned by statute to the Secretary of Agriculture unless otherwise delegated.

(xxvi) Administer the following provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 with respect to functions otherwise delegated to the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation:

(A) The equitable relief provisions of section 1613 (7 U.S.C. 7996).

(B) The tracking of benefits under section 1614 (7 U.S.C. 7997).

(xxvii) Formulate and carry out the Grassroots Source Water Protection Program authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–2).

(xxviii)–(xxx) [Reserved]

(xxxii) Implement the authority in section 1241 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841) to accept and use voluntary contributions of non-Federal funds in support of natural resources conservation programs under subtitle

D of title XII of that Act with respect to authorities delegated to the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation.

(xxxiii) In coordination with the Director, Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement, issue receipts under section 2501A(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279–1(e)).

(xxxiv) Administer the following provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110–246:

(A) [Reserved]

(B) Section 1609 relating to the tracking of benefits.

(C)–(D) [Reserved]

(E) Section 1621 relating to direct reimbursement payments to geographically disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

(F)–(G) [Reserved]

(H) Section 14212 relating to the closure or relocation of county or field offices of the Farm Service Agency.

(I) Section 15353(a) relating to information reporting for Commodity Credit Corporation transactions.

(xxxv) Implement the information disclosure authorities of section 1619(b)(3)(A) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8791(b)(3)(A)).

(xxxvi) Administer the following provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014, Public Law 113–79, as amended:

(A) Sections 1401–1410 relating to a margin protection program for dairy producers (7 U.S.C. 9051–9060), and section 1431 relating to a dairy product donation program (7 U.S.C. 9071).

(B) Section 1612 relating to the tracking of benefits (7 U.S.C. 9095).

(C) Section 12314 relating to the Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Fund (7 U.S.C. 2101 note).

(D) Section 12315 relating to the Agriculture Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund (7 U.S.C. 7101 note).

(xxxvii) Administer the funds made available to the Office of the Secretary under Title I of Subdivision B, Further Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018, Public Law 115–123.

(xxxviii) Determine the agricultural commodities acquired under price support programs which are available for export.

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(xxxix) Administer the following provisions of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, Public Law 116-334:

(A) Section 5413 relating to reporting on farm loans (7 U.S.C. 2008x).

(B) Section 12304 relating to the National Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator (7 U.S.C. 6934a).

(C) Section 12612 relating to a national agriculture imagery program (7 U.S.C. 2204j).

(D) Section 12615 relating to the eligibility for farm operators on heirs' property to obtain a farm loan number (7 U.S.C. 2266b).

(2) *Related to farm credit.* (i) Administer the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 *et seq.*), except for the authority contained in the following sections:

(A) [Reserved]

(B) Section 306 (7 U.S.C. 1926), relating to all programs in that section;

(C) Section 306A (7 U.S.C. 1926a) and section 306B (7 U.S.C. 1926b), relating to the emergency community water assistance grant programs, and section 306D (7 U.S.C. 1926d), relating to water systems for rural Alaskan Native Villages;

(D) Section 306C (7 U.S.C. 1926c) to administer the water and waste facility loans and grants to alleviate health risks;

(E) Sections 309 (7 U.S.C. 1929) and 309A (7 U.S.C. 1929a), regarding assets and programs related to rural development;

(F) Section 310A (7 U.S.C. 1931), relating to watershed and resource conservation and development loans;

(G) Section 310B (7 U.S.C. 1932), regarding various Rural Development programs;

(H) Section 310C (7 U.S.C. 1933), relating to housing program interest rates;

(I) Section 310G (7 U.S.C. 1936a), relating to the use of rural development loans and grants for other purposes, and section 353A (7 U.S.C. 2001a), relating to the servicing of community facilities loans;

(J) Section 364 (7 U.S.C. 2006f) and section 365 (7 U.S.C. 2008);

(K) Administrative provisions of subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act related to Rural Utilities Service, Rural Busi-

ness-Cooperative Service, and Rural Housing Service activities.

(L) Section 375 (7 U.S.C. 2008j), relating to the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

(M) Sections 379 (7 U.S.C. 2008n) through 379G (7 U.S.C. 2008u) and subtitles E through I (7 U.S.C. 2009-2009dd-7) relating to rural development programs and activities.

(ii) Collect, service, and liquidate loans made or insured by the Farm Service Agency, or its predecessor agencies.

(iii) Administer the Rural Rehabilitation Corporation Trust Liquidation Act (40 U.S.C. 440 *et seq.*), and trust, liquidation, and other agreements entered into pursuant thereto.

(iv) [Reserved]

(v) Administer Farmers Home Administration or any successor agency assets conveyed in trust under the Participation Sales Act of 1966 (12 U.S.C. 1717).

(vi) Administer the Emergency Loan and Guarantee Programs under sections 232, 234, 237, and 253 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1970 (Pub. L. No. 91-606), the Disaster Relief Act of 1969 (Pub. L. No. 91-79), Pub. L. No. 92-385, approved August 16, 1972, and the Emergency Livestock Credit Act of 1974 (Pub. L. No. 93-357), as amended.

(vii) Administer loans to homestead or desertland entrymen and purchasers of land in reclamation projects or to an entryman under the desertland law (7 U.S.C. 1006a and 1006b).

(viii) [Reserved]

(ix) Service, collect, settle, and liquidate:

(A) Deferred land purchase obligations of individuals under the Wheeler-Case Act of August 11, 1939, as amended (16 U.S.C. 590y), and under the item, "Water Conservation and Utilization projects" in the Department of the Interior Appropriation Act, 1940 (53 Stat. 719), as amended;

(B) Puerto Rican Hurricane Relief loans under the Act of July 11, 1956 (70 Stat. 525); and

(C) Loans made in conformance with section 4 of the Southeast Hurricane Disaster Relief Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 1301).

(x) Administer loans to Indian tribes, tribal corporations, and purchasers of

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highly fractionated land (25 U.S.C. 488-492).

(xi) Administer the State Agricultural Loan Mediation Program under title 5 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5101 *et seq.*)

(xii) Administer financial assistance programs relating to Economic Opportunity Loans to Cooperatives under part A of title III and part D of title I and the necessarily related functions in title VI of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2763-2768, 2841-2855, 2942, 2943(b), 2961), delegated by the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity to the Secretary of Agriculture by documents dated October 23, 1964 (29 FR 14764), and June 17, 1968 (33 FR 9850), respectively.

(xiii) Exercise all authority and discretion vested in the Secretary by section 331(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended by section 2 of the Farmers Home Administration Improvement Act of 1994, Pub. L. 103-248 (7 U.S.C. 1981(c)), including the following:

(A) Determine, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, which actions are to be referred to the Department of Justice for the conduct of litigation, and refer such actions to the Department of Justice through the General Counsel;

(B) Determine, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, which actions are to be referred to the General Counsel, for the conduct of litigation and refer such actions; and

(C) Enter into contracts with private sector attorneys for the conduct of litigation, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, after determining that the attorneys will provide competent and cost effective representation for the Farm Service Agency.

(xiv) Administer programs for Apple Loans and Emergency Loans for Seed Producers under sections 203(f) and 253, respectively, of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 1421 note, Pub. L. 106-224).

(xv) Administer evaluations of direct and guaranteed loan programs under section 5301 of the Farm security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1922 note).

(3) *Related to natural resources conservation.* (i) Provide national leader-

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ship in the conservation, development and productive use of the Nation's soil, water, and related resources. Such leadership encompasses soil, water, plant, and wildlife conservation; small watershed protection and flood prevention; and resource conservation and development. Integrated in these programs are erosion control, sediment reduction, pollution abatement, land use planning, multiple use, improvement of water quality, and several surveying and monitoring activities related to environmental improvement. All are designed to assure:

(A) Quality in the natural resource base for sustained use;

(B) Quality in the environment to provide attractive, convenient, and satisfying places to live, work, and play; and

(C) Quality in the standard of living based on community improvement and adequate income.

(ii) Provide national leadership in and evaluate and coordinate land use policy, and administer the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. 4201 *et seq.*), including the Farms for the Future Program authorized by sections 1465-1470 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C. 4201 note), except as otherwise delegated to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics in § 2.21(a)(1)(lxii).

(iii) Administer the basic program of soil and water conservation under Public Law 74-46, and related laws (16 U.S.C. 590a-f, q, q-1; 42 U.S.C. 3271-3274; 7 U.S.C. 2201), including:

(A) Technical and financial assistance to land users in carrying out locally adapted soil and water conservation programs primarily through soil and water conservation districts in the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and Federally recognized Native American tribes, but also to communities, watershed groups, Federal and State agencies, and other cooperators. This authority includes such assistance as:

(1) Comprehensive planning assistance in nonmetropolitan districts;

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(2) Assistance in the field of income-producing recreation on rural non-Federal lands;

(3) Forestry assistance, as part of total technical assistance to private land owners and land users when such services are an integral part of land management and such services are not available from a State agency; and forestry services in connection with windbreaks and shelter belts to prevent wind and water erosion of lands;

(4) Assistance in developing programs relating to natural beauty; and

(5) Assistance to other USDA agencies in connection with the administration of their programs, as follows:

(i) To the Farm Service Agency in the development and technical servicing of certain programs, such as the Agricultural Conservation Program and other such similar conservation programs;

(ii) To the Rural Housing Service in connection with their loan and land disposition programs;

(B) Soil Surveys, including:

(1) Providing leadership for the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey which includes conducting and publishing soil surveys;

(2) Conducting soil surveys for resource planning and development; and

(3) Performing the cartographic services essential to carrying out the functions of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, including furnishing photographs, mosaics, and maps;

(C) Conducting and coordinating snow surveys and making water supply forecasts pursuant to Reorganization Plan No. IV of 1940 (5 U.S.C. App.);

(D) Operating plant materials centers for the assembly and testing of plant species in conservation programs, including the use, administration, and disposition of lands under the administration of the Natural Resources Conservation Service for such purposes under title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1010-1011); and

(E) Providing leadership in the inventorying and monitoring of soil, water, land, and related resources of the Nation.

(iv) Administer the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Programs, including:

(A) The eleven authorized watershed projects authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1944 (Pub. L. 78-534);

(B) The emergency flood control work under 33 U.S.C. 701b-1;

(C) The Cooperative River Basin Surveys and Investigations Programs under 16 U.S.C. 1006;

(D) The pilot watershed projects under 16 U.S.C. 590 a-f and 16 U.S.C. 1001-1009;

(E) The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program under 16 U.S.C. 1001-1010, including rehabilitation of water resource structural measures constructed under certain Department of Agriculture programs under 16 U.S.C. 1012, except for responsibilities assigned to the Under Secretary for Rural Development.

(F) The joint investigations and surveys with the Department of the Army under 16 U.S.C. 1009; and

(G) The Emergency Conservation Program and the Emergency Watershed Protection Program under sections 401-405 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. 2201-2205.

(v) Administer the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program for Rural Lands and other responsibilities assigned under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*), except those responsibilities assigned to the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment.

(vi) Administer the Resource Conservation and Development Program under 16 U.S.C. 590 a-f; 7 U.S.C. 1010-1011; and 16 U.S.C. 3451-3461, except for responsibilities assigned to the Under Secretary for Rural Development.

(vii) Responsibility for entering into long-term contracts for carrying out conservation and environmental measures in watershed areas.

(viii) Provide national leadership for and administer the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 (16 U.S.C. 2001 *et seq.*).

(ix) Administer the Rural Clean Water Program and other responsibilities assigned under section 35 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*).

(x) Monitor actions and progress of USDA in complying with Executive Order 11988, Flood Plain Management, 3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 117, and Executive

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Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, 3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 121, regarding management of floodplains and protection of wetlands; monitor USDA efforts on protection of important agricultural, forest and rangelands; and provide staff assistance to the USDA Natural Resources and Environment Committee.

(xi) Administer the search and rescue operations authorized under 7 U.S.C. 2273.

(xii) Administer section 202(c) of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act, 43 U.S.C. 1592(c), including:

(A) Identify salt source areas and determine the salt load resulting from irrigation and watershed management practices;

(B) Conduct salinity control studies of irrigated salt source areas;

(C) Provide technical and financial assistance in the implementation of salinity control projects including the development of salinity control plans, technical services for application, and certification of practice applications;

(D) Develop plans for implementing measures that will reduce the salt load of the Colorado River;

(E) Develop and implement long-term monitoring and evaluation plans to measure and report progress and accomplishments in achieving program objectives; and

(F) Enter into and administer contracts with program participants and waive cost-sharing requirements when such cost-sharing requirements would result in a failure to proceed with needed on-farm measures.

(xiii) Except as otherwise delegated, administer natural resources conservation authorities, including authorities related to programs of the Commodity Credit Corporation that provide assistance with respect to natural resources conservation, under Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (the Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 3801 *et seq.*), including the following:

(A) Technical assistance related to the conservation of highly erodible lands and wetlands pursuant to sections 1211–1224 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3811–3824).

(B) Technical assistance related to the Conservation Reserve Program authorized by sections 1231–1235 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3831–3835).

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(C) The Wetlands Reserve Program and the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program authorized by sections 1237–1237F of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3837–3837f) prior to February 7, 2014, the transition authority under section 2703 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, and the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Relief from the Major, Widespread Flooding in the Midwest Act (Pub. L. 103–75).

(D) The Conservation Security Program authorized by sections 1238–1238C of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3838–3838c) and the Conservation Stewardship Program authorized by sections 1240I–1240L–1 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21–3839aa–25).

(E) The Farmland Protection Program authorized by sections 1238H–1238I of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3838h–3838i) prior to February 7, 2014, and the transition authority under section 2704 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

(F) The Farm Viability Program authorized by section 1238J of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3838j) prior to February 7, 2014, and the transition authority under section 2704 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

(G) The Environmental Quality Incentives Program authorized by sections 1240–1240H of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–3839aa–8), the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program authorized by section 1240H of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–9) prior to February 7, 2014, and section 2706 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

(H) The conservation of private grazing lands authorized by section 1240M of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3839bb).

(I) The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program authorized by section 1240N of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–1) prior to February 7, 2014 and Section 2707 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

(J) The program for soil erosion and sedimentation control in the Great Lakes basin authorized by section 1240P of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–3) prior to February 7, 2014, and section 2708 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

(K) The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program authorized by section 1240Q of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–4) prior to February 7, 2014, and section 2709 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

(L) The delivery of technical assistance under section 1242 of the Act (16

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U.S.C. 3842), including the approval of persons or entities outside of USDA to provide technical services.

(M) The authority for partnerships and cooperation provided by section 1243 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3843) prior to February 7, 2014, and section 2710 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

(N) The incentives for certain farmers and ranchers and Indian tribes and the protection of certain proprietary information related to natural resources conservation programs as provided by section 1244 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3844).

(O) The Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program authorized by section 1252 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3851).

(P) The authority under sections 1261–1262 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3861–3862) to establish and utilize State Technical Committees.

(Q) The Grassland Reserve Program under sections 1238N–1238Q of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3838n–3838q) prior to February 7, 2014, and section 2705 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

(R) The authority in section 1241 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3841) to accept and use voluntary contributions of non-Federal funds in support of natural resources conservation programs under subtitle D of title XII of the Act with respect to authorities delegated to the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation.

(S) The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program authorized by sections 1265–1265D of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3865–3865d).

(T) The Regional Conservation Partnership Program authorized by sections 1271–1271F of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3871–3871f).

(U) The Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program authorized by section 1240R of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–5).

(V) A wetlands mitigation banking program authorized by section 1222(k) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3822(k)).

(xiv) Approve and transmit to the Congress comprehensive river basin reports.

(xv) Provide representation on the Water Resources Council and river basin commissions created by 42 U.S.C.

1962, and on river basin interagency committees.

(xvii) Administer the Water Bank Program under the Water Bank Act (16 U.S.C. 1301 *et seq.*).

(xviii) Enter into cooperative agreements, which may provide for the acquisition of goods or services, including personal services, as authorized by Public Law 106–387 (7 U.S.C. 6962a).

(xix) Coordinate USDA input and assistance to the Department of Commerce and other Federal agencies consistent with section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1456), and coordinate USDA review of qualifying state and local government coastal management plans or programs prepared under such Act and submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, consistent with section 306(a) and (c) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1455(a) and (c)).

(xx) Administer the Healthy Forests Reserve Program authorized by sections 501–508, Title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571–6578).

(xxi) Implement the information disclosure authorities of section 1619(b)(3)(A) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8791(b)(3)(A)).

(xxii) In coordination with the Director, Office of Advocacy and Outreach, issue receipts under section 2501A(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279–1(e)).

(xxiii) Authorize employees of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to carry and use firearms for personal protection while conducting field work in remote locations in the performance of their official duties (7 U.S.C. 2274a).

(xxiv) Conduct activities that assist the Chief Economist in developing guidelines regarding the development of environmental services markets.

(xxv) Administer the Terminal Lakes assistance program authorized by section 2507 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–6).

(xxvi) Administer the state and private forest landscape-scale restoration program (16 U.S.C. 2109a).

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(xxvii) Administer the following provisions of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 116-334):

(A) Section 1704 (7 U.S.C. 1308-3a), authorizing waivers of the adjusted gross income limitation.

(B) In consultation with the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Section 2707 (16 U.S.C. 1531 note), relating to wildlife management.

(C) In coordination with the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Section 2408 (7 U.S.C. 8351 note), relating to the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program.

(D) Section 8628, relating to the purchase of Natural Resources Conservation Service property in Riverside County, California.

(E) Section 12302, relating to the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.

(4) *Related to risk management.* (i) Exercise general supervision of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

(ii) Appoint such officers and employees as may be necessary for the transaction of the business of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and the Risk Management Agency.

(iii) Conduct pilot programs involving revenue insurance, risk management savings accounts, or the use of futures markets to manage risk and support farm income.

(iv) Provide education in management of the financial risks inherent in the production and marketing of agricultural commodities.

(v) Conduct a study and issue a report on the efficacy and accuracy of the application of pack factors regarding the measurement of farm-stored production for purposes of providing policies or plans of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*).

(vi) Carry out functions relating to highly erodible land and wetland conservation under sections 1211-1213 and 1221-1223 of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3811-3813 and 3821-3823).

(vii) Prepare cropland reports as required by section 11014(c) of the Agricultural Act of 2013, Public Law 113-79.

(viii) Assist the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics

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with implementing section 10016 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 regarding locally or regionally produced agricultural food products (7 U.S.C. 2204h).

(ix) Administer the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501, *et seq.*), except for sections 524(a)(1)(B), (a)(3), and (b) (7 U.S.C. 1524(a)(1)(B), (a)(3), (b)) and 531 (7 U.S.C. 1531).

(x) Coordinate between agencies of the Department on the type and format of data received under the noninsured crop disaster assistance program as authorized by Sec. 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, (Pub. L. 104-127, as amended) (7 U.S.C. 7333).

(5) *Related to committee management.* Establish and reestablish regional, state, and local advisory committees for activities under his or her authority. This authority may not be redelegated.

(6) *Related to defense and emergency preparedness.* (i) Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), concerning agricultural production; food processing, storage, and distribution; distribution of farm equipment and fertilizer; rehabilitation and use of food, agricultural, and related agribusiness facilities; CCC resources; and farm credit and financial assistance.

(ii) Administer functions delegated by the President to the Secretary under Executive Order 13603, "National Defense Resources Preparedness" (3 CFR, 2012 Comp., p. 225), and Executive Order 12742, "National Security Industrial Responsiveness" (3 CFR, 1991 Comp., p. 309), including administration of an Agriculture Priorities and Allocations System.

(7) *Related to environmental response.* With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, exercise the functions delegated to the Secretary by Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, under the following provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 ("the Act"), as amended:

(i) Sections 104 (a), (b), and (c)(4) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604 (a), (b), and (c)(4)), with respect to removal and remedial actions in the event of release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant into the environment;

(ii) Sections 104(e)–(h) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(e)–(h)), with respect to information gathering and access requests and orders; compliance with Federal health and safety standards and wage and labor standards applicable to covered work; and emergency procurement powers;

(iii) Section 104(i)(11) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(11)), with respect to the reduction of exposure to significant risk to human health;

(iv) Section 104(j) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(j)), with respect to the acquisition of real property and interests in real property required to conduct a remedial action;

(v) The first two sentences of section 105(d) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(d)), with respect to petition for preliminary assessment of a release or threatened release;

(vi) Section 105(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(f)), with respect to consideration of the availability of qualified minority firms in awarding contracts, but excluding that portion of section 105(f) pertaining to the annual report to Congress;

(vii) Section 109 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9609), with respect to the assessment of civil penalties for violations of section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), and the granting of awards to individuals providing information;

(viii) Section 111(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9611(f)), with respect to the designation of officials who may obligate money in the Hazardous Substances Superfund;

(ix) Section 113(k) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9613(k)), with respect to establishing an administrative record upon which to base the selection of a response action and identifying and notifying potentially responsible parties;

(x) Section 116(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9616(a)), with respect to preliminary assessment and site inspection of facilities;

(xi) Sections 117(a) and (c) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9617(a) and (c)), with respect

to public participation in the preparation of any plan for remedial action and explanation of variances from the final remedial action plan for any remedial action or enforcement action, including any settlement or consent decree entered into;

(xii) Section 119 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9119), with respect to indemnifying response action contractors;

(xiii) Section 121 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9621), with respect to cleanup standards; and

(xiv) Section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), with respect to settlements, but excluding section 122(b)(1) of the Act.

(8) *Related to compliance with environmental laws.* With respect to facilities and activities under his or her authority, to exercise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to section 1–102 related to compliance with applicable pollution control standards and section 1–601 of Executive Order 12088, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243, to enter into an inter-agency agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an administrative consent order or a consent judgment in an appropriate State, interstate, or local agency, containing a plan and schedule to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable pollution control standards established pursuant to the following:

(i) Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as further amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, and the Federal Facility Compliance Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*);

(ii) Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*);

(iii) Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*);

(iv) Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*);

(v) Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4901 *et seq.*);

(vi) Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*);

(vii) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*); and

(viii) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability

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Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*).

(9) *Related to hazardous materials management.* (i) Serve on the USDA Hazardous Materials Policy Council.

(ii) Recommend actions and policies that enable USDA agencies under his or her authority to comply with the intent, purposes, and standards of environmental laws for pollution prevention, control, and abatement.

(iii) Consult with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and other appropriate Federal agencies in developing pollution prevention, control, and abatement policies and programs relating to agencies under his or her authority.

(iv) Recommend actions and policies of the loan and grant programs under his or her authority concerning compliance with the Asset Conservation, Lender Liability, and Deposit Insurance Protection Act of 1996, Subtitle E of Public Law No. 104-208.

(10) Carry out prize competition authorities in section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) related to functions otherwise delegated to the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, except for authorities delegated to the Chief Financial Officer in §2.28(a)(29) and authorities reserved to the Secretary in paragraph (b)(4) of this section.

(11) Administer a Century Farms Program as authorized by section 12508 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2266a).

(12) Establish programs with any bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), or with other agencies within USDA, in support of the Service First initiative for the purpose of promoting customer service and efficiency, including delegating to employees of DOI and other USDA agencies the authorities of the agencies in the Farm Production and Conservation mission area necessary to carry out projects on behalf of USDA (43 U.S.C. 1703).

(13) Enter into cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, State and local governments, and any other organization or individual to improve the coordination and effectiveness of Fed-

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eral programs, services, and actions affecting rural areas (7 U.S.C. 2204b(b)(4)).

(b) The following authorities are reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture:

(1) *Related to farm service.* (i) Appointment of Farm Service Agency State committeemen.

(ii) Final approval of regulations relating to the selection and exercise of the functions of committees promulgated under section 8(b) of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 590h(b)).

(iii) Final approval of allocations orders issued by the Department pursuant to authorities delegated by the President to the Secretary under Executive Order 13603, "National Defense Resources Preparedness" (3 CFR, 2012 Comp., p. 225).

(2) *Related to natural resources conservation.* Designation of new project areas in which the resource conservation and development program assistance will be provided.

(3) *Related to risk management.* (i) Appointment of those members of the Board of Directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation who are not already otherwise employed by the Department of Agriculture, and as authorized in 7 U.S.C. 1505(a) designating an Under Secretary of Agriculture to be a member of the Board in addition to the Under Secretary responsible for the Federal crop insurance program who is a Board member pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 1505(a).

(ii) Appointment of the Administrator of the Risk Management Agency who also shall serve as the Manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

(4) Approval of prize competitions that may result in the award of more than \$1,000,000 in cash prizes under section 24(m)(4)(B) of the Stevenson-

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Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719(m)(4)(B)).

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 61 FR 25775, May 23, 1996; 61 FR 37552, July 18, 1996; 62 FR 1031, Jan. 8, 1997; 62 FR 19900, Apr. 24, 1997; 62 FR 40253, July 28, 1997; 65 FR 12427, Mar. 9, 2000; 68 FR 27435, May 20, 2003; 71 FR 35491, June 21, 2006; 73 FR 51421, Aug. 30, 2006; 74 FR 3401, Jan. 21, 2009; 75 FR 43368, July 23, 2010; 78 FR 40937, July 9, 2013; 79 FR 44106, July 30, 2014; 80 FR 58336, Sept. 29, 2015; 83 FR 22179, May 14, 2018; 83 FR 61311, Nov. 29, 2018; 85 FR 65504, Oct. 15, 2020; 87 FR 44267, July 26, 2022; 89 FR 80074, Oct. 2, 2024]

§2.17 Under Secretary for Rural Development.

(a) The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Under Secretary for Rural Development:

(1) Provide leadership and coordination within the executive branch of a Nationwide Rural Development Program utilizing the services of executive branch departments and agencies and the agencies, bureaus, offices, and services of the Department of Agriculture in coordination with rural development programs of State and local governments (7 U.S.C. 2204).

(2) Coordinate activities relative to rural development among agencies reporting to the Under Secretary for Rural Development and, through appropriate channels, serve as the coordinating official for other departmental agencies having primary responsibilities for specific titles of the Rural Development Act of 1972, and allied legislation.

(3) Administer a national program of economic, social, and environmental research and analysis, statistical programs, and associated service work related to rural people and the communities in which they live including rural industrialization; rural population and manpower; local government finance; income development strategies; housing; social services and utilization; adjustments to changing economic and technical forces; and other related matters.

(4) Work with Federal agencies in encouraging the creation of rural community development organizations.

(5) Assist other Federal agencies in making rural community development

organizations aware of the Federal programs available to them.

(6) Advise rural community development organizations of the availability of Federal assistance programs.

(7) Advise other Federal agencies of the need for particular Federal programs.

(8) Assist rural community development organizations in making contact with Federal agencies whose assistance may be of benefit to them.

(9) Assist other Federal agencies and national organizations in developing means for extending their services effectively to rural areas.

(10) Assist other Federal agencies in designating pilot projects in rural areas.

(11) Conduct studies to determine how programs of the Department can be brought to bear on the economic development problems of the country and assure that local groups are receiving adequate technical assistance from Federal agencies or from local and State governments in formulating development programs and in carrying out planned development activities.

(12) Assist other Federal agencies in formulating manpower development and training policies.

(13) *Related to committee management.* Establish and reestablish regional, state, and local advisory committees for activities under his or her authority. This authority may not be re-delegated.

(14) *Related to defense and emergency preparedness.* Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), concerning rural development credit and financial assistance.

(15) *Related to energy.* (i) Provide Department-wide operational support and coordination for loan and grant programs to foster and encourage the production of fuels from agricultural and forestry products or by-products.

(ii) Participate as a Department representative at conferences, meetings and other contacts including liaison with the Department of Energy and

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other government agencies and departments with respect to implementation of established Department energy policy.

(iii) Serve as Co-Chairperson of the Energy Coordinating Committee of the Department.

(16) Collect, service, and liquidate loans made, insured, or guaranteed by the Rural Utilities Service, the Rural Housing Service, the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, or their predecessor agencies.

(17) [Reserved]

(18) With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, exercise the functions delegated to the Secretary by Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, under the following provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 ("the Act"), as amended:

(i) Sections 104(a), (b), and (c)(4) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(a), (b), and (c)(4)), with respect to removal and remedial actions in the event of release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant into the environment;

(ii) Sections 104(e)–(h) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(e)–(h)), with respect to information gathering and access requests and orders; compliance with Federal health and safety standards and wage and labor standards applicable to covered work; and emergency procurement powers;

(iii) Section 104(i)(11) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(11)), with respect to the reduction of exposure to significant risk to human health;

(iv) Section 104(j) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(j)), with respect to the acquisition of real property and interests in real property required to conduct a remedial action;

(v) The first two sentences of section 105(d) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(d)), with respect to petitions for preliminary assessment of a release or threatened release;

(vi) Section 105(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(f)), with respect to consideration of the availability of qualified minority firms in awarding contracts, but excluding that portion of section 105(f) pertaining to the annual report to Congress;

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(vii) Section 109 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9609), with respect to the assessment of civil penalties for violations of section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), and the granting of awards to individuals providing information;

(viii) Section 111(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9611(f)), with respect to the designation of officials who may obligate money in the Hazardous Substances Superfund;

(ix) Section 113(k) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9613(k)), with respect to establishing an administrative record upon which to base the selection of a response action and identifying and notifying potentially responsible parties;

(x) Section 116(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9616(a)), with respect to preliminary assessment and site inspection of facilities;

(xi) Sections 117(a) and (c) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9617(a) and (c)), with respect to public participation in the preparation of any plan for remedial action and explanation of variances from the final remedial action plan for any remedial action or enforcement action, including any settlement or consent decree entered into;

(xii) Section 119 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9119), with respect to indemnifying response action contractors;

(xiii) Section 121 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9621), with respect to cleanup standards; and

(xiv) Section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), with respect to settlements, but excluding section 122(b)(1) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622(b)(1)), related to mixed funding agreements.

(19) With respect to facilities and activities under his or her authority, to exercise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to section 1-102 related to compliance with applicable pollution control standards and section 1-601 of Executive Order 12088, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243, to enter into an inter-agency agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an administrative consent order or a consent judgment in an appropriate State, interstate, or local agency, containing a plan and schedule to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable pollution control standards established pursuant to the following:

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(i) Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as further amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, and the Federal Facility Compliance Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*);

(ii) Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*);

(iii) Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*);

(iv) Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*);

(v) Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4901 *et seq.*);

(vi) Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*);

(vii) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*); and

(viii) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*).

(20) *Related to rural utilities service.* (i) Administer the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) except for rural economic development loan and grant programs; (7 U.S.C. 940c and 950aa *et seq.*): Provided, however, that the Under Secretary may utilize consultants and attorneys for the provision of legal services pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 918, with the concurrence of the General Counsel.

(ii) Administer the Rural Electrification Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 903 note).

(iii) Designate the chief executive officer of the Rural Telephone Bank.

(iv) Administer the following sections of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921, *et seq.*):

(A) Section 306 (7 U.S.C. 1926), related to water and waste facilities.

(B) Section 306A (7 U.S.C. 1926a).

(C) Section 306B (7 U.S.C. 1926b).

(D) Section 306C (7 U.S.C. 1926c).

(E) Section 306D (7 U.S.C. 1926d).

(F) Section 306E (7 U.S.C. 1926e).

(G) Section 309 (7 U.S.C. 1929) and 309A (7 U.S.C. 1929a), relating to assets and programs related to watershed facilities, resource and conservation facilities, and water and waste facilities.

(H) Section 310A (7 U.S.C. 1931), relating to watershed and resource conservation and development

(I) Section 310B(b) (7 U.S.C. 1932(b)).

(J) [Reserved]

(K) Administrative Provisions of subtitle D of the consolidated Farm and Rural Development act relating to rural utility activities.

(L) Section 379B (7 U.S.C. 2008p).

(v) Administer section 8, and those functions with respect to repayment of obligations under section 4 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1006a, 1004) and administer the Resource Conservation and Development Program to assist in carrying out resource conservation and development projects in rural areas under section 32(e) of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(e)).

(vi) Administer the Water and Waste Loan Program (7 U.S.C. 1926-1).

(vii) Administer the Rural Waste-water Treatment Circuit Rider Program (7 U.S.C. 1926 note).

(viii) Administer the Distance Learning and Medical Link Programs (7 U.S.C. 950aaa *et seq.*).

(ix) Administer Water and Waste Facility Programs and activities (7 U.S.C. 1926-1).

(x) Consult with the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to assist in the verification of eligibility of the broadband loan and grant programs of the Department of Agriculture (7 U.S.C. 950bb-6).

(xi) In coordination with the Director, Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement, issue receipts under section 2501A(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279-1(e)).

(xii) Administer section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a), relating to a rural energy savings program.

(xiii) Administer section 6210 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, Public Law 113-79, relating to funding of pending rural development loan and grant applications.

(xiv) Administer the authority under section 746 of Division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Pub. L. 115-141), and any successor provisions in subsequent appropriations acts, to issue waivers to the U.S. iron and steel

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requirements for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water or wastewater system.

(xv) In coordination with the Federal Communications Commission, administer Section 12511 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334) relating to the precision agriculture connectivity task force.

(21) *Related to rural business-cooperative.* (i) Administer the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Programs under the Rural Electrification Act (7 U.S.C. 940c and 950aa *et seq.*).

(ii) Administer the following sections of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 *et seq.*):

(A) Section 306(a)(110(A) (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(11)(A)), relating to grants for business technical assistance and planning.

(B) [Reserved]

(C) Sections 309 (7 U.S.C. 1929) and 309A (7 U.S.C. 1929a), relating to assets and programs related to rural development.

(D) Section 310B (7 U.S.C. 1932), relating to various Rural Development programs, except for subsection (b) of that section.

(E) Section 310H (7 U.S.C. 1936b), relating to an intermediary relending program.

(F) Administrative Provisions of subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act relating to rural business-cooperative activities.

(G) Section 378 (7 U.S.C. 2008m) relating to the National Rural Development Partnership;

(H) Section 379E (7 U.S.C. 2008s) relating to the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program.

(I) Section 379F (7 U.S.C. 2000t) relating to the Expansion of Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities in Rural Areas Program.

(J) Section 379G (7 U.S.C. 2008u) relating to Health Care Services.

(K) Section 382A *et seq.* (7 U.S.C. 2009aa *et seq.*) relating to the Delta Regional Authority.

(L) Section 383A *et seq.* (7 U.S.C. 2009bb *et seq.*) relating to the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority.

(M) Section 384A *et seq.* (7 U.S.C. 2009cc *et seq.*) relating to the Rural Business Investment Program;

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(N) Section 385A *et seq.* (7 U.S.C. 2009dd *et seq.*) relating to the Rural Collaborative Investment Program.

(iii) Administer Alcohol Fuels Credit Guarantee Program Account (Pub. L. 102-341, 106 Stat. 895).

(iv) [Reserved]

(v) Administer loan programs in the Appalachian region under sections 203 and 204 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App. 204).

(vi) Administer section 601 of the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-620).

(vii) Administer the Drought and Disaster Guaranteed Loan Program under section 331 of the Disaster Assistance Act of 1988 (7 U.S.C. 1929a note).

(viii) Administer the Disaster Assistance for Rural Business Enterprises Guaranteed Loan Program under section 401 of the Disaster Assistance Act of 1989 (7 U.S.C. 1929a note).

(ix) Administer the Rural Economic Development Demonstration Grant Program (7 U.S.C. 2662a).

(x) Administer the Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community Loan Program (7 U.S.C. 6616).

(xi) Administer the assets of the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Corporation and the funds in the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Fund in accordance with section 6201 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2000 (note to 7 U.S.C. 5901 (repealed)).

(xii) Administer programs authorized by the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926 (7 U.S.C. 451-457).

(xiii) Carry out the responsibilities of the Secretary of Agriculture relating to the marketing aspects of cooperatives, including economic research and analysis, the application of economic research findings, technical assistance to existing and developing cooperatives, education on cooperatives, and statistical information pertaining to cooperatives as authorized by the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627).

(xiv) Work with institutions and international organizations throughout

the world on subjects related to the development and operation of agricultural cooperatives. Such work may be carried out by:

- (A) Exchanging materials and results with such institutions or organizations;
- (B) Engaging in joint or coordinated activities; or
- (C) Stationing representatives at such institutions or organizations in foreign countries (7 U.S.C. 3291).

(xv) Administer in rural areas the process of designation, provision of monitoring and oversight, and provision of technical assistance for Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities pursuant to section 13301 of Public Law 103-66, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (26 U.S.C. 1391 *et seq.*)

(xvi) Work with Federal agencies in encouraging the creation of local rural community development organizations. Within a State, assist other Federal agencies in developing means for extending their services effectively to rural areas and in designating pilot projects in rural areas (7 U.S.C. 2204).

(xvii) Conduct assessments to determine how programs of the Department can be brought to bear on the economic development problems of a State or local area and assure that local groups are receiving adequate and effective technical assistance from Federal agencies or from local and State governments in formulating development programs and in carrying out planned development activities (7 U.S.C. 2204b).

(xviii) Develop a process through which State, sub-state and local rural development needs, goals, objectives, plans, and recommendations can be received and assessed on a continuing basis (7 U.S.C. 2204b).

(xix) Prepare local or area-wide rural development strategies based on the needs, goals, objectives, plans and recommendations of local communities, sub-state areas and States (7 U.S.C. 2204b).

(xx) Develop a system of outreach in the State or local area to promote rural development and provide for the publication and dissemination of information, through multi-media methods, relating to rural development. Advise local rural development organizations

of availability of Federal programs and the type of assistance available, and assist in making contact with Federal program (7 U.S.C. 2204; 7 U.S.C. 2204b).

(xxi) In coordination with the Under Secretary of Marketing and Regulatory Programs, administer the value-added producer grants program and farmers' markets and local food promotion program (7 U.S.C. 1627c(d)(5)-(6)).

(xxii) Administer the Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration program (7 U.S.C. 1632b).

(xxiii) Administer the renewable energy programs authorized in sections 9003, 9004, 9005, 9007, and 9009 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103, 8104, 8105, 8107, and 8109).

(xxiv) Implement the information disclosure authorities of section 1619(b)(3)(A) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8791(b)(3)(A)).

(xxv) In coordination with the Director, Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement, issue receipts under section 2501A(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279-1(e)).

(xxvi) Administer the Healthy Food Financing Initiative under section 243 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953).

(xxvii) Administer section 6209 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 2207b), relating to the collection and reporting of program metrics.

(xxviii) Implementation of a program for the Federal procurement of biobased products and of a voluntary "USDA Certified Biobased product" labeling program (7 U.S.C. 8102).

(xxix) Entering into cooperative agreements to further research programs in the food and agricultural sciences, related to establishing and implementing Federal biobased procurement and voluntary biobased labeling programs (7 U.S.C. 3318).

(22) *Related to rural housing.* (i) Administer the following under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 *et seq.*):

(A) Section 306 (7 U.S.C. 1926), except with respect to financing for water and waste disposal facilities; or loans for

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rural electrification or telephone systems or facilities other than hydroelectric generating and related distribution systems and supplemental and supporting structures if they are eligible for Rural Utilities Service financing; and financing for grazing facilities and irrigation and drainage facilities; and subsection 306(a)(11).

(B) Section 309A (7 U.S.C. 1929a), regarding assets and programs relating to community facilities.

(C) Administrative Provisions of subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act relating to rural housing activities.

(D) Section 379 (7 U.S.C. 2008n) relating to the Rural Telework program;

(E) Section 379A (7 U.S.C. 2008o) relating to the Historic Barn Preservation program; and

(F) Section 379C (7 U.S.C. 2008q) relating to the Farm Workers Training Grant program.

(ii) Administer title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 *et seq.*), except those functions pertaining to research.

(iii) In consultation with the Department of Justice, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Secretary of Health and Human Services, administer the emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance grant program (34 U.S.C. 20127).

(iv) Administer the Rural Housing Disaster Program under sections 232, 234, and 253 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1970 (Pub. L. No. 91-606).

(v) Exercise all authority and discretion vested in the Secretary by section 510(d) of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended by section 1045 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1988, Pub. L. 100-628 (42 U.S.C. 1480(d)), including the following:

(A) Determine, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, which actions are to be referred to the Department of Justice for the conduct of litigation, and refer such actions to the Department of Justice through the General Counsel;

(B) Determine, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, which actions are to be referred to the General Counsel for the conduct of litigation and refer such actions; and

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(C) Enter into contracts with private sector attorneys for the conduct of litigation, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, after determining that the attorneys will provide competent and cost effective representation for the Rural Housing Service and representation by the attorney will either accelerate the process by which a family or person eligible for assistance under section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949 will be able to purchase and occupy the housing involved, or preserve the quality of the housing involved.

(vi) Administer the Rural Fire-fighters and Emergency Personnel Grant program (7 U.S.C. 2655).

(vii) Implement the information disclosure authorities of section 1619(b)(3)(A) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8791(b)(3)(A)).

(viii) In coordination with the Director, Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement, issue receipts under section 2501A(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279-1(e)).

(23) *Related to hazardous materials management.* (i) Serve on the USDA Hazardous Materials Policy Council.

(ii) Recommend actions and policies that enable USDA agencies under his or her authority to comply with the intent, purposes, and standards of environmental laws for pollution prevention, control, and abatement.

(iii) Consult with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and other appropriate Federal agencies in developing pollution prevention, control, and abatement policies and programs relating to agencies under his or her authority.

(iv) Recommend actions and policies of the loan and grant programs under his or her authority concerning compliance with the Asset Conservation, Lender Liability, and Deposit Insurance Protection Act of 1996, Subtitle E of Public Law No. 104-208.

(24)-(25) [Reserved]

(26) *Related cooperative agreements.* Enter into cooperative agreements with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and any other organizations or individuals to improve the

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coordination and effectiveness of Federal programs, services, and actions affecting rural areas, including the establishment and financing of inter-agency groups, as long as the objectives of the agreement will serve the mutual interest of the parties in rural development activities (7 U.S.C. 2204b(b)(4)).

(27) Exercise the authority in section 10101 of the Disaster Relief and Recovery Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008, Public Law 110-329, div. B., regarding the Rural Development Disaster Assistance Fund.

(28) In coordination with the Office of Tribal Relations, provide technical assistance to improve access by Tribal entities to rural development programs funded by the Department of Agriculture through available cooperative agreement authorities (7 U.S.C. 2671).

(29) Implement section 14218 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 6941a).

(30) *Related to biomass research and development.*

Administer section 9008 of FSRIA (7 U.S.C. 8108) with respect to biomass research and development, including administration of the Biomass Research and Development Board and Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee, and submission of reports to Congress, except for the authority delegated to the Under Secretary for REE in §2.21(a)(1)(cc) to carry out the Biomass Research and Development Initiative; consult and coordinate, as appropriate, with the Under Secretary for REE and other mission areas within the Department as deemed necessary in carrying out the authorities delegated herein; and serve as the designated point of contact referenced in 7 U.S.C. 8108 for the Department, except for purposes of administering the Biomass Research and Development Initiative as provided in §2.21(a)(1)(cc).

(31) Carry out prize competition authorities in section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) related to functions otherwise delegated to the Under Secretary for Rural Development, except for authorities delegated to the Chief Financial Officer in §2.28(a)(29) and authorities reserved to the Sec-

retary in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(32) Oversee the Rural Health Liaison (7 U.S.C. 6946).

(b) The following authority is reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture:

(1) *Related to rural business-cooperative.* Submission to the Congress of the report required pursuant to section 1469 of Pub. L. No. 101-624.

(2) Approval of prize competitions that may result in the award of more than \$1,000,000 in cash prizes under section 24(m)(4)(B) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719(m)(4)(B)).

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 65 FR 12427, Mar. 9, 2000; 66 FR 31107, June 11, 2001; 68 FR 27436, May 20, 2003; 74 FR 3402, Jan. 21, 2009; 75 FR 43368, July 23, 2010; 76 FR 52851, Aug. 24, 2011; 78 FR 40937, July 9, 2013; 79 FR 44106, July 30, 2014; 80 FR 58336, Sept. 29, 2015; 83 FR 22181, May 14, 2018; 83 FR 61311, Nov. 29, 2018; 85 FR 65506, Oct. 15, 2020]

§2.18 Under Secretary for Food Safety.

(a) The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Under Secretary for Food Safety:

(1) *Related to food safety and inspection.* (i) Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture contained in the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), relating to voluntary inspection of poultry and edible products thereof; voluntary inspection and certification of technical animal fat; certified products for dogs, cats, and other carnivora; voluntary inspection of rabbits and edible products thereof; and voluntary inspection and certification of edible meat and other products.

(ii) Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture contained in the following legislation:

(A) Poultry Products Inspection Act, as amended (21 U.S.C. 451-470, 472);

(B) Federal Meat Inspection Act, as amended, and related legislation, excluding so much of section 18 as pertains to issuance of certificates of condition of live animals intended and offered for export (21 U.S.C. 601-613, 615-624, 641-645, 661, 671-680, 683, 691-692, 694-695);

(C) Egg Products Inspection Act, except for the Shell Egg Surveillance

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Program, voluntary laboratory analyses of egg products, and the Voluntary Egg Grading Program (21 U.S.C. 1031-1056);

(D) Talmadge-Aiken Act (7 U.S.C. 450) with respect to cooperation with States in administration of the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act;

(E) Humane Slaughter Act (7 U.S.C. 1901-1906);

(F) National Laboratory Accreditation Program (7 U.S.C. 138-138i) with respect to laboratories accredited only for pesticide residue analysis in meat and poultry products;

(G) Administer and conduct a Food Safety Research Program (7 U.S.C. 427); and

(H) Conduct an education program regarding the availability and safety of processes and treatments that eliminate or substantially reduce the level of pathogens on meat, meat food products, poultry, and poultry products (21 U.S.C. 679b).

(iii) Coordinate with the Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs the administration of programs relating to human pathogen reduction (such as *salmonella enteritidis*) pursuant to section 2 of the Act of February 2, 1903, as amended (21 U.S.C. 111), and sections 4 and 5 of the Act of May 29, 1884, as amended (21 U.S.C. 120).

(iv) Enter into contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements to further research programs in the agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3318).

(2) *Related to committee management.* Establish and reestablish regional, State, and local advisory committees for activities under his or her authority. This authority may not be redelegated.

(3) *Related to defense and emergency preparedness.* Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), concerning the wholesomeness of meat and poultry and products thereof and inspection of eggs and egg products.

(4) *Related to biotechnology.* Coordinate the development and carrying out by Department agencies of all matters

and functions pertaining to the Department's regulation of biotechnology as they may affect the safety of meat, poultry or egg products.

(5) *Related to environmental response.* With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, exercise the functions delegated to the Secretary by Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, under the following provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 ("the Act"), as amended:

(i) Sections 104 (a), (b), and (c)(4) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604 (a), (b), and (c)(4)), with respect to removal and remedial actions in the event of release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant into the environment;

(ii) Sections 104(e)-(h) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(e)-(h)), with respect to information gathering and access requests and orders; compliance with Federal health and safety standards and wage and labor standards applicable to covered work; and emergency procurement powers;

(iii) Section 104(i)(11) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(11)), with respect to the reduction of exposure to significant risk to human health;

(iv) Section 104(j) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(j)), with respect to the acquisition of real property and interests in real property required to conduct a remedial action;

(v) The first two sentences of section 105(d) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(d)), with respect to petitions for preliminary assessment of a release or threatened release;

(vi) Section 105(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(f)), with respect to consideration of the availability of qualified minority firms in awarding contracts, but excluding that portion of section 105(f) pertaining to the annual report to Congress;

(vii) Section 109 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9609), with respect to the assessment of civil penalties for violations of section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), and the granting of awards to individuals providing information;

(viii) Section 111(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9611(f)), with respect to the designation of officials who may obligate

money in the Hazardous Substances Superfund;

(ix) Section 113(k) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9613(k)), with respect to establishing an administrative record upon which to base the selection of a response action and identifying and notifying potentially responsible parties;

(x) Section 116(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9616(a)), with respect to preliminary assessment and site inspection of facilities;

(xi) Sections 117(a) and (c) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9617(a) and (c)), with respect to public participation in the preparation of any plan for remedial action and explanation of variances from the final remedial action plan for any remedial action or enforcement action, including any settlement or consent decree entered into;

(xii) Section 119 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9119), with respect to indemnifying response action contractors;

(xiii) Section 121 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9621), with respect to cleanup standards; and

(xiv) Section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), with respect to settlements, but excluding section 122(b)(1) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622(b)(1)), related to mixed funding agreements.

(6) *Related to compliance with environmental laws.* With respect to facilities and activities under his or her authority, to exercise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to section 1-102 related to compliance with applicable pollution control standards and section 1-601 of Executive Order 12088, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243, to enter into an inter-agency agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an administrative consent order or a consent judgment in an appropriate State, interstate, or local agency, containing a plan and schedule to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable pollution control standards established pursuant to the following:

(i) Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as further amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, and the Federal Facility Compliance Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*);

(ii) Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*);

(iii) Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*);

(iv) Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*);

(v) Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4901 *et seq.*);

(vi) Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*);

(vii) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*); and

(viii) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*).

(7) *Related to hazardous materials management.* (i) Serve on the USDA Hazardous Materials Policy Council.

(ii) Recommend actions and policies that enable the USDA agency under his or her authority to comply with the intent, purposes, and standards of environmental laws for pollution prevention, control, and abatement.

(iii) Consult with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and other appropriate Federal agencies in developing pollution prevention, control, and abatement policies and programs relating to agencies under his or her authority.

(iv) Exercise primary responsibility to regulate drug, pesticide, and environmental contaminants in food products as covered by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*), including the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, Public Law 104-170, and the Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*), as implemented by the Food Safety and Inspection Service through a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

(8) Carry out prize competition authorities in section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) related to functions otherwise delegated to the Under Secretary for Food Safety, except for

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authorities delegated to the Chief Financial Officer in § 2.28(a)(29) and authorities reserved to the Secretary in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(b) The following authorities are reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture:

(1) Approval of prize competitions that may result in the award of more than \$1,000,000 in cash prizes under section 24(m)(4)(B) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719(m)(4)(B)).

(2) [Reserved]

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 65 FR 12428, Mar. 9, 2000; 68 FR 27436, May 20, 2003; 74 FR 3402, Jan. 21, 2009; 80 FR 58337, Sept. 29, 2015]

§ 2.19 Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.

(a) The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services:

(1) *Related to food and nutrition.* (i) Administer the following legislation:

(A) The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2011 *et seq.*), except for section 25, regarding assistance for community food projects.

(B) Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1751–1769i), except procurement of agricultural commodities and other foods under section 6 thereof.

(C) Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1771–1790).

(D) Sections 933–939 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act Amendments of 1991 (7 U.S.C. 5930 note).

(E) Section 301 of the Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103–448).

(F) Section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007).

(G) Section 4403 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3171 note).

(H) Section 4404 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2 U.S.C. 1161).

(I) Section 4142 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110–246).

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(J) Section 4301 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1758a).

(K) Section 4305 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1755a).

(L) Section 4307 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110–246).

(M) Section 4208 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2026a).

(N) Section 12614 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 6925).

(ii) Administer those functions relating to the distribution and donation of agricultural commodities and products thereof under the following legislation:

(A) Clause (3) of section 416(a) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1431(a)), except the estimate and announcement of the types and varieties of food commodities, and the quantities thereof, to become available for distribution thereunder;

(B) Section 709 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1446a–1);

(C) Section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, as amended (7 U.S.C. 612c), as supplemented by the Act of June 28, 1937, as amended (15 U.S.C. 713c), and related legislation;

(D) Section 9 of the Act of September 6, 1958, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1431b);

(E) Section 210 of the Agricultural Act of 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1859), except with respect to donations to Federal penal and correctional institutions;

(F) [Reserved]

(G) Section 311 of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3030a);

(H) Sections 412 and 413(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5179, 5180(b));

(I) Sections 4 and 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973, as amended (7 U.S.C. 612c note);

(J) Section 1114 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1431e);

(K) Section 1336 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Pub. L. 97–98);

(L) Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983, as amended (7 U.S.C. 7501 *et seq.*);

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(M) Sections 3(b)-(i), 3A and 4 of the Commodity Distribution Reform Act and WIC Amendments of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 612c note); and

(N) Section 110 of the Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 (7 U.S.C. 612c note).

(iii) Administer those functions relating to the distribution of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits under section 412 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5179).

(iv) In connection with the functions assigned in paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (ii) and (iii) of this section, relating to the distribution and donation of agricultural commodities and products thereof and supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to eligible recipients, authority to determine the requirements for such agricultural commodities and products thereof and supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to be so distributed.

(v) Develop food plans for use in establishing supplemental nutrition assistance benefit levels, and assess the nutritional impact of Federal food programs.

(vi) Administer those functions under title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1612) relating to the eligibility of aliens for benefits under the domestic food assistance programs.

(vii) Administer the following provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014, Public Law 113-79:

(A) Section 4004(b), relating to a demonstration project regarding the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (7 U.S.C. 2013 note).

(B) Section 4031, relating to a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands pilot program regarding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (48 U.S.C. 1841 note).

(C) Section 4032, relating to annual State reporting on verification of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participation (7 U.S.C. 2036c).

(D) Section 4033, relating to service of traditional foods in public facilities (25 U.S.C. 443d).

(E) Section 4214, relating to a pilot project for canned, frozen, or dried fruits and vegetables as part of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769a note).

(viii) Administer section 301 of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990, relating to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (7 U.S.C. 5341).

(ix) Implement section 242 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6952), relating to establishment of a multiagency task force for the purpose of providing coordination and direction for commodity programs.

(2) *Related to consumer advice.* (i) Develop and implement USDA policy and procedural guidelines for carrying out the Department's Consumer Affairs Plan.

(ii) Advise the Secretary and other policy level officials of the Department on consumer affairs policies and programs.

(iii) Coordinate USDA consumer affairs activities and monitor and analyze agency procedures and performance.

(iv) Represent the Department at conferences, meetings and other contacts where consumer affairs issues are discussed, including liaison with the White House and other governmental agencies and departments.

(v) Work with the Office of Budget and Program Analysis and the Office of Communications to ensure coordination of USDA consumer affairs and public participation programs, policies and information, and to prevent duplication of responsibilities.

(vi) Serve as a consumer ombudsman and communication link between consumers and the Department.

(vii) Approve the designation of agency Consumer Affairs Contacts.

(3) *Related to human nutrition information.* (i) Develop techniques and equipment to assist consumers in the home and in institutions in selecting food that supplies a nutritionally adequate diet.

(ii) Develop family food plans at different costs for use as standards by families of different sizes, sex-age composition, and economic levels.

(iii) Develop suitable and safe preparation and management procedures to retain nutritional and eating qualities

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of food served in homes and institutions.

(iv) Develop materials to aid the public in meeting dietary needs, with emphasis on food selection for good nutrition and appropriate cost, and food preparation to avoid waste, maximize nutrient retention, minimize food safety hazards, and conserve energy.

(v) Develop food plans for use in establishing food stamp benefit levels, and assess the nutritional impact of Federal food programs.

(vi) Coordinate nutrition education promotion and professional education projects within the Department.

(vii) Analyze data from food consumption surveys in coordination with the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics to provide a basis for evaluating dietary adequacy.

(viii) Consult with the Federal and State agencies, the Congress, universities, and other public and private organizations and the general public regarding household food consumption, individual intake, and dietary adequacy, and implications of the survey on public policy regarding food and nutrition policies (7 U.S.C. 3171–3175).

(ix) In conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services, administer section 4403 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5311a).

(x) Enter into contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements in accordance with section 1472 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3318).

(4) *Related to committee management.* Establish and reestablish regional, State, and local advisory committees for activities under his or her authority. This authority may not be redelegated.

(5) *Related to defense and emergency preparedness.* Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), concerning food stamp assistance.

(6) Carry out prize competition authorities in section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act

of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) related to functions otherwise delegated to the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, except for authorities delegated to the Chief Financial Officer in § 2.28(a)(29) and authorities reserved to the Secretary in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(b) The following authority is reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture:

(1) *Related to food and nutrition.* Authority to appoint the members of the National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant, and Fetal Nutrition as directed in section 17(k) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1786(k)).

(2) Approval of prize competitions that may result in the award of more than \$1,000,000 in cash prizes under section 24(m)(4)(B) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719(m)(4)(B)).

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 68 FR 27436, May 20, 2003; 74 FR 3402, Jan. 21, 2009; 79 FR 44107, July 30, 2014; 80 FR 58337, Sept. 29, 2015; 85 FR 65506, Oct. 15, 2020]

§ 2.20 Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment.

(a) The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment:

(1) *Related to environmental quality.* (i) Administer the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

(ii) Represent USDA on Regional Response Teams on hazardous spills and oil spills pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*), the Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*), the Oil Pollution Act (OPA), as amended (33 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*), Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, Executive Order 12777, 3 CFR, 1991 Comp., p. 351, and the National Contingency Plan, 40 CFR part 300.

(iii) Represent USDA in contacts with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, and other organizations or agencies on matters related to assigned responsibilities.

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(iv) Formulate and promulgate USDA policy relating to environmental activity and natural resources.

(v) Provide staff support for the Secretary in the review of environmental impact statements.

(vi) Provide leadership in USDA for general land use activities including implementation of Executive Order 11988, Flood Plain Management, 3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 117, and Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, 3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 121.

(vii) Take such action as may be necessary, including issuance of administrative orders, and enter into agreements with any person to perform any response action under sections 106(a) and 122 (except subsection (b)(1)) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9606(a), 9622), pursuant to sections 4(c)(3) and 4(d)(3) of Executive Order No. 12580, as amended by Executive Order No. 13016, to be exercised only with the concurrence of the General Counsel.

(viii) Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture authorized in Title V of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-83, relating to the acquisition of the New World Mine and other priority land acquisitions, land exchanges, and other activities.

(ix) Serve on the USDA Hazardous Materials Policy Council.

(x) Recommend actions and policies that enable agencies under his or her authority to comply with the intent, purposes, and standards of environmental laws for pollution prevention, control, and abatement.

(xi) Consult with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and other appropriate Federal agencies in developing pollution prevention, control, and abatement policies and programs relating to agencies under his or her authority.

(2) *Related to forestry.* (i) Provide national leadership in forestry. (As used here and elsewhere in this section, the term "forestry" encompasses renewable and nonrenewable resources of forests, including lands governed by the Alaska National Interest Lands Con-

servation Act, forest-related rangeland, grassland, brushland, woodland, and alpine areas including but not limited to recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish; natural scenic, scientific, cultural, and historic values of forests and related lands; and derivative values such as economic strength and social well-being).

(ii) Protect, manage, and administer the national forests, national forest purchase units, national grasslands, and other lands and interests in lands administered by the Forest Service, which collectively are designated as the National Forest System.

(iii) Acquire, dispose of, and lease lands and interests in lands as may be authorized for the protection, management, and administration of the National Forest System, including the authority to approve acquisition of land under the Weeks Act of March 1, 1911, as amended (16 U.S.C. 521), and special forest receipts acts, as follows: (Pub. L. 337, 74th Cong., 49 Stat. 866, as amended by Pub. L. 310, 78th Cong., 58 Stat. 227; Pub. L. 505, 75th Cong., 52 Stat. 347, as amended by Pub. L. 310, 78th Cong., 58 Stat. 227; Pub. L. 634, 75th Cong., 52 Stat. 699, as amended by Pub. L. 310, 78th Cong., 58 Stat. 227; Pub. L. 748, 75th Cong., 52 Stat. 1205, as amended by Pub. L. 310, 78th Cong., 58 Stat. 227; Pub. L. 427, 76th Cong., 54 Stat. 46; Pub. L. 589, 76th Cong., 54 Stat. 297; Pub. L. 591, 76th Cong., 54 Stat. 299; Pub. L. 637, 76th Cong., 54 Stat. 402; Pub. L. 781, 84th Cong., 70 Stat. 632).

(iv) As necessary for administrative purposes, divide into and designate as national forests any lands of 3,000 acres or more which are acquired under or subject to the Weeks Act of March 1, 1911, as amended, and which are contiguous to existing national forest boundaries established under the authority of the Weeks Act.

(v) Plan and administer wildlife and fish conservation rehabilitation and habitat management programs on National Forest System lands, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 670g, 670h, and 670o.

(vi) For the purposes of the National Forest System Drug Control Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 559b-559g), specifically designate certain specially trained officers and employees of the Forest Service, not exceeding 500, to have authority in

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the performance of their duties within the boundaries of the National Forest System:

- (A) To carry firearms;
- (B) To enforce and conduct investigations of violations of section 401 of the Controlled Substance Act (21 U.S.C. 841) and other criminal violations relating to marijuana and other controlled substances that are manufactured, distributed, or dispensed on National Forest System lands;
- (C) To make arrests with a warrant or process for misdemeanor violations, or without a warrant for violations of such misdemeanors that any such officer or employee has probable cause to believe are being committed in that employee's presence or view, or for a felony with a warrant or without a warrant if that employee has probable cause to believe that the person being arrested has committed or is committing such a felony;
- (D) To serve warrants and other process issued by a court or officer of competent jurisdiction;
- (E) To search, with or without a warrant or process, any person, place, or conveyance according to Federal law or rule of law; and
- (F) To seize, with or without warrant or process, any evidentiary item according to Federal law or rule of law.

(vii) Authorize the Forest Service to cooperate with the law enforcement officials of any Federal agency, State, or political subdivision, in the investigation of violations of, and enforcement of, section 401 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841), other laws and regulations relating to marijuana and other controlled substances, and State drug control laws or ordinances, within the boundaries of the National Forest System.

(viii) Administer programs under section 23 of the Federal Highway Act (23 U.S.C. 101(a), 120(f), 125(a)–(c), 138, 202(a)–(b), 203, 204(a)–(c), 205(a)–(d), 211, 317, 402(a)).

(ix) Exercise the administrative appeal review functions of the Secretary of Agriculture for decisions of the Chief of the Forest Service pursuant to 36 CFR parts 214, 218, and 219.

(x) Conduct, support, and cooperate in investigations, experiments, tests, and other activities deemed necessary to obtain, analyze, develop, demonstrate, and disseminate scientific information about protecting, managing, and utilizing forest and rangeland renewable resources in rural, suburban, and urban areas in the United States and foreign countries. The activities conducted, supported, or cooperated in shall include, but not be limited to: Renewable resource management research, renewable resource environmental research; renewable resource protection research; renewable resource utilization research, and renewable resource assessment research (16 U.S.C. 1641–1647).

(xi) Use authorities and means available to disseminate the knowledge and technology developed from forestry research (16 U.S.C. 1645).

(xii) Coordinate activities with other agencies in USDA, other Federal and State agencies, forestry schools, and private entities and individuals (16 U.S.C. 1643).

(xiii) Enter into contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements for the support of scientific research in forestry activities (7 U.S.C. 3105, 1624; 16 U.S.C. 582a–8, 1643–1645, 1649).

(xiv) Enter into cooperative research and development agreements with industry, universities, and others; institute a cash award program to reward scientific, engineering, and technical personnel; award royalties to inventors; and retain and use royalty income (15 U.S.C. 3710a–3710c).

(xv) Enter into contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements to further research, extension, or teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3152, 3318).

(xvi) Enter into cost-reimbursable agreements relating to agricultural research, extension, or teaching activities (7 U.S.C. 3319a).

(xvii) Administer programs of cooperative forestry assistance in the protection, conservation, and multiple resource management of forests and related resources in both rural and urban areas and forest lands in foreign countries (16 U.S.C. 2101–2114).

(xviii) Provide assistance to States and other units of government in forest resources planning and forestry rural revitalization (7 U.S.C. 6601, 6611–6617; 16 U.S.C. 2107).

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the performance of their duties within the boundaries of the National Forest System:

- (A) To carry firearms;
- (B) To enforce and conduct investigations of violations of section 401 of the Controlled Substance Act (21 U.S.C. 841) and other criminal violations relating to marijuana and other controlled substances that are manufactured, distributed, or dispensed on National Forest System lands;
- (C) To make arrests with a warrant or process for misdemeanor violations, or without a warrant for violations of such misdemeanors that any such officer or employee has probable cause to believe are being committed in that employee's presence or view, or for a felony with a warrant or without a warrant if that employee has probable cause to believe that the person being arrested has committed or is committing such a felony;
- (D) To serve warrants and other process issued by a court or officer of competent jurisdiction;
- (E) To search, with or without a warrant or process, any person, place, or conveyance according to Federal law or rule of law; and
- (F) To seize, with or without warrant or process, any evidentiary item according to Federal law or rule of law.

(vii) Authorize the Forest Service to cooperate with the law enforcement officials of any Federal agency, State, or political subdivision, in the investigation of violations of, and enforcement of, section 401 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841), other laws and regulations relating to marijuana and other controlled substances, and State drug control laws or ordinances, within the boundaries of the National Forest System.

(viii) Administer programs under section 23 of the Federal Highway Act (23 U.S.C. 101(a), 120(f), 125(a)–(c), 138, 202(a)–(b), 203, 204(a)–(c), 205(a)–(d), 211, 317, 402(a)).

(ix) Exercise the administrative appeal review functions of the Secretary of Agriculture for decisions of the Chief of the Forest Service pursuant to 36 CFR parts 214, 218, and 219.

(x) Conduct, support, and cooperate in investigations, experiments, tests, and other activities deemed necessary

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(xix) Conduct a program of technology implementation for State forestry personnel, private forest landowners and managers, vendors, forest operators, public agencies, and individuals (16 U.S.C. 2107).

(xx) Administer Rural Fire Protection and Control Programs (16 U.S.C. 2106c).

(xxi) Provide technical assistance on forestry technology or the implementation of the Conservation Reserve and Softwood Timber Programs authorized in sections 1231-1244 and 1254 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831-3844; 7 U.S.C. 1981 note).

(xxii) Administer forest insect, disease, and other pest management programs (16 U.S.C. 2104).

(xxiii) Exercise the custodial functions of the Secretary for lands and interests in lands under lease or contract of sale to States and local agencies pursuant to title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act and administer reserved and reversionary interests in lands conveyed under that Act (7 U.S.C. 1010-1013a).

(xxiv) Under such general program criteria and procedures as may be established by the Natural Resources Conservation Service:

(A) Administer the forestry aspects of the programs listed in paragraphs (a)(2)(xxiv)(A)(1) through (3) of this section on the National Forest System, rangelands with national forest boundaries, adjacent rangelands which are administered under formal agreement, and other forest lands;

(1) The cooperative river basin surveys and investigations program (16 U.S.C. 1006);

(2) The Eleven Authorized Watershed Improvement Programs and Emergency Flood Prevention Measures Program under the Flood Control Act of 1944 (Pub. L. 78-534); and

(3) The Small Watershed Protection Program under the Pilot Watershed Protection and Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Acts (7 U.S.C. 701a-h; 16 U.S.C. 1001-1009); and

(B) Exercise responsibility in connection with the forestry aspects of the Resource Conservation and Development Program authorized by title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(e)).

(xxv) Provide assistance to the Farm Service Agency in connection with the Agricultural Conservation Program, the Naval Stores Conservation Program, and the Cropland Conversion Program (16 U.S.C. 590g-q).

(xxvi) Provide assistance to the Rural Housing Service in connection with grants and loans under authority of section 303 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S.C. 1923.

(xxvii) Coordinate mapping work of USDA including:

(A) Clearing mapping projects to prevent duplication;

(B) Keeping a record of mapping done by USDA agencies;

(C) Preparing and submitting required USDA reports;

(D) Serving as liaison on mapping with the Office of Management and Budget, Department of Interior, and other departments and establishments;

(E) Promoting interchange of technical mapping information, including techniques which may reduce costs or improve quality; and

(F) Maintaining the mapping records formerly maintained by the Office of Operations.

(xxviii) Administer the radio frequency licensing work of USDA, including:

(A) Representing USDA on the Interdepartmental Radio Advisory Committee and its Frequency Assignment Subcommittee of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce;

(B) Establishing policies, standards, and procedures for allotting and assigning frequencies within USDA and for obtaining effective utilization of them;

(C) Providing licensing action necessary to assign radio frequencies for use by the agencies of USDA and maintenance of the records necessary in connection therewith;

(D) Providing inspection of USDA's radio operations to ensure compliance with national and international regulations and policies for radio frequency use; and

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(xxix) Represent USDA in all matters relating to responsibilities and authorities under the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 791a-823).

(xxx) Administer the Youth Conservation Corps Act (16 U.S.C. 1701-1706) for USDA.

(xxxi) Establish and operate the Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers on National Forest System lands as authorized by title I, sections 106 and 107 of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2716), in accordance with the terms of an agreement dated May 11, 1967, between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Labor; and administration of other cooperative manpower training and work experience programs where the Forest Service serves as host or prime sponsor with other Departments of Federal, State, or local governments.

(xxxii) Administer the Volunteers in the National Forests Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 558a-558d, 558a note).

(xxxiii) Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture authorized in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101-3215).

(xxxiv) Exercise the functions of the Secretary as authorized in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287).

(xxxv) Jointly administer gypsy moth eradication activities with the Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, under the authority of section 102 of the Organic Act of 1944, as amended; and the Act of April 6, 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 7759, 148, 148a-148e); and the Talmadge Aiken Act (7 U.S.C. 1633), by assuming primary responsibility for treating isolated gypsy moth infestations on Federal lands, and on State and private lands contiguous to infested Federal lands, and any other infestations over 640 acres on State and private lands.

(xxxvi) Exercise the functions of the Secretary authorized in the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 (30 U.S.C. 226 *et seq.*).

(xxxvii) Administer the Public Lands Corps program (16 U.S.C. 1721 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 1726b) for USDA consistent with the Department's overall national service program.

(xxxviii) Focusing on countries that could have a substantial impact on

global warming, provide assistance that promotes sustainable development and global environmental stability; share technical, managerial, extension, and administrative skills; provide education and training opportunities; engage in scientific exchange; and cooperate with domestic and international organizations that further international programs for the management and protection of forests, rangelands, wildlife, fisheries and related natural resources (16 U.S.C. 4501-4505).

(xxxix) Establish programs with any bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), or with other agencies within USDA, in support of the Service First initiative for the purpose of promoting customer service and efficiency including delegating to employees of DOI and other USDA agencies the authorities of the Forest Service necessary to carry out projects on behalf of USDA (43 U.S.C. 1703).

(xl) At the request of the Director, Homeland Security Staff (Director), designate law enforcement personnel of the Forest Service to assist the Director in providing for the personal security for the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary in the National Forest System.

(xli) Implement the information disclosure authorities of section 1619(b)(3)(A) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8791(b)(3)(A)).

(xlii) Administer a program for providing loans to eligible units of local government to finance the purchase of equipment to monitor, remove, dispose of, and replace infested trees located under their jurisdiction and within the borders of quarantined areas (16 U.S.C. 2104a).

(xliii) Enforce and conduct investigations of violations of the Lacey Act, which prohibits importing or exporting any plant or plant product in interstate or foreign commerce in violation of any Federal, State, Tribal, or foreign law regulating plants or plant products (16 U.S.C. 3371-3378).

(xliv) Administer the community wood energy program providing grants to develop community wood energy plans, acquire or upgrade community wood energy systems, and establish or

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expand biomass consumer cooperatives (7 U.S.C. 8113).

(xlv) Conduct activities that assist the Chief Economist in developing guidelines regarding the development of environmental services markets.

(xlvi) Administer the programs authorized by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6501 *et seq.*), except for the Healthy Forests Reserve Program authorized in title V of such act (16 U.S.C. 6571–6578).

(xlvii) Administer Good Neighbor contracts and cooperative agreements with a State to carry out forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services on National Forest System lands (16 U.S.C. 2113a).

(xlviii) Utilize the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) Program (16 U.S.C. 3851) to provide technical services for conservation-related programs and authorities carried out on National Forest System lands (16 U.S.C. 3851a).

(xlix) Enter into reciprocal fire agreements or contracts with domestic entities. Administer reimbursements received for fire suppression (42 U.S.C. 1856–1856e).

(l) Administer the large airtanker and aerial asset lease program (16 U.S.C. 551c).

(li) Provide technical and other assistance with respect to eligibility of forest products for the “USDA Certified Biobased Products” labeling program (7 U.S.C. 8102(g)).

(lii) Cooperate with public or private entities or individuals to perform work on state, county, municipal, or private lands within or near the boundary of National Forest System lands for administration, protection, improvement, reforestation, and other kinds of work the Forest Service is authorized to do on National Forest System lands, and cooperate with public or private entities or individuals to perform the same kinds of work in connection with the use or occupancy of National Forest System lands (16 U.S.C. 572).

(liii) Enter into reciprocal fire agreements with foreign fire organizations. (42 U.S.C. 1856m–1856o).

(liv) Administer the payments to states program (16 U.S.C. 500; 16 U.S.C. 7101–7153); establish, maintain, and ap-

point members to Resource Advisory Committees (16 U.S.C. 7125).

(lv) Conduct performance-driven research and development, education, and technical assistance for the purpose of facilitating the use of innovative wood products in wood building construction in the United States (7 U.S.C. 7655c) and administer the Wood Innovation Grant program (7 U.S.C. 7655d).

(lvi) Furnish subsistence to employees without consideration as, or deduction from, the compensation of such employees where warranted by emergency conditions connected with the work of the Forest Service (7 U.S.C. 2228).

(3) [Reserved]

(4) *Related to committee management.* Establish and reestablish regional, state, and local advisory committees for activities under his or her authority. This authority may not be redelegated.

(5) *Related to defense and emergency preparedness.* Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*) and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), relating to agricultural land and water, forests and forest products, rural fire defense, and forestry research.

(6) *Related to surface mining control and reclamation.* Administer responsibilities and functions assigned to the Secretary of Agriculture under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*).

(7) *Related to environmental response.* (i) With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, to exercise the functions delegated to the Secretary by Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, and Executive Order 12777, 3 CFR, 1991 Comp., p. 351, to act as Federal trustee for natural resources in accordance with section 107(f) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9607(f)), section 311(f)(5) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(f)(5)), and section 1006(b)(2) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2706(b)(2)).

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(ii) With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, to exercise the functions delegated to the Secretary by Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, under the following provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 ("the Act"), as amended:

(A) Sections 104(a), (b), and (c)(4) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(a), (b), and (c)(4)), with respect to removal and remedial actions in the event of release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant into the environment;

(B) Sections 104(e)–(h) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(e)–(h)), with respect to information gathering and access requests and orders; compliance orders; compliance with Federal health and safety standards and wage and labor standards applicable to covered work; and emergency procurement powers;

(C) Section 104(i)(11) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(11)), with respect to the reduction of exposure to significant risk to human health;

(D) Section 104(j) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(j)), with respect to the acquisition of real property and interests in real property required to conduct a remedial action;

(E) The first two sentences of section 105(d) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(d)), with respect to petitions for preliminary assessment of a release or threatened release;

(F) Section 105(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(f)), with respect to consideration of the availability of qualified minority firms in awarding contracts, but excluding that portion of section 105(f) of the Act pertaining to the annual report to Congress;

(G) Section 109 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9609), with respect to the assessment of civil penalties for violations of section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), and the granting of awards to individuals providing information;

(H) Section 111(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9611(f)), with respect to the designation of officials who may obligate money in the Hazardous Substances Superfund;

(I) Section 113(g) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9613(g)), with respect to receiving notification of a natural resource trustee's intent to file suit;

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(J) Section 113(k) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9613(k)), with respect to establishing an administrative record upon which to base the selection of a response action and identifying and notifying potentially responsible parties;

(K) Section 116(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9616(a)), with respect to preliminary assessment and site inspection of facilities;

(L) Section 117(a) and (c) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9617(a) and (c)), with respect to public participation in the preparation of any plan for remedial action and explanation of variances from the final remedial action plan for any remedial action or enforcement action, including any settlement or consent decree entered into;

(M) Section 119 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9619), with respect to indemnifying response action contractors;

(N) Section 121 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9621), with respect to cleanup standards; and

(O) Section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), with respect to settlements, but excluding section 122(b)(1) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622(b)(1)), relating to mixed funding agreements.

(iii) With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, to exercise the authority vested in the Secretary of Agriculture to act as the "Federal Land Manager" pursuant to the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*).

(8) *Related to compliance with environmental laws.* With respect to facilities and activities under his or her authority, to exercise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to section 1-102 related to compliance with applicable pollution control standards and section 1-601 of Executive Order 12088, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243, to enter into an inter-agency agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an administrative consent order or a consent judgment in an appropriate United States District Court with an appropriate State, interstate, or local agency, containing a plan and schedule to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable pollution control standards established pursuant to the following:

(i) Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation

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and Recovery Act, the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, and the Federal Facility Compliance Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*);

(ii) Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*);

(iii) Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*);

(iv) Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*);

(v) Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4901 *et seq.*);

(vi) Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*);

(vii) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*); and

(viii) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*).

(9) *Related to historic preservation.* Administer the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*, Executive Order 11593, 3 CFR, 1971-1975 Comp., p. 559, and regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic preservation, 36 CFR part 800, for the Department of Agriculture with authority to name the Secretary's designee to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

(10) Carry out prize competition authorities in section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) related to functions otherwise delegated to the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, except for authorities delegated to the Chief Financial Officer in §2.28(a)(29) and authorities reserved to the Secretary in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(b) The following authorities are reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture:

(1) *Related to natural resource conservation.* Designation of new project areas in which the resource conservation and development program assistance will be provided.

(2) Approval of prize competitions that may result in the award of more than \$1,000,000 in cash prizes under section 24(m)(4)(B) of the Stevenson-

Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719(m)(4)(B)).

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 62 FR 1031, Jan. 8, 1997; 64 FR 32797, June 18, 1999; 64 FR 34967, June 30, 1999; 65 FR 12428, Mar. 9, 2000; 67 FR 59135, Sept. 30, 2002; 68 FR 27437, May 20, 2003; 69 FR 34252, June 21, 2004; 72 FR 36859, July 6, 2007; 74 FR 3403, Jan. 21, 2009; 75 FR 43368, July 23, 2010; 78 FR 40937, July 9, 2013; 79 FR 44107, July 30, 2014; 80 FR 58337, Sept. 29, 2015; 83 FR 22181, May 14, 2018; 85 FR 65506, Oct. 15, 2020; 87 FR 44267, July 26, 2022]; 88 FR 70579, Oct. 12, 2023

§2.21 Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

(a) The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (who holds the title of Chief Scientist of the Department).

(1) *Related to research, extension, and education.* (i) Direct, coordinate and provide national leadership and support for research, extension and teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences to meet major needs and challenges in development of new food and fiber; food and agriculture viability and competitiveness in the global economy; enhancing economic opportunities and quality of life for rural America; food and agricultural system productivity and development of new crops and new uses; the environment and natural resources; or the promotion of human health and welfare pursuant to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*).

(ii) Provide national leadership and support for research, extension, and teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences to carry out sustainable agriculture research and education; a National Plant Genetic Resources Program; a national agricultural weather information system; and any other provisions pursuant to title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-624, 104 Stat. 3703).

(iii) Exercise the authorities of the Secretary in administering the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority, including awarding

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grants and entering into contracts, cooperative agreements, and other transactions (7 U.S.C. 3319k).

(iv) Carry out research, technology development, technology transfer, and demonstration projects related to the economic feasibility of the manufacture and commercialization of natural rubber from plants containing hydrocarbons and other critical agricultural materials from native agricultural crops having strategic and industrial importance (7 U.S.C. 178-178n).

(v) Conduct research on the control of undesirable species of honey bees in cooperation with specific foreign governments (7 U.S.C. 284).

(vi) Administer the appropriation for the endowment and maintenance of colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanical arts (7 U.S.C. 321-326a).

(vii) Administer teaching funds authorized by section 22 of the Bankhead Jones Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 329).

(viii) Administer a Cooperative Agricultural Extension Program in accordance with the Smith-Lever Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 341-349).

(ix) Cooperate with the States for the purpose of encouraging and assisting them in carrying out research related to the problems of agriculture in its broadest aspects under the Hatch Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 361a-361i).

(x) Evaluate, assess, and report to congressional agriculture committees on the merits of proposals for agricultural research facilities in the States, and ensure that each research activity conducted by an Agricultural Research Service facility serves a national or multistate need (7 U.S.C. 390 *et seq.*).

(xi) Conduct research concerning domestic animals and poultry, their protection and use, the causes of contagious, infectious, and communicable diseases, and the means for the prevention and cure of the same (7 U.S.C. 391).

(xii) Conduct research related to the dairy industry and to the dissemination of information for the promotion of the dairy industry (7 U.S.C. 402).

(xiii) Conduct research and demonstrations at Mandan, ND, related to dairy livestock breeding, growing, and feeding, and other problems pertaining to the establishment of the dairy and livestock industries (7 U.S.C. 421-422).

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(xiv) Conduct research on new uses for cotton and on cotton ginning and processing (7 U.S.C. 423-424).

(xv) Administer and conduct research into the basic problems of agriculture in its broadest aspects, including, but not limited to, production, marketing (other than statistical and economic research but including research related to family use of resources), distribution, processing, and utilization of plant and animal commodities; problems of human nutrition; development of markets for agricultural commodities; discovery, introduction, and breeding of new crops, plants, and animals, both foreign and native; conservation development; and development of efficient use of farm buildings, homes, and farm machinery except as otherwise delegated in § 2.22(a)(1)(ii) and § 2.79(a)(2) (7 U.S.C. 427, 1621-1627, 1629, 2201, and 2204).

(xvi) Conduct research on varietal improvement of wheat and feed grains to enhance their conservation and environmental qualities (7 U.S.C. 428b).

(xvii) Administer a program to make competitive grants to assist in the construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, or remodeling of agricultural research facilities (7 U.S.C. 390b).

(xviii) Enter into agreements with and receive funds from any State, other political subdivision, organization, or individual for the purpose of conducting cooperative research projects (7 U.S.C. 3318a).

(xix) Carry out a program (IR-4 Program) for the collection of residue and efficacy data in support of registration or reregistration of pesticides for minor agricultural use and for use on specialty crops, and to determine tolerances for minor use chemical residues in or on agricultural commodities (7 U.S.C. 3157(e)).

(xx) Administer the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative for competitive grants for fundamental and applied research, extension, and education to address food and agricultural sciences; administer a program of making special grants for research, extension, or education activities (7 U.S.C. 3157(b), (c)).

(xxi)-(xxii) [Reserved]

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(xxiii) Conduct research related to soil and water conservation, engineering operations, and methods of cultivation to provide for the control and prevention of soil erosion (7 U.S.C. 1010 and 16 U.S.C. 590a).

(xxiv) Maintain four regional research laboratories and conduct research at such laboratories to develop new scientific, chemical, and technical uses and new and extended markets and outlets for farm commodities and products and the byproducts thereof (7 U.S.C. 1292).

(xxv) Conduct a Special Cotton Research Program designed to reduce the cost of producing upland cotton in the United States (7 U.S.C. 1444a(c)).

(xxvi) [Reserved]

(xxvii) Conduct research to develop and determine methods for the humane slaughter of livestock (7 U.S.C. 1904).

(xxviii)-(xxix) [Reserved]

(xxx) Conduct education and extension programs related to nutrition education (7 U.S.C. 2027(a)).

(xxxi) Prepare an annual report to Congress on disbursements of funds for agricultural research and extension at 1890 and 1862 Institutions for programs under the following authorities: 7 U.S.C. 3221; 7 U.S.C. 3222; 7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c); and 7 U.S.C. 361a *et seq.* (7 U.S.C. 2207d).

(xxxii) Develop and maintain national and international library and information systems and networks and facilitate cooperation and coordination of the agricultural libraries of colleges, universities, USDA, and their closely allied information gathering and dissemination units in conjunction with private industry and other research libraries (7 U.S.C. 2201, 2204, 3125a, and 3126).

(xxxiii) Accept gifts and order disbursements from the Treasury for carrying out of National Agricultural Library (NAL) functions (7 U.S.C. 2264-2265).

(xxxiv) Propagate bee-breeding stock and release bee germplasm to the public (7 U.S.C. 283).

(xxxv) Administer, in cooperation with land-grant colleges and universities where applicable, a rural development research and extension program, a small farm research and extension program, and a rural health and

safety education program under the Rural Development Act of 1972, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2661-2667).

(xxxvi) Administer a cooperative extension program under the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976 (7 U.S.C. 3004).

(xxxvii) Coordinate the development and carrying out by Department agencies of all matters and functions pertaining to agricultural research conducted or funded by the Department involving biotechnology, including the development and implementation of guidelines for oversight of research activities, acting as liaison on all matters and functions pertaining to agricultural research in biotechnology between agencies within the Department and between the Department and other governmental, educational, or private organizations and carrying out any other activities authorized by (7 U.S.C. 3121).

(xxxviii) [Reserved]

(xxxix) Establish and oversee the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (7 U.S.C. 3123).

(xl) Provide and distribute information and data about Federal, State, local, and other Rural Development Assistance Programs and services available to individuals and organizations. To the extent possible, NAL shall use telecommunications technology to disseminate such information to rural areas (7 U.S.C. 3125b).

(xli) Assemble and collect food and nutrition educational material, including the results of nutrition research, training methods, procedures, and other materials related to the purposes of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended; maintain such information; and provide for the dissemination of such information and materials on a regular basis to State educational agencies and other interested parties (7 U.S.C. 3126).

(xlvi) Promote cooperation and coordination between 1862, 1890, 1994, and NLGCA Institutions, HSACUs, and cooperating forestry schools and international partner institutions in developing countries by exercising the Secretary's authority in 7 U.S.C. 3292, including coordinating with the Under

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Secretary for Trade and Foreign Affairs to place interns from covered institutions in, or in service to benefit, developing countries.

(xlv) Promote and strengthen higher education in the food and agricultural sciences; administer grants to colleges and universities; maintain a national food and agricultural education information system; conduct programs regarding the evaluation of teaching programs and continuing education; administer the National Food and Agricultural Sciences Teaching, Extension, and Research Awards Program to recognize and promote excellence in teaching, extension, and research in the food and agricultural sciences; administer programs relating to secondary education and 2-year postsecondary education, including grants to public secondary schools, institutions of higher education that award an associate's degree, other institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations; and report to Congress on the distribution of funds to carry out such teaching programs (7 U.S.C. 3152).

(xlvi) Administer a next generation agriculture technology challenge competition to incentivize mobile technology that removes marketplace entry barriers for beginning farmers and ranchers (7 U.S.C. 3158).

(xlvi) Administer the National Agricultural Science Award for research or advanced studies in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3153).

(xlvii) [Reserved]

(xlviii) Administer a National Food and Human Nutrition Research and Extension Program (7 U.S.C. 3171-3173, 3175).

(xlxi) Administer and direct an Animal Health and Disease Research Program under the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3191-3201).

(l) Support continuing agricultural and forestry extension and research at 1890 land-grant institutions, including Tuskegee University (7 U.S.C. 3221, 3222, 3222d).

(li) Administer grants to 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University, through Federal-grant funds to help finance research facilities

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and equipment including agricultural libraries (7 U.S.C. 3223).

(lii) Establish and administer competitive grants 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 (7 U.S.C. 3241).

(liii) Provide policy direction and coordinate the Department's work with national and international institutions and other persons throughout the world in the performance of agricultural research, extension, teaching, and development activities; administer a program of competitive grants for collaborative projects involving Federal scientists or scientists from colleges and universities working with scientists at international agricultural research centers in other nations focusing either on new technologies and programs for increasing the production of food and fiber or training scientists and a program of competitive grants to colleges and universities to strengthen United States economic competitiveness and to promote international market development; establish a program in coordination with the Foreign Agricultural Service to place interns from United States colleges and universities at Foreign Agricultural Service field offices overseas; and provide a biennial report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate on efforts of the Federal Government to coordinate international agricultural research within the Federal Government, and to more effectively link the activities of domestic and international agricultural researchers, particularly researchers of the Agricultural Research Service (7 U.S.C. 3291, 3292b).

(liv) Provide for an agricultural research and development program with the United States/Mexico Foundation for Science (7 U.S.C. 3292a).

(lv) Administer grants to 1890 Institutions, including Tuskegee University, for purposes of awarding scholarships to individuals pursuing careers in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3222a).

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(lvi) Enter into contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements to further research, extension, or teaching programs in the food and agriculture sciences (7 U.S.C. 3318).

(lvi) Enter into cost-reimbursable agreements with State cooperative institutions or other colleges and universities for the acquisition of goods or services in support of research, extension, or teaching activities in the food and agricultural sciences, including the furtherance of library and related information programs (7 U.S.C. 3319a).

(lviii) Conduct research and development and implement a program for the development of supplemental and alternative crops (7 U.S.C. 3319d).

(lix) Administer an Aquaculture Assistance Program, involving centers, by making grants to eligible institutions for research and extension to facilitate or expand production and marketing of aquacultural food species and products; making grants to States to formulate Aquaculture development plans for the production and marketing of aquacultural species and products; and conducting a program of research, extension and demonstration at aquacultural demonstration centers (7 U.S.C. 3321-22).

(lx) Administer a Cooperative Rangeland Research Program (7 U.S.C. 3331-3336).

(lxi) Conduct a program of basic research on cancer in animals and birds (7 U.S.C. 3902).

(lxii) Design and implement educational programs and distribute materials in cooperation with the cooperative extension services of the States emphasizing the importance of productive farmland, and designate a farmland information center, pursuant to section 1544 of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. 4205).

(lxiii) Make competitive grants to land-grant colleges and universities, including 1994 Institutions, to provide identifiable support specifically targeted for Tribal students (7 U.S.C. 3222e).

(lxiv) Administer programs and conduct projects for research, extension, and education on sustainable agriculture (7 U.S.C. 5811-5813).

(lxv) Conduct research and cooperative extension programs to optimize

crop and livestock production potential, integrated resource management, and integrated crop management (7 U.S.C. 5821).

(lxvi) Develop and make available handbooks, technical guides, and other educational materials emphasizing sustainable agriculture production systems and practices; carry out activities related to a national training program for sustainable agriculture (7 U.S.C. 5831, 5832).

(lxvii) Administer competitive grants for the acquisition of special purpose scientific research equipment for use in the food and agricultural sciences programs of eligible institutions (7 U.S.C. 3310a).

(lxviii) Administer a national research program on genetic resources to provide for the collection, preservation, and dissemination of genetic material important to American food and agriculture production (7 U.S.C. 5841-5844).

(lxix) Conduct remote-sensing and other weather-related research (7 U.S.C. 5852).

(lxx) Establish an Agricultural Weather Office and administer a national agricultural weather information system, including a competitive grants program for research in atmospheric sciences and climatology (7 U.S.C. 5852-5853).

(lxxi) Administer a research and extension grant program to States to administer programs for State agricultural weather information systems (7 U.S.C. 5854).

(lxxii) Establish a National Plant Diagnostic Network to monitor and surveil through diagnostics threats to plant health from diseases or pests of concern in the United States, and establish cooperative agreements with land-grant colleges and universities (7 U.S.C. 8914(c)).

(lxxiii) Establish a National Plant Disease Recovery System to engage in strategic long-range planning to recover from high-consequence plant transboundary diseases (7 U.S.C. 8914(d)).

(lxxiv)-(lxxvi) [Reserved]

(lxxvii) Administer research programs and grants for risk assessment research to address concerns about the

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environmental effects of biotechnology (7 U.S.C. 5921).

(lxxviii) In consultation with the Secretary of Energy, administer competitive grants to provide education about carbon utilization and biogas (7 U.S.C. 8115).

(lxxix) Conduct a research initiative known as the Agricultural Genome Initiative, and make grants or enter into cooperative agreements on a competitive basis to carry out the Initiative (7 U.S.C. 5924).

(lxxx) Administer a competitive high priority research and extension grants program in specified subject areas (7 U.S.C. 5925), including pollinator activities (7 U.S.C. 5925(g)) not otherwise delegated to the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs in § 2.22(a)(2)(xli); prepare an annual report to Congress regarding pollinator issues (7 U.S.C. 5925(g)(5)).

(lxxxi) [Reserved]

(lxxxii) Administer competitive grants to support research, education, and extension activities regarding organically grown and processed agricultural commodities (7 U.S.C. 5925b).

(lxxxiii) In consultation with the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee, administer competitive grants to support research, education, and extension activities for the purposes of facilitating the development of urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production, harvesting, transportation, aggregation, packaging, distribution, and markets (7 U.S.C. 5925g).

(lxxxiv) Formulate and carry out the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Act program authorized by the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (7 U.S.C. 3151a).

(lxxxv)–(xc) [Reserved]

(xci) Administer education programs on Indian reservations and tribal jurisdictions (7 U.S.C. 5930).

(xcii) [Reserved]

(xciii) Administer a demonstration grants program for support of an assistive technology program for farmers with disabilities (7 U.S.C. 5933).

(xciv)–(xcvi) [Reserved]

(xcvii) Administer the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982 for USDA (15 U.S.C. 638(e)–(k)).

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(xcviii) Coordinate Departmental policies under the Toxic Substance Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2601–2629).

(xcix) Provide educational and technical assistance in implementing and administering the Conservation Reserve Program authorized in sections 1231–1244 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (Pub. L. No. 99–198, 99 Stat. 1509 (16 U.S.C. 3831–3844)).

(c) Enter into cooperative research and development agreements with industry, universities, and others; institute a cash award program to reward scientific, engineering, and technical personnel; award royalties to inventors; and retain and use royalty income (15 U.S.C. 3710a–3710c).

(ci) Coordinate USDA activities delegated under 15 U.S.C. 3710a–3710c.

(cii) Conduct educational and demonstrational work in Cooperative Farm Forestry Programs (16 U.S.C. 568).

(ciii) Administer a cooperative forestry program in accordance with the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act, and administer a competitive forestry, natural resources, and environmental grant program (16 U.S.C. 582a–582–8).

(civ) Establish and administer the Forestry Student Grant Program to provide competitive grants to assist the expansion of the professional education of forestry, natural resources, and environmental scientists (16 U.S.C. 1649).

(cv) Provide for an expanded and comprehensive extension program for forest and rangeland renewable resources (16 U.S.C. 1671–1676).

(cvi) Provide technical, financial, and educational assistance to State foresters and State extension directors on rural forestry assistance (16 U.S.C. 2102).

(cvii) Provide educational assistance to State foresters under the Forest Stewardship Program (16 U.S.C. 2103a).

(cviii) Implement and conduct an educational program to assist the development of Urban and Community Forestry Programs (16 U.S.C. 2105).

(cix) Provide staff support to the Secretary of Agriculture in his or her role as permanent Chair for the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture established by the National Aquaculture Act of

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1980 and coordinate aquacultural activities within the Department (16 U.S.C. 2805).

(cx) Perform research, development, and extension activities in aquaculture (16 U.S.C. 2804 and 2806).

(cxi) Administer an experienced services program to obtain technical, professional, and administrative services to support the research, education, and economics mission area of the Department (16 U.S.C. 3851).

(cxii) Copy and deliver on demand selected articles and other materials from the Department's collections by photographic reproduction or other means within the permissions, constraints, and limitations of sections 106, 107, and 108 of the Copyright Act of October 19, 1976, (17 U.S.C. 106, 107, and 108).

(cxiii) Authorize the use of the 4-H Club name and emblem (18 U.S.C. 707).

(cxiv) Maintain a National Arborescentum for the purposes of research and education concerning tree and plant life, and order disbursements from the Treasury, in accordance with the Act of March 4, 1927 (20 U.S.C. 191 *et seq.*).

(cxv) Conduct research on foot-and-mouth disease and other animal diseases (21 U.S.C. 113a).

(cxvi) [Reserved]

(cxvii) Obtain and furnish Federal excess property to eligible recipients for use in the conduct of research and extension programs (40 U.S.C. 525(c)).

(cxviii) Conduct research demonstration and promotion activities related to farm dwellings and other buildings for the purposes of reducing costs and adapting and developing fixtures and appurtenances for more efficient and economical farm use (42 U.S.C. 1476(b)).

(cxix)–(cxx) [Reserved]

(cxxi) Administer a Cooperative Agricultural Extension Program related to agriculture, uses of solar energy with respect to agriculture, home economics, and rural energy in the District of Columbia (D.C. Code 38-1202.09).

(cxxii) [Reserved]

(cxxiii) Exercise the responsibilities of the Secretary under regulations dealing with Equal Employment Opportunity in the Cooperative Extension Service (part 18 of this title).

(cxxiv) Represent the Department on the Federal Interagency Committee on Education.

(cxxv) Assure the acquisition, preservation, and accessibility of all information concerning food and agriculture by providing leadership to and coordination of the acquisition programs and related activities of the library and information systems, with the agencies of USDA, other Federal departments and agencies, State agricultural experiment stations, colleges and universities, and other research institutions and organizations.

(cxxvi) Formulate, write, or prescribe bibliographic and technically related standards for the library and information services of USDA (7 U.S.C. 3125a *et seq.*).

(cxxvii) Determine by survey or other appropriate means, the information needs of the Department's scientific, professional, technical, and administrative staffs, its constituencies, and the general public in the areas of food, agriculture, the environment, and other related areas.

(cxxviii) Represent the Department on all library and information science matters before Congressional Committees and appropriate commissions, and provide representation to the coordinating committees of the Federal and State governments concerned with library and information science activities.

(cxxix) Represent the Department in international organizational activities and on international technical committees concerned with agricultural science, education, and development activities, including library and information science activities.

(cxxxi) Prepare and disseminate computer files, indexes and abstracts, bibliographies, reviews, and other analytical information tools.

(cxxxi) Arrange for the consolidated purchasing and dissemination of printed and automated indexes, abstracts, journals, and other widely used information resources and services.

(cxxxi) Provide assistance and support to professional organizations and others concerned with library and information science matters and issues.

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(cxxxiii) Pursuant to the authority delegated by the Administrator of General Services to the Secretary of Agriculture in 34 FR 6406, 36 FR 1293, 36 FR 18440, and 38 FR 23838, appoint uniformed armed guards and special policemen, make all needful rules and regulations, and annex to such rules and regulations such reasonable penalties (not to exceed those prescribed in 40 U.S.C. 318(c), as will ensure their enforcement, for the protection of persons, property, buildings, and grounds of the Arboretum, Washington, DC; the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, NE; the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, MD; and the Animal Disease Center, Plum Island, NY, over which the United States has exclusive or concurrent criminal jurisdiction, in accordance with the limitations and requirements of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (40 U.S.C. 471 *et seq.*), the Act of June 1, 1948, as amended (40 U.S.C. 318 *et seq.*), and the policies, procedures, and controls prescribed by the General Services Administration. Any rules or regulations promulgated under this authority shall be approved by the Director, Office of Operations, and the General Counsel prior to issuance.

(cxxxiv) Represent the Department on the National Science and Technology Council.

(cxxxv) Administer the Department's Patent Program except as delegated to the General Counsel in § 2.31(a)(5).

(cxxxvi) Review cooperative research and development agreements entered into pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 3710a-3710c, with authority to disapprove or require the modification of any such agreement.

(cxxxvii) Establish and administer a 1994 Institutions Endowment Fund and to enter into agreements necessary to do this (Section 533(b) and (c) of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994, 7 U.S.C. 301 note).

(cxxxviii) Make grants in equal amounts to 1994 Land-Grant Institutions to be used in the same manner as is prescribed for colleges under the Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321 *et seq.*), and subject to the requirements of such Act (Section 534(a) of the Equity in

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Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994, 7 U.S.C. 301 note).

(cxxxix) Make competitive Institutional Capacity Building Grants to assist 1994 Land-Grant Institutions with constructing, acquiring, and remodeling buildings, laboratories, and other capital facilities (including fixtures and equipment) necessary to conduct instructional activities more effectively in agriculture and sciences (Section 535 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994, 7 U.S.C. 301 note).

(cxl) Make competitive grants to 1994 Land-Grant Institutions to conduct agricultural research that addresses high priority concerns of tribal, national, or multistate significance (Section 536 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994, 7 U.S.C. 301 note).

(cxli) Implement and administer the Community Food Projects Program under section 25 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2034).

(cxlii) In consultation with the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, administer pilot projects to encourage the use of public-private partnerships committed to addressing food insecurity (7 U.S.C. 2036d).

(cxliii) Coordinate the Department of Agriculture summer intern program pursuant to section 922 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (7 U.S.C. 2279c).

(cxliv) Develop and carry out a system to monitor and evaluate agricultural research and extension activities conducted or supported by the Department 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. Conduct a comprehensive review of state-of-the-art information technology systems for use in developing the system (7 U.S.C. 3129).

(cxlv)-(cxlvii) [Reserved]

(cliii) Establish procedures that provide for scientific peer review of each agricultural research grant administered on a competitive basis, and for

relevancy and merit review of each agricultural research, extension, or education grant administered on a competitive basis, by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (7 U.S.C. 7613(a)).

(cl) Provide technical assistance to farmers and ranchers under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (16 U.S.C. 3830 *et seq.*).

(cli) Ensure that agricultural research conducted by the Agricultural Research Service, and agricultural research, extension, or education activities administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture on a competitive basis address a concern that is a priority and has national, multistate, or regional significance (7 U.S.C. 7611).

(cli) Solicit and consider input and recommendations from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, extension, or education and, after consultation with appropriate subcabinet officials, establish priorities for agricultural research, extension, and education activities conducted or funded by the Department; promulgate regulations concerning implementation of a process for obtaining stakeholder input at 1862, 1890, and 1994 Institutions and Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities; and ensure that federally supported and conducted agricultural research, extension, and education activities are accomplished in accord with identified management principles (7 U.S.C. 7612).

(clii) Establish procedures that provide for scientific peer review of each agricultural research grant administered on a competitive basis, and for merit review of each agricultural extension or education grant administered, on a competitive basis, by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (7 U.S.C. 7613(a)).

(cliv) Consider the results of the annual review performed by the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board regarding the relevance to priorities of the funding of all agricultural research, extension, or education activities conducted or funded by the Department and the adequacy of funding, when formulating each request for proposals, and evaluating proposals, in-

volving an agricultural research, extension, or education activity funded, on a competitive basis, by the Department; and solicit and consider input from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, extension, or education regarding the prior year's request for proposals for each activity funded on a competitive basis (7 U.S.C. 7613(c)).

(clv) Establish, in consultation with appropriate subcabinet officials, procedures to ensure scientific peer review of all research activities conducted by the Department (7 U.S.C. 7613(d)).

(clvi) Require a procedure to be established by each 1862, 1890, and 1994 Institution and Hispanic-serving agricultural college and university, for merit review of each agricultural research and extension activity funded and review of the activity in accordance with the procedure (7 U.S.C. 7613(e)).

(clvii)-(clix) [Reserved]

(clx) Coordinate the resources of the Department to develop, commercialize, and promote the use of biobased products, and enter into cooperative agreements with private entities to operate pilot plants and other large-scale preparation facilities under which the facilities and technical expertise of the Agricultural Research Service may be made available (7 U.S.C. 7624).

(clxi) [Reserved]

(clxii) Administer competitive grants for integrated, multifunctional agricultural research, education, and extension activities (7 U.S.C. 7626).

(clxiii) Administer a coordinated program of research, extension, and education to improve the competitiveness, viability, and sustainability of small and medium size dairy, livestock, and poultry operations (7 U.S.C. 7627).

(clxiv) Administer grants to consortia of land-grant colleges and universities to enhance the ability of the consortia to carry out multi-State research projects aimed at understanding and combating diseases of wheat, triticale, and barley caused by *Fusarium graminearum* and related fungi or *Tilletia indica* and related fungi (7 U.S.C. 7628).

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(clxv) Operate and administer the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database through contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements with appropriate colleges or universities (7 U.S.C. 7642).

(clxvi) Update on a periodic basis, nutrient composition data and report to Congress the method that will be used to update the data and the timing of the update (7 U.S.C. 7651).

(clxvii) Establish and maintain a Food Safety Research Information Office at the National Agricultural Library to provide to the research community and the general public information on publicly and privately funded food safety research initiatives (7 U.S.C. 7654(a)).

(clxviii) Develop a national program of safe food handling education for adults and young people to reduce the risk of food-borne illness (7 U.S.C. 7655).

(clxix) Conduct a performance evaluation to determine whether federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education programs result in public goods that have national or multistate significance, including through a contract with one or more entities to provide input and recommendations with respect to federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education programs (7 U.S.C. 7671).

(clxx) [Reserved]

(clxxi) Take a census of agriculture in 1998 and every fifth year thereafter pursuant to the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997, Public Law 105-113 (7 U.S.C. 2204g); ensure that the census of agriculture documents the number, location, and economic contributions of socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers in agricultural production (7 U.S.C. 2279(h)).

(clxxii) Cooperate with other Federal agencies (including the National Science Foundation) in issuing joint requests for proposals, awarding grants, and administering grants under any competitive agricultural research, education, or extension grant program (7 U.S.C. 3319b).

(clxxiii) Administer a program of competitive grants, establish education teams, and establish an online clearinghouse of curricula and training materials and programs, all for train-

ing, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for the benefit of beginning farmers and ranchers (7 U.S.C. 2279d).

(clxxiv) Administer agricultural research, education, and extension activities (including through competitive grants), using any authority available to the Secretary, to reduce the vulnerability of the United States food and agricultural system to chemical or biological attack, to continue partnerships with institutions of higher education and other institutions to help form stable, long-term programs to enhance the biosecurity of the United States, to make competitive grants to universities and qualified research institutions for research on counterbioterrorisms, and to counter or otherwise respond to chemical or biological attack (7 U.S.C. 3351).

(clxxv) Administer a program of competitive grants to colleges and universities for expansion and security upgrades to enhance the security of agriculture against bioterrorism threats (7 U.S.C. 3352).

(clxxvi) Administer programs for distance education grants and resident instruction grants to eligible institutions in insular areas that have demonstrable capacity to carry out teaching and extension programs in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3361-3363).

(clxxvii) [Reserved]

(clxxviii) Administer a program of cooperative research (including through competitive award of grants and cooperative agreements to colleges and universities) and extension projects on carbon cycling in soils and plants, the exchange of other greenhouse gases from agriculture, and the carbon sequestration benefits of conservation practices (7 U.S.C. 6711).

(clxxix) [Reserved]

(clxxx) Administer a program of grants to the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, the Boy Scouts of America, the National 4-H Council, and the National FFA Organization to establish pilot projects to expand the programs carried out by the organizations in rural areas and small towns (7 U.S.C. 7630).

(clxxxii) Oversee implementation of the termination of Federal schedule A

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civil service appointments of State agricultural extension employees at land-grant colleges and universities (section 7220 of Pub. L. 107-171).

(clxxxii) Administer a program of grants to the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (section 10805 of Pub. L. 107-171).

(clxxxiii) Administer grants to assist the land-grant university in the District of Columbia to acquire, alter, or repair facilities or relevant equipment necessary for conducting agricultural research (7 U.S.C. 3222b-1).

(clxxxiv) Administer grants to assist the land-grant colleges and universities in insular areas to acquire, alter, or repair facilities or relevant equipment necessary for conducting agricultural research; and to support tropical and subtropical agricultural research, including pest and disease research (7 U.S.C. 3222b-2).

(clxxxv) Enter into agreements necessary to administer an Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities Fund; enter into agreements necessary to administer a program of making annual payments to Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities; administer an institutional capacity-building grants program for Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities; administer a competitive grants program to fund fundamental and applied research and extension at Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities and to award competitive grants to Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities to provide for training in the food and agricultural sciences of Hispanic agricultural workers and Hispanic youth working in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3243).

(clxxxvi) Administer the New Era Rural Technology Program to make grants for technology development, applied research, and training to aid in the development of an agriculture-based renewable energy workforce (7 U.S.C. 3319e).

(clxxxvii) Administer a competitive grants program to assist NLGCA Institutions in maintaining and expanding capacity to conduct education, research, and outreach activities relating to agriculture, renewable resources,

and other similar disciplines (7 U.S.C. 3319i).

(clxxxviii) [Reserved]

(clxxxix) Administer a competitive research and extension grants program to improve the farm management knowledge and skills of agricultural producers and establish and maintain a national, publicly available farm financial management database to support improved farm management (7 U.S.C. 5925f).

(cxci) Administer the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (7 U.S.C. 7632).

(cxci) Exchange, sell, or otherwise dispose of animals, animal products, plants, and plant products, and use the sale or other proceeds to acquire such items or to offset costs related to the maintenance, care, or feeding of such items (7 U.S.C. 2241a).

(cxcii) Establish and administer a pilot program at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and National Agricultural Library to lease non-excess property (7 U.S.C. 3125a note).

(cxciii) Lease land at the Grazinglands Research Laboratory at El Reno, Oklahoma, pursuant to section 7503 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246).

(cxciv) Administer a competitive research and education grants program relating to antibiotics and antibiotic-resistant bacteria (7 U.S.C. 3202).

(cxcv) Administer a competitive grants program to establish and maintain a Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (7 U.S.C. 5936).

(cxcvi) [Reserved]

(cxcvii) Administer a natural products research program (7 U.S.C. 5937).

(cxcviii) Administer a Sun Grants Program (7 U.S.C. 8114).

(cxcix) [Reserved]

(cc) Administer a competitive grant program to support the development and expansion of advanced training programs in agricultural biosecurity planning and response for food science professionals and veterinarians (7 U.S.C. 8913).

(cci) Administer the Biomass Research and Development Initiative (7 U.S.C. 8108(e)); consult and coordinate, as appropriate, with the Under Secretary for RD and other mission areas of the Department as deemed necessary

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in carrying the authorities delegated herein; serve as the designated point of contact referenced in 7 U.S.C. 8108 for the Department for purposes of administering the Biomass Research and Development Initiative.

(ccii) Administer a competitive grants program to encourage basic and applied research and the development of qualified agricultural countermeasures (7 U.S.C. 8921).

(cciii) Administer a competitive grants program to promote the development of teaching programs in agriculture, veterinary medicine, and disciplines closely allied to the food and agriculture system to increase the number of trained individuals with an expertise in agricultural biosecurity (7 U.S.C. 8922).

(cciv) Administer a program of providing grants to Alaska Native serving institutions and Native Hawaiian serving institutions for the purpose of promoting and strengthening the ability of those institutions to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs (7 U.S.C. 3156).

(ccv) Administer a competitive grant program for national food safety training, education, extension, outreach, and technical assistance (7 U.S.C. 7625).

(ccvi) Administer a food insecurity nutrition incentive program (7 U.S.C. 7517).

(ccvii) Administer a food and agriculture service learning grant program (7 U.S.C. 7633).

(ccviii) Administer a veterinary services grant program (7 U.S.C. 3151b).

(ccix) Enter into grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, or other legal instruments with former Department of Agriculture agricultural research facilities (7 U.S.C. 3315(b)).

(ccx) Administer a forestry and forestry products research and extension initiative (7 U.S.C. 7655b).

(ccxi) Submit to Congress an annual report describing agricultural research, extension, and education activities carried out by the Federal Government (7 U.S.C. 7614c(f)).

(ccxii) Enter into cooperative agreements with institutions of higher education regarding the dissemination of agricultural and food law research,

legal tools, and information (7 U.S.C. 3125a-1).

(ccxiii) Consult with the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research regarding the identification of existing and proposed Federal intramural and extramural research and development programs relating to the purposes of the Foundation and the coordination of Foundation activities with those programs for the purpose of minimizing duplication of existing efforts and avoiding conflicts (7 U.S.C. 5939(d)(1)(B)).

(2) *Related to committee management.* Establish or reestablish regional, state and local advisory committees for the activities authorized. This authority may not be redelegated.

(3) *Related to defense and emergency preparedness.* Administer the responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), concerning scientific and educational programs; estimates of supplies of agricultural commodities and evaluation of requirements therefor; coordination of damage assessment; food and agricultural aspects of economic stabilization, economic research, and agricultural statistics; and the coordination of energy programs.

(4) *Related to rural development activities.* Provide guidance and direction for the accomplishment of activities authorized under Section V of the Rural Development Act of 1972, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2661 *et seq.*), for programs under the control of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, coordinating the policy aspects thereof with the Under Secretary for Rural Development.

(5) *Related to environmental response.* With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, exercise the functions delegated to the Secretary by Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, under the following provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 ("the Act"), as amended:

(i) Sections 104 (a), (b), and (c)(4) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604 (a), (b), and

(c)(4)), with respect to removal and remedial actions in the event of release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant into the environment;

(ii) Sections 104(e)–(h) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(e)–(h)), with respect to information gathering and access requests and orders; compliance with Federal health and safety standards and wage and labor standards applicable to covered work; and emergency procurement powers;

(iii) Section 104(i)(11) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(11)), with respect to the reduction of exposure to significant risk to human health;

(iv) Section 104(j) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(j)), with respect to the acquisition of real property and interests in real property required to conduct a remedial action;

(v) The first two sentences of section 105(d) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(d)), with respect to petitions for preliminary assessment of a release or threatened release;

(vi) Section 105(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(f)), with respect to consideration of the availability of qualified minority firms in awarding contracts, but excluding that portion of section 105(f) pertaining to the annual report to Congress;

(vii) Section 109 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9609), with respect to the assessment of civil penalties for violations of section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), and the granting of awards to individuals providing information;

(viii) Section 111(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9611(f)), with respect to the designation of officials who may obligate money in the Hazardous Substances Superfund;

(ix) Section 113(k) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9613(k)), with respect to establishing an administrative record upon which to base the selection of a response action and identifying and notifying potentially responsible parties;

(x) Section 116(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9616(a)), with respect to preliminary assessment and site inspection of facilities;

(xi) Sections 117 (a) and (c) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9617 (a) and (c)), with respect to public participation in the preparation of any plan for remedial action

and explanation of variances from the final remedial action plan for any remedial action or enforcement action, including any settlement or consent decree entered into;

(xii) Section 119 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9119), with respect to indemnifying response action contractors;

(xiii) Section 121 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9621), with respect to cleanup standards; and

(xiv) Section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), with respect to settlements, but excluding section 122(b)(1) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622(b)(1)), related to mixed funding agreements.

(6) *Related to compliance with environmental laws.* With respect to facilities and activities under his or her authority, to exercise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to section 1–102 related to compliance with applicable pollution control standards and section 1–601 of Executive Order 12088, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243, to enter into an inter-agency agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an administrative consent order or a consent judgment in an appropriate State, interstate, or local agency, containing a plan and schedule to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable pollution control standards established pursuant to the following:

(i) Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as further amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, and the Federal Facility Compliance Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*);

(ii) Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*);

(iii) Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*);

(iv) Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*);

(v) Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4901 *et seq.*);

(vi) Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*);

(vii) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*); and

(viii) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability

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Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*).

(7) *Related to national food and human nutrition research.* (i) Administer a National Food and Human Nutrition Research Program under the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended. As used herein the term "research" includes:

(A) Research on the nutrient composition of foods and the effects of agricultural practices, handling, food processing, and cooking on the nutrients they contain;

(B) Surveillance of the nutritional benefits provided to participants in the food programs administered by the Department; and

(C) Research on the factors affecting food preference and habits (7 U.S.C. 3171–3173, 3175).

(ii) The authority in paragraph (a)(7)(i) of this section includes the authority to:

(A) Appraise the nutritive content of the U.S. food supply;

(B) Develop and make available data on the nutrient composition of foods needed by Federal, State, and local agencies administering food and nutrition programs, and the general public, to improve the nutritional quality of diets;

(C) Coordinate nutrition education research projects within the Department; and

(D) Maintain data generated on food composition in a National Nutrient Data Bank.

(iii) Conduct, in cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Program. Included in this delegation is the authority to:

(A) Design and carry out periodic nationwide food consumption surveys to measure household food consumption;

(B) Design and carry out a continuous, longitudinal individual intake survey of the United States population and special high-risk groups; and

(C) Design and carry out methodological research studies to develop improved procedures for collecting household and individual food intake consumption data;

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(iv) [Reserved]

(v) Co-chair with the Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services, the Interagency Board for Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research for the development and coordination of a Ten-Year Comprehensive Plan as required by Pub. L. No. 101-445, 7 U.S.C. 5301 *et seq.*

(8) *Related to economic research and statistical reporting.* (i) Conduct economic research on matters of importance to cooperatives as authorized by the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627).

(ii) Conduct economic and social science research and analyses relating to:

(A) Food and agriculture situation and outlook;

(B) The production, marketing, and distribution of food and fiber products (excluding forest and forest products), including studies of the performance of the food and agricultural sector of the economy in meeting needs and wants of consumers;

(C) Basic and long-range, worldwide, economic analyses and research on supply, demand, and trade in food and fiber products and the effects on the U.S. food and agriculture system, including general economic analyses of the international financial and monetary aspects of agricultural affairs;

(D) Natural resources, including studies of the use and management of land and water resources, the quality of these resources, resource institutions, and watershed and river basin development problems; and

(E) Rural people and communities, as authorized by title II of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), and the Act of June 29, 1935, as amended (7 U.S.C. 427).

(iii) [Reserved]

(iv) Prepare crop and livestock estimates and administer reporting programs, including estimates of production, supply, price, and other aspects of the U.S. agricultural economy, collection of statistics, conduct of enumerative and objective measurement surveys, construction and maintenance of sampling frames, and related activities. Prepare reports of the Agricultural Statistics Board covering official

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state and national estimates (7 U.S.C. 476, 951, and 2204).

(v) Take such security precautions as are necessary to prevent disclosure of crop or livestock report information prior to the scheduled issuance time approved in advance by the Secretary of Agriculture and take such actions as are necessary to avoid disclosure of confidential data or information supplied by any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or association (18 U.S.C. 1902, 1903, and 2072).

(vi) Improve statistics in the Department; maintain liaison with OMB and other Federal agencies for coordination of statistical methods and techniques.

(vii) Investigate and make findings as to the effect upon the production of food and upon the agricultural economy of any proposed action pending before the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for presentation in the public interest, before said Administrator, other agencies, or before the courts.

(viii) Review economic data and analyses used in speeches by Department personnel and in materials prepared for release through the press, radio, and television.

(ix) Coordinate all economic analysis and review all decisions involving substantial economic policy implications.

(x) Cooperate and work with national and international institutions and other persons throughout the world in the performance of agricultural research and extension activities to promote and support the development of a viable and sustainable global and agricultural system. Such work may be carried out by:

(A) Exchanging research materials and results with the institutions or persons;

(B) Engaging in joint or coordinated research;

(C) Entering into cooperative arrangements with Departments and Ministries of Agriculture in other nations to conduct research, extension, and education activities (limited to arrangements either involving no exchange of funds or involving disbursements by the agency to the institutions of other nations), and then reporting these arrangements to the Secretary of Agriculture;

(D) Stationing representatives at such institutions or organizations in foreign countries; or

(E) Entering into agreements with land-grant colleges and universities, other organizations, institutions, or individuals with comparable goals, and with the concurrence of the Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, international organizations (limited to agreements either involving no exchange of funds or involving disbursements by the agency to the cooperator), and then reporting these agreements to the Secretary of Agriculture (7 U.S.C. 3291(a)).

(xi) Collect and, not less frequently than once every 3 years report, data and analysis on farmland ownership, tenure, transition, and entry of beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (7 U.S.C. 2204i).

(xii) Enter into contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements to further research and statistical reporting programs in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3318).

(xiii) Enter into cost-reimbursable agreements relating to agricultural research and statistical reporting (7 U.S.C. 3319a).

(xiv) Conduct surveys and analysis and publish reports relating to organic production, handling, distribution, retail, and trend studies (including consumer purchasing patterns); develop surveys and report statistical analysis on organically produced agricultural products (7 U.S.C. 5925c).

(xv) Assist the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs with respect to Dairy Product Mandatory Reporting (7 U.S.C. 1637-1637b).

(xvi) Include in each issuance of projections of net farm income an estimate of the net farm income earned by commercial producers in the United States that will in addition show the estimate of net farm income attributable to commercial producers of livestock, loan commodities, and agricultural commodities other than loan commodities (7 U.S.C. 7998).

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(xvii) Ensure that studies carried out by the Economic Research Service document the number, location, and economic contributions of socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers in agricultural production (7 U.S.C. 2279(h)).

(xviii) Coordinate implementation of section 10016 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 regarding locally or regionally produced agricultural food products (7 U.S.C. 2204h).

(9) *Related to immigration.* Serve as the designee of the Secretary pursuant to Section 212(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, 8 U.S.C. 1182(e) and 22 CFR 41.63(2)(3).

(10) *Related to hazardous materials management.* (i) Serve on the USDA Hazardous Materials Policy Council.

(ii) Recommend actions and policies that enable USDA agencies under his or her authority to comply with the intent, purposes, and standards of environmental laws for pollution prevention, control, and abatement.

(iii) Consult with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and other appropriate Federal agencies in developing pollution prevention, control, and abatement policies and programs relating to agencies under his or her authority.

(11) *Related to scientific integrity.* (i) Provide to the Secretary information on topics that can benefit from scientific input to ensure informed decision-making at the highest levels of Government.

(ii) Facilitate the coordination and collaboration within the Department on high priority science issues that will benefit from intra-Departmental collaboration, including coordinating the assessment of the relevance, quality, performance, and impact of the Department's efforts in science.

(iii) Build partnerships within the scientific community by serving as a point of contact for interactions with other agencies of science, universities, and other external members of the scientific community for the purpose of leveraging and promoting relationships to explore common scientific interests and shared goals.

(iv) Develop mechanisms to address scientific integrity within the Department.

(v) Serve as Chair of the USDA Science Council.

(12) *Related to coordination of agricultural research, education, and extension programs and activities.* Coordinate the agricultural research, education, and extension activities of the Department pursuant to sections 251(c)(2) and 251(d)(2) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971(c)(2), (d)(2)).

(13) Carry out prize competition authorities in section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) related to functions otherwise delegated to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, except for authorities delegated to the Chief Financial Officer in § 2.28(a)(29) and authorities reserved to the Secretary in paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(b) The following authorities are reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture:

(1) *Related to science and education.*

(i)-(iii) [Reserved]

(iv) Final concurrence in Equal Employment Opportunity Programs within the cooperative extension programs submitted under part 18 of this title.

(2) *Related to economic research and statistical reporting.*

(i) Final approval and issuance of the crop and livestock reports.

(ii) Final action on rules and regulations for the agricultural statistics board.

(3) Approval of prize competitions that may result in the award of more than \$1,000,000 in cash prizes under section 24(m)(4)(B) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719(m)(4)(B)).

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995]

EDITORIAL NOTE: For FEDERAL REGISTER citations affecting § 2.21, see the List of CFR Sections Affected, which appears in the Finding Aids section of the printed volume and at www.govinfo.gov.

§ 2.22 Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

(a) The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary to the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs:

(1) *Related to agricultural marketing.*

(i) Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture contained in the

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Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*), including payments to State Departments of Agriculture in connection with cooperative marketing service projects under section 204(b) (7 U.S.C. 1623(b)), but excepting matters otherwise assigned.

(ii) Conduct marketing efficiency research and development activities directly applicable to the conduct of the Wholesale Market Development Program, specifically:

(A) Studies of facilities and methods used in physical distribution of food and other farm products;

(B) Studies designed to improve handling of all agricultural products as they are moved from farms to consumers; and

(C) Application of presently available scientific knowledge to the solution of practical problems encountered in the marketing of agricultural products (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627b).

(iii) Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture relating to the transportation activities contained in section 203(j) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1622(j)) as amended, but excepting matters otherwise assigned.

(iv) Administer transportation activities under section 201 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1291).

(v) Apply results of economic research and operations analysis to evaluate transportation issues and to recommend revisions of current procedures.

(vi) Serve as the focal point for all Department transportation matters including development of policies and strategies.

(vii) Cooperate with other Departmental agencies in the development and recommendation of policies for inland transportation of USDA and CCC-owned commodities in connection with USDA programs.

(viii) Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture with respect to the following legislation:

(A) U.S. Cotton Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 51–65);

(B) Cotton futures provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. 4854, 4862–4865, 4876, and 7263);

(C) Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 471–476), except as otherwise assigned;

(D) Naval Stores Act (7 U.S.C. 91–99);

(E) Tobacco Inspection Act (7 U.S.C. 511–511q);

(F) Wool Standard Act (7 U.S.C. 415b–415d);

(G) Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601, 602, 608a–608e, 610, 612, 614, 624, 671–674);

(H) Cotton Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 2101–2118), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in §2.15(a)(1)(x);

(I) Export Apple and Pear Act (7 U.S.C. 581–590);

(J) Export Grape and Plum Act (7 U.S.C. 591–599);

(K) Titles I, II, IV, and V of the Federal Seed Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1551–1575, 1591–1611);

(L) Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (7 U.S.C. 499a–499s);

(M) Produce Agency Act (7 U.S.C. 491–497);

(N) Tobacco Seed and Plant Exportation Act (7 U.S.C. 516–517);

(O) Tobacco Statistics Act (7 U.S.C. 501–508);

(P) Section 401(a) of the Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 415e);

(Q) Agricultural Fair Practices Act (7 U.S.C. 2301–2306);

(R) Wheat Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 1292 note), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in §2.15(a)(1)(x);

(S) Plant Variety Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 2321–2331, 2351–2357, 2371–2372, 2401–2404, 2421–2427, 2441–2443, 2461–2463, 2481–2486, 2501–2504, 2531–2532, 2541–2545, 2561–2569, 2581–2583), except as delegated to the Judicial Officer;

(T) Subtitle B of title I and section 301(4) of the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 4501–4513, 4514(4)), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in §2.15(a)(1)(x);

(U) Potato Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 2611–2627), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in §2.15(a)(1)(x);

(V) [Reserved]

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(W) Egg Research and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 2701–2718), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in § 2.15(a)(1)(x);

(X) Beef Research and Information Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2901–2918), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in §§ 2.26(a)(1)(xiv) and (a)(3)(x);

(Y) Wheat and Wheat Foods Research and Nutrition Education Act (7 U.S.C. 3401–3417), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in § 2.15(a)(1)(x);

(Z) Egg Products Inspection Act relating to the Shell Egg Surveillance Program, voluntary laboratory analyses of egg products, and the Voluntary Egg Grading Program (21 U.S.C. 1031–1056);

(AA) Section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), as supplemented by the Act of June 28, 1937 (15 U.S.C. 713c), and related legislation, except functions which are otherwise assigned relating to the domestic distribution and donation of agricultural commodities and products thereof following the procurement thereof;

(BB) Procurement of agricultural commodities and other foods under section 6 of the National School Lunch Act of 1946, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1755);

(CC) [Reserved]

(DD) Act of May 23, 1980, regarding inspection of dairy products for export (21 U.S.C. 693);

(EE) The Pork Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 4801–4819), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in § 2.15(a)(1)(x);

(FF) The Watermelon Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 4901–4916), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in § 2.15(a)(1)(x);

(GG) The Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 4601–4612), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in § 2.15(a)(1)(x);

(HH) Subtitles B and C of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983, as amended (7 U.S.C. 4501–4513, 4531–4538);

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(II) The Floral Research and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 4301–4319), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in § 2.15(a)(1)(x);

(JJ) Section 213 of the Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983, as amended (7 U.S.C. 511r);

(KK) National Laboratory Accreditation Program (7 U.S.C. 138–138i) with respect to laboratories accredited for pesticide residue analysis in fruits and vegetables and other agricultural commodities, except those laboratories analyzing only meat and poultry products;

(LL) Pecan Promotion and Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6001–6013), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in § 2.15(a)(1)(x);

(MM) Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6101–6112), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in § 2.15(a)(1)(x);

(NN) Lime Research, Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6201–6212), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in § 2.15(a)(1)(x);

(OO) Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 6301–6311), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in § 2.215(a)(1)(x);

(PP) Fluid Milk Promotion Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6401–6417), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in § 2.215(a)(1)(x);

(QQ) Producer Research and Promotion Board Accountability (104 Stat. 3927);

(RR) Consistency with International Obligations of the United States (7 U.S.C. 2278);

(SS) Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501–6522), provided that the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, will enter into agreements, as necessary, with the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, to provide inspection services;

(TT) Pesticide Recordkeeping (7 U.S.C. 136i–1) with the provision that

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the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, will enter into agreements, as necessary, with other Federal agencies;

(UU) The International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs Act (7 U.S.C. 4401–4406);

(VV) The Sheep Promotion, Research, and Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7101–7111), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in §2.15(a)(1)(x); and

(WW) The Fresh Cut Flowers and Fresh Cut Greens Promotion and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 6801–6814), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in §2.15(a)(1)(x).

(XX) Commodity Promotion and Evaluation (7 U.S.C. 7401);

(YY) The Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7411–7425), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in §2.15(a)(1)(x);

(ZZ) The Canola and Rapeseed Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7441–7452), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in §2.15(a)(1)(x);

(AAA) The National Kiwifruit Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7461–7473), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in §2.15(a)(1)(x);

(BBB) The Popcorn Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7481–7491), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in §2.15(a)(1)(x).

(CCC) Local Agriculture Market Program (7 U.S.C. 1627c), in coordination with the Under Secretary for Rural Development.

(DDD) [Reserved]

(EEE) Exemption of Certified Organic Products from Assessment (7 U.S.C. 7401).

(FFF) Country of Origin Labeling (7 U.S.C. 1638–1638(d)).

(GGG) Hass Avocado Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 7801–7813).

(HHH) Section 7407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5925c), with respect to the collection and distribution of comprehensive reporting of prices relating to organically produced agricultural products.

(III) Livestock Mandatory Reporting (7 U.S.C. 1635–1636i).

(JJJ) Section 375 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008j).

(KKK) Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note).

(LLL) Section 1502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8772).

(MMM) Section 12108 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 1622 note).

(NNN) Section 10105 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7655a).

(OOO) Section 10107 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1622b).

(PPP) Section 4206 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7518).

(QQQ) Section 4213(c) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 1755b(c)).

(RRR) Section 12306 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 1632c).

(SSS) Section 506 of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 7101 note).

(TTT) Section 12513 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 1632d).

(ix) Furnish, on request, copies of programs, pamphlets, reports, or other publications for missions or programs as may otherwise be delegated or assigned to the Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and charge user fees therefor, as authorized by section 1121 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, as amended by section 1769 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2242a.

(x) [Reserved]

(xi) Administer a program for Dairy Product Mandatory Reporting (7 U.S.C. 1637–1637b), with the assistance of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

(xii) Assist the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs with implementing section 3205 of the

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Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 7112 note) regarding the Consultative Group to Eliminate the Use of Child Labor and Forced Labor in Imported Agricultural Products.

(xiii) Assist the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics with implementing section 10016 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 regarding locally or regionally produced agricultural food products (7 U.S.C. 2204h).

(xiv) Administer the U.S. Warehouse Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 241–273), and perform compliance examinations for Agricultural Marketing Services programs.

(xv) Administer commodity procurement and supply, transportation (other than from point of export, except for movement to trust territories or possessions), handling, payment, and related services in connection with programs under titles II and III of Public Law 480 (7 U.S.C. 1691, 1701, *et seq.*) and section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1), and payment and related services with respect to export programs and barter operations.

(xvi) Administer the Economic Adjustment Assistance for Textile Mills program (7 U.S.C.

(xvii) In coordination with the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, administer payments under the Special Competitive Provisions for Extra Long Staple Cotton (7 U.S.C. 9038).

(2) *Related to animal and plant health inspection.* Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture under the following authorities:

(i) Administer the Foreign Service personnel system for employees of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 3922, except that this delegation does not include the authority to represent the Department of Agriculture in interagency consultations and negotiations with other foreign affairs agencies regarding joint regulations, nor the authority to approve joint regulations issued by the Department of State relating to administration of the Foreign Service;

(ii) The Terminal Inspection Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 7760);

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(iii) The Honeybee Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 281–286);

(iv) Section 18 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act, as amended, as it pertains to the issuance of certificates of condition of live animals intended and offered for export (21 U.S.C. 618);

(v) The responsibilities of the United States under the International Plant Protection Convention;

(vi) (Laboratory) Animal Welfare Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2131–2159);

(vii) Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1821–1831);

(viii) 28 Hour Law, as amended (49 U.S.C. 80502);

(ix) Export Animal Accommodation Act, as amended (46 U.S.C. 3901–3902);

(x) Purebred Animal Duty Free Entry Provisions of Tariff Act of June 17, 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1202, part 1, Item 100.01);

(xi) Virus-Serum-Toxin Act (21 U.S.C. 151–159).

(xii) Conduct diagnostic and related activities necessary to prevent, detect, control or eradicate foot-and-mouth disease and other foreign animal diseases (21 U.S.C. 113a);

(xiii) The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, sections 203, 205, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1622, 1624), with respect to voluntary inspection and certification of animal products; inspection, testing, treatment, and certification of animals; and a program to investigate and develop solutions to the problems resulting from the use of sulfonamides in swine;

(xiv) Talmadge Aiken Act (7 U.S.C. 1633) with respect to cooperation with States in control and eradication of plant and animal diseases and pests;

(xv) The Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2801 note; 2814).

(xvi) The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531–1544);

(xvii) Executive Order 11987, 3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 116;

(xviii) Section 101(d), Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 398);

(xix) The Swine Health Protection Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3801–3813);

(xx) Lacey Act Amendments of 1981, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3371–3378);

(xxi) Title III (and title IV to the extent that it relates to activities under

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title III,) of the Federal Seed Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1581–1610);

(xxii) Authority to prescribe the amounts of commuted traveltimes allowances and the circumstances under which such allowances may be paid to employees covered by the Act of August 28, 1950 (7 U.S.C. 2260);

(xxiii) The Act of March 2, 1931 (7 U.S.C. 8351–8352);

(xxiv) The Act of December 22, 1987 (7 U.S.C. 8353);

(xxv) Authority to work with developed and transitional countries on agricultural and related research and extension, with respect to animal and plant health, including providing technical assistance, training, and advice to persons from such countries engaged in such activities and the stationing of scientists of national and international institutions in such countries (7 U.S.C. 3291(a)(3));

(xxvi) Authority to prescribe and collect fees under the Act of August 31, 1951, as amended (31 U.S.C. 9701), and sections 2508 and 2509 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (21 U.S.C. 136, 136a), as amended;

(xxvii) The provisions of 35 U.S.C. 156;

(xxviii) Enter into cooperative research and development agreements with industry, universities, and others; institute a cash award program to reward scientific, engineering, and technical personnel; award royalties to inventors; and retain and use royalty income (15 U.S.C. 3710a–3710c); and

(xxix) The Alien Species Prevention and Enforcement Act of 1992 (39 U.S.C. 3015 note).

(xxx) Sections 901–905 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 1901 note).

(xxxi) Plant Protection Act (Title IV, Pub. L. 106–224, 114 Stat. 438, 7 U.S.C. 7701–7772).

(xxxii) Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301–8317).

(xxxiii) Section 10504 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8318).

(xxxiv) Title V of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 2279e and 2279f).

(xxxv) The responsibilities of the United States related to activities of the Office of International des Epizooties.

(xxxvi) Implement the information disclosure authorities of section 1619(b)(3)(A) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8791(b)(3)(A)).

(xxxvii) Section 7524 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (21 U.S.C. 113a note), except for the suspension, revocation, or other impairment of a permit issued under that section.

(xxxviii) Section 10202 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7761).

(xxxix) Section 10204 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7701 note).

(xl) Section 14216 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110–246).

(xli) Section 1672(g)(3) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(g)(3)) regarding honey bee pest, pathogen, health, and population status surveillance.

(xlii) Section 12309 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 regarding produce represented as grown in the United States (19 U.S.C. 1304a).

(xlii) Section 11013 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8322).

(xliiv) In coordination with the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, Section 2408 relating to the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program (7 U.S.C. 8351 note).

(xlv) Section 12203(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 relating to diseases and pests of concern (7 U.S.C. 8914(b)).

(xlii) Section 12601 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 relating to baiting of migratory game birds (16 U.S.C. 704 note).

(3) *Related to grain inspection, packers and stockyards.* (i) Exercise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture contained in the U.S. Grain Standards Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71–87h).

(ii) Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture contained in the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627), relating to inspection and standardization activities relating to grain.

(iii) Administer the Packers and Stockyards Act, as amended and supplemented (7 U.S.C. 181–229).

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(iv) Enforce provisions of the Consumer Credit Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1601–1655, 1681–1681t) with respect to any activities subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, as amended and supplemented.

(v) Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture contained in section 1324 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1631).

(vi) Administer responsibilities and functions assigned to the Secretary in section 11006 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 228 note), with respect to the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921.

(4) *Related to committee management.* Establish and reestablish regional, State, and local advisory committees for activities under his or her authority. This authority may not be redelegated.

(5) *Related to defense and emergency preparedness.* (i) Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), concerning protection of livestock, poultry and crops and products thereof from biological and chemical warfare; and utilization or disposal of livestock and poultry exposed to radiation.

(ii) Title II, Subtitles B and C, of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8401 note, 8401, 8411).

(6) *Related to biotechnology.* Coordinate the development and carrying out by Department agencies of all matters and functions pertaining to the Department's regulation of biotechnology, and act as liaison on all matters and functions pertaining to the regulation of biotechnology between agencies within the Department and between the Department and governmental and private organizations. Provided, that with respect to biotechnology matters affecting egg products, the Assistant Secretary shall consult and coordinate activities of Department agencies with the Under Secretary for Food Safety.

(7) *Related to environmental response.* With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, exercise the functions delegated to the Secretary by

Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, under the following provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (“the Act”), as amended:

(i) Sections 104(a), (b), and (c)(4) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(a), (b), and (c)(4)), with respect to removal and remedial actions in the event of release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant into the environment;

(ii) Sections 104(e)–(h) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(e)–(h)), with respect to information gathering and access requests and orders; compliance with Federal health and safety standards and wage and labor standards applicable to covered work; and emergency procurement powers;

(iii) Section 104(i)(11) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(11)), with respect to the reduction of exposure to significant risk to human health;

(iv) Section 104(j) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(j)), with respect to the acquisition of real property and interests in real property required to conduct a remedial action;

(v) The first two sentences of section 105(d) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(d)), with respect to petitions for preliminary assessment of a release or threatened release;

(vi) Section 105(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(f)), with respect to consideration of the availability of qualified minority firms in awarding contracts, but excluding that portion of section 105(f) pertaining to the annual report to Congress;

(vii) Section 109 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9609), with respect to the assessment of civil penalties for violations of section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), and the granting of awards to individuals providing information;

(viii) Section 111(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9611(f)), with respect to the designation of officials who may obligate money in the Hazardous Substances Superfund;

(ix) Section 113(k) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9613(k)), with respect to establishing an administrative record upon which to base the selection of a response action and identifying and notifying potentially responsible parties;

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(x) Section 116(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9616(a)), with respect to preliminary assessment and site inspection of facilities;

(xi) Sections 117(a) and (c) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9617(a) and (c)), with respect to public participation in the preparation of any plan for remedial action and explanation of variances from the final remedial action plan for any remedial action or enforcement action, including any settlement or consent decree entered into;

(xii) Section 119 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9119), with respect to indemnifying response action contractors;

(xiii) Section 121 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9621), with respect to cleanup standards; and

(xiv) Section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), with respect to settlements, but excluding section 122(b)(1) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622(b)(1)), related to mixed funding agreements.

(8) *Related to compliance with environmental laws.* With respect to facilities and activities under his or her authority, to exercise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to section 1-102 related to compliance with applicable pollution control standards and section 1-601 of Executive Order 12088, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243, to enter into an inter-agency agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an administrative consent order or a consent judgment in an appropriate State, interstate, or local agency, containing a plan and schedule to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable pollution control standards established pursuant to the following:

(i) Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as further amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, and the Federal Facility Compliance Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*);

(ii) Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*);

(iii) Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*);

(iv) Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*);

(v) Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4901 *et seq.*);

(vi) Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*);

(vii) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*); and

(viii) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*).

(9) *Related to the Capper-Volstead Act.* Serve as a member of the Capper-Volstead Act Committee to identify cases of undue price enhancement by associations of producers and issue complaints requiring such associations to show cause why an order should not be made directing them to cease and desist from monopolization or restraint of trade (7 U.S.C. 292).

(10) *Related to hazardous materials management.* (i) Serve on the USDA Hazardous Materials Policy Council.

(ii) Recommend actions and policies that enable USDA agencies under his or her authority to comply with the intent, purposes, and standards of environmental laws for pollution prevention, control, and abatement.

(iii) Consult with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and other appropriate Federal agencies in developing pollution prevention, control, and abatement policies and programs relating to agencies under his or her authority.

(11) Carry out prize competition authorities in section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) related to functions otherwise delegated to the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, except for authorities delegated to the Chief Financial Officer in §2.28(a)(29) and authorities reserved to the Secretary in paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(b) The following authorities are reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture:

(1) Relating to agricultural marketing.

(i) Promulgation, with the Secretary of the Treasury of joint regulations under section 402(b) of the Federal Seed Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1592(b)).

(ii) Appoint members of the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board established by section 113(b) of the

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Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 4504(b)).

(iii) Appoint members of the National Processor Advertising and Promotion Board established by section 1999H(b)(4) of the Fluid Milk Promotion Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6407(b)).

(iv) Appoint members of the Cotton Board established by section 7(a) of the Cotton Research and Promotion Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2106(a));

(v) Appoint members of the Egg Board established by section 8(a) of the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 2707(a));

(vi) Appoint members of the Floraboard established by section 1707(1) of the Floral Research and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 4306(1));

(vii) Appoint members of the Honey Board established by section 7(c)(1) of the Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 4606(c));

(viii) Appoint members of the Lime Board established by section 1955(b)(2) of the Lime Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6204(b));

(ix) Appoint members of the Mushroom Council established by section 1925(b)(1)(B) of the Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6104(b));

(x) Appoint members of the Pecan Marketing Board established by section 1910(b)(8)(E) of the Pecan Promotion and Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6005(b));

(xi) Appoint members of the National Potato Promotion Board established by section 308(a)(4) of the Potato Research and Promotion Act as amended (7 U.S.C. 2617(a));

(xii) Appoint members of the National Watermelon Promotion Board established by section 1647(c) of the Watermelon Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 4906(c));

(xiii) Appoint members of the PromoFlor Council established by section 5(b) of the Fresh Cut Flowers and Fresh Cut Greens Act of 1993 (7 U.S.C. 6804(b));

(xiv) Appoint members of the National Kiwifruit Board established by section 555(c)(1) of the National Kiwifruit Research, Promotion, and

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Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7464(c));

(xv) Appoint members of Popcorn Board established by section 575(b)(1) of the Popcorn Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7484(b));

(xvi) Appoint members of the Wheat Industry Council established by section 1706(a) of the Wheat and Wheat Foods Research and Nutrition Education Act (7 U.S.C. 3405(a));

(xvii) Appoint members of the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board established by section 5(1) of the Beef Research and Information Act as amended (7 U.S.C. 2904(1));

(xviii) Appoint members of the National Pork Board established by section 1619(a)(1) of the Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 4808(a));

(xix) Appoint members of the United Soybean Board established by section 1969(b)(1) of the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 6304(b));

(xx) Appoint members of the National Sheep Promotion, Research, and Information Board established by section 5(b) of the Sheep Promotion, Research, and Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7104(b)(1));

(xxi) Appoint members of the National Canola and Rapeseed Board established by section 535(b)(1) of the Canola and Rapeseed Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7444(b));

(xxii) Appoint members of boards established by section 515(b)(2)(A) of the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7414(b)).

(2) *Related to animal and plant health inspection.* (i) Determination that an emergency or extraordinary emergency exists under the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8306, 8316).

(ii) Determination that an emergency or extraordinary emergency exists under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7715, 7772).

(iii) Approval of requests for apportionment of reserves for the control of outbreaks of insects, plant diseases, and animal diseases to the extent necessary to meet emergency conditions (31 U.S.C. 1512).

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(iv) The suspension, revocation, or other impairment of a permit issued under section 7524 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (21 U.S.C. 113a note).

(3) Approval of prize competitions that may result in the award of more than \$1,000,000 in cash prizes under section 24(m)(4)(B) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719(m)(4)(B)).

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 61 FR 25776, May 23, 1996; 61 FR 68541, Dec. 30, 1996; 62 FR 40254, July 28, 1997; 65 FR 12428, Mar. 9, 2000; 65 FR 49471, Aug. 14, 2000; 68 FR 27439, May 20, 2003; 70 FR 55706, Sept. 23, 2005; 74 FR 3405, Jan. 21, 2009; 76 FR 4802, Jan. 27, 2011; 79 FR 44109, July 30, 2014; 80 FR 58337, Sept. 29, 2015; 83 FR 22181, May 14, 2018; 83 FR 61311, Nov. 29, 2018; 85 FR 65509, Oct. 15, 2020; 87 FR 44267, July 26, 2022]

EDITORIAL NOTE: At 83 FR 61311, Nov. 29, 2018, § 2.22 was amended by adding (a)(1)(xvi), however paragraph (a)(xvi) was not provided in the text, this amendment could not be incorporated due to inaccurate amendatory instruction.

§ 2.23 Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations.

(a) The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations:

(1) *Related to congressional affairs.* (i) Exercise responsibility for coordination of all congressional matters in the Department.

(ii) Maintain liaison with the Congress and the White House on legislative Matters of concern to the Department.

(2) *Related to intergovernmental affairs.* (i) Coordinate all programs involving intergovernmental affairs including State and local government relations and liaison with:

(A) National Association of State Departments of Agriculture;

(B) Office of Intergovernmental Relations (Office of Vice President);

(C) Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations;

(D) Council of State Governments;

(E) National Governors Conference;

(F) National Association of Counties;

(G) National League of Cities;

(H) International City Managers Association;

(I) U.S. Conference of Mayors; and

(J) Such other State and Federal agencies, departments and organizations as are necessary in carrying out the responsibilities of this office.

(ii) Maintain oversight of the activities of USDA representatives to the 10 Federal Regional councils.

(iii) Serve as the USDA contact with the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations for implementation of OMB Circular A-85 to provide advance notification to state and local governments of proposed changes in Department programs that affect such governments.

(iv) Act as the department representative for Federal executive board matters.

(v) Oversee the Center for Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

(b) [Reserved]

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 68 FR 27439, May 20, 2003; 69 FR 34252, June 21, 2004; 80 FR 58337, Sept. 29, 2015; 88 FR 70579, Oct. 12, 2023]

§ 2.24 Assistant Secretary for Administration.

(a) The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Assistant Secretary for Administration:

(1)–(3) [Reserved]

(4) *Related to human resources management.* (i) Formulate and issue Department policy, standards, rules, and regulations relating to human resources management.

(ii) Provide human resources management procedural guidance and operational instructions.

(iii) Set standards for human resources data systems.

(iv) Inspect and evaluate human resources management operations and issue instructions or take direct action to insure conformity with appropriate laws, Executive Orders, Office of Personnel Management (OPM) rules and regulations, and other appropriate rules and regulations.

(v) Exercise final authority in all human resources matters, including individual cases, that involve the jurisdiction of more than one General Officer or agency head, or otherwise as deemed appropriate.

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(vi) Receive, review, and recommend action on all requests for the Secretary's approval in human resources matters.

(vii) Authorize and make final decisions on adverse actions, except in those cases where the Assistant Secretary for Administration has participated.

(viii) Represent the Department in human resources matters in all contacts outside the Department.

(ix) Exercise specific authorities in the following operational matters:

(A) Waive repayment of training expenses where an employee fails to fulfill service agreement.

(B) Establish or change standards and plans for awards to private citizens.

(C) Execute, change, extend, or renew:

(1) Labor-Management Agreements.

(2) Certifications of supervisory/managerial and non-labor union employee and professional organizations or associations.

(D) Represent the Department in contacts with the national offices of labor organizations in fulfilling the Department's national consultation obligations under 5 U.S.C. 7113.

(E) Change a position (with no material change in duties) from one pay system to another.

(F) Grant restoration rights, and release employees with administrative reemployment rights.

(G) Authorize any mass dismissals of employees in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area.

(H) Approve "normal line of promotion" cases in the excepted service where not in accordance with time-in-grade criteria.

(I) Make the final decision on all classification appeals filed with the Department of Agriculture.

(J) Authorize all employment actions (except nondisciplinary separations and LWOP) and classification actions for senior level and equivalent positions including Senior Executive Service positions and special authority professional and scientific positions responsible for carrying out research and development functions.

(K) Authorize all employment actions (except LWOP) for the following positions:

(1) Schedule C.

(2) Non-career Senior Executive Service or equivalent.

(3) Administrative Law Judge.

(L) Authorize and make final decisions on adverse actions for positions in GS-1-15 or equivalent.

(M) Authorize and make final decisions on adverse actions for positions in the career Senior Executive Service or equivalent.

(N) Approve the details of Department employees to the White House.

(O) Authorize adverse actions based in whole or in part on an allegation of violation of 5 U.S.C. chapter 73, subchapter III, for employees in the excepted service.

(P) Authorize long-term training in programs which require Department-wide competition.

(Q) Initiate and take adverse action in cases involving a violation of the merit system.

(R) Any other human resources operational matter.

(x) As used in this section, the term human resources includes:

(A) Position management.

(B) Position classification.

(C) Employment.

(D) Pay administration.

(E) Automation of human resources data and systems.

(F) Hours of duty.

(G) Performance management.

(H) Promotions.

(I) Employee development.

(J) Incentive Programs.

(K) Leave.

(L) Retirement.

(M) Human resources program management accountability and evaluation.

(N) Social security.

(O) Life insurance.

(P) Health benefits.

(Q) Unemployment compensation.

(R) Labor management relations.

(S) Intramanagement consultation.

(T) [Reserved]

(U) Discipline.

(V) Appeals.

(W) Drug Testing Program.

(X) Worklife Program.

(Y) Transit Subsidy Program.

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(xi) Maintain, review, and update Departmental delegations of authority.

(xii) Authorize organizational changes.

(xiii) Formulate and promulgate departmental organizational objectives and policies.

(xiv) Approve coverage and waiver of individual law enforcement and firefighter positions under the special retirement provisions of the Civil Service Retirement System and the Federal Employees Retirement System.

(xv) Provide for diversity and inclusion, as follows:

(A) Establish, direct, and provide policy and oversight for a Department-wide Special Emphasis Program (SEP) including: Women, African Americans, Hispanics, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, Disabled, and Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender.

(B) Provide oversight and support for Departmental SEP recognition programs.

(C) Direct and oversee the Department-wide SEPM Council.

(D) Administer Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program.

(xvi) Oversee and manage the Department's administrative grievance program.

(xvii) Make final decisions in those cases where an agency head has appealed the recommended decision of a grievance examiner.

(xviii) Administer the administrative appeals process related to the inclusion of positions in the testing designated position listing in the Department's Drug-Free Workplace Program and designate the final appeal officer for that Program.

(xix) Formulate and issue Department policy, standards, rules, and regulations relating to the Senior Scientific Research Service (7 U.S.C. 7657).

(xx) Provide human resources operational services for the following:

(A) The Secretary of Agriculture.

(B) The general officers of the Department.

(C) The offices and agencies reporting to the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

(D) The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

(E) Any other offices or agencies of the Department as may be agreed.

(xxi) Redelegate, as appropriate, any authority delegated under paragraphs (a)(4)(i) through (a)(4)(xx) to general officers of the Department and heads of Departmental agencies.

(xxii) Exercise the authority to non-competitively convert to an appointment in the competitive service a recent graduate or student who is a United States citizen and has been awarded and successfully completed a scholarship program granted to the individual by the Department through the 1890 National Scholars Program or the 1994 Tribal Scholars Program, provided the individual meets the requirements for such conversion and meets Office of Personnel Management qualification standards, as determined by the Assistant Secretary for Administration (7 U.S.C. 2279j).

(5) *Related to small and disadvantaged business utilization.* Provide general administrative support to the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, consistent with the other delegations of authority to the Assistant Secretary for Administration in this section.

(6) *Related to procurement and property management.* (i) Exercise full Departmentwide contracting and procurement authority.

(ii) Promulgate policies, standards, techniques, and procedures, and represent the Department, in the following:

(A) Acquisition, including, but not limited to, the procurement of supplies, services, equipment, and construction.

(B) Socioeconomic programs relating to contracting.

(C) Selection, standardization, and simplification of program delivery processes utilizing contracts.

(D) Acquisition, leasing, utilization, value analysis, construction, maintenance, and disposition of real and personal property, including control of space assignments.

(E) Motor vehicle and aircraft fleet and other vehicular transportation.

(F) Transportation of things (traffic management).

(G) Prevention, control, and abatement of pollution with respect to Federal facilities and activities under the control of the Department (Executive

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Order 12088, "Federal Compliance With Pollution Control Standards," 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243).

(H) Implementation of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4601, *et seq.*).

(I) Development and implementation of sustainable operations actions including establishing and achieving greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, reducing energy intensity, increasing renewable energy use, increasing water efficiency, reducing petroleum use and increasing alternative fuel use, increasing recycling and waste diversion, preventing pollution, reducing use of toxic chemicals, procuring sustainable products and services, achieving sustainable principles for new and existing buildings, promoting electronic stewardship, and continuing environmental management system use. Maintain liaison with the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Department of Energy, and other Government agencies in these matters.

(J)–(K) [Reserved]

(L) Implementation of the policies and procedures set forth in OMB Circular No. A-76, Performance of Commercial Activities.

(iii) Exercise the following special authorities:

(A) Designate the Departmental Debarring Officer to perform the functions of 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4 related to procurement activities, except for commodity acquisitions on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (7 CFR part 1407); with authority to re-delegate suspension and debarment authority for contracts awarded under the School Lunch and Surplus Removal Programs (42 U.S.C. 1755 and 7 U.S.C. 612c).

(B) Conduct liaison with the Office of the Federal Register (1 CFR part 16) including the making of required certifications pursuant to 1 CFR part 18.

(C) Maintain custody and permit appropriate use of the official seal of the Department.

(D) Establish policy for the use of the official flags of the Secretary and the Department.

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(E) Coordinate collection and disposition of personal property of historical significance.

(F) Make information returns to the Internal Revenue Service as prescribed by 26 U.S.C. 6050M and by 26 CFR 1.6050M-1 and such other Treasury regulations, guidelines or procedures as may be issued by the Internal Revenue Service in accordance with 26 U.S.C. 6050M. This includes making such verifications or certifications as may be required by 26 CFR 1.6050M-1 and making the election allowed by 26 CFR 1.6050M-1(d)(5)(1).

(G) Promulgate regulations for the management of contracting and procurement for information technology and telecommunication equipment, software, services, maintenance and related supplies.

(H) Represent the Department in working with the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the General Services Administration, OMB, and other organizations or agencies on matters related to assigned responsibilities.

(I) Serve as the designated Chief Acquisition Officer for the Department pursuant to section 1702 of title 41, United States Code.

(iv) Serve as the Acquisition Executive in the Department to integrate and unify the management process for the Department's major system acquisitions and to monitor implementation of the policies and practices set forth in OMB Circular No. A-109, Major Systems Acquisitions. This includes the authority to:

(A) Ensure that OMB Circular No. A-109 is effectively implemented in the Department and that the management objectives of the Circular are realized.

(B) Review the program management of each major system acquisition.

(C) Designate the program manager for each major systems acquisition.

(D) Designate any Departmental acquisition as a major system acquisition under OMB Circular No. A-109.

(v) Pursuant to Executive Order 12931, "Federal Procurement Reform," 3 CFR, 1994 Comp., p. 925, and sections 16, 22, and 37 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act, as amended, 41 U.S.C. 414, 418b, and 433, designate the Senior Procurement Executive for

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the Department and delegate responsibility for the following:

(A) Prescribing and publishing Departmental acquisition policies, advisories, regulations, and procedures.

(B) Taking any necessary actions consistent with policies, regulations, and procedures with respect to purchases, contracts, leases, agreements, and other transactions.

(C) Designating contracting officers.

(D) Establishing clear lines and limitations of contracting authority through written delegations of authority.

(E) Approving any Departmental and component agency procurement systems and processes.

(F) Managing and enhancing career development of the Department's acquisition workforce.

(G) Participating in the development of Governmentwide procurement policies, regulations, and standards, and determining specific areas where Governmentwide performance standards should be established and applied.

(H) Developing unique Departmental standards as required.

(I) Overseeing the development of procurement goals, guidelines, and innovation.

(J) Measuring and evaluating procurement office performance against stated goals.

(K) Advising the Secretary whether goals are being achieved.

(L) Prescribing standards for agency Procurement Executives.

(M) Redelegating, suspending, or revoking, as appropriate, the authority in paragraph (a)(6)(v)(A) of this section to agency Procurement Executives or other qualified agency officials with no power of further redelegation.

(N) Redelegating, suspending, or revoking, as appropriate, the authorities in paragraphs (a)(6)(v)(B), (C), (D), (F), and (G) of this section to agency Procurement Executives or other qualified agency officials with the power of further redelegation.

(vi) Represent the Department in establishing standards for acquisition transactions within the electronic data interchange environment.

(vii) Designate the Departmental Task Order Ombudsman pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 253j.

(viii) Designate the Departmental Remedy Coordination Official pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 255 to determine whether payment to any contractor should be reduced or suspended based on substantial evidence that the request of the contractor for advance, partial, or progress payment is based on fraud.

(ix) Review and approve exemptions for USDA contracts, subcontracts, grants, agreements, and loans from the requirements of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401, *et seq.*), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251, *et seq.*), and Executive Order 11738, "Providing for Administration of the Clean Air Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act With Respect to Federal Contracts, Grants, or Loans," 3 CFR, 1971-1975 Comp., p. 799, when he or she determines that the paramount interest of the United States so requires as provided in these acts and Executive Order and the regulations of the EPA (2 CFR 1532.1140).

(x) Transfer excess research equipment to eligible educational institutions or certain non-profit organizations for the conduct of technical and scientific education and research activities under section 11(i) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710(i)) (7 CFR part 2812).

(xi) Promulgate policy and obtain and furnish Federal excess personal property in accordance with section 923 of Public Law 104-127 (7 U.S.C. 2206a), to support research, educational, technical and scientific activities or for related programs, to:

(A) Any 1994 Institutions (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note)).

(B) Any Institutions eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321, *et seq.*) including Tuskegee University.

(C) Any Hispanic-serving Institutions (as defined in sections 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)).

(xii) Make available to organizations excess or surplus computers or other technical equipment of the Department

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for the purpose of distribution to cities, towns, or local government entities in rural areas (7 U.S.C. 2206b).

(xiii) Issue regulations and directives to implement or supplement the Federal Acquisition Regulations (48 CFR Chapters 1 and 4).

(xiv) Issue regulations and directives to implement or supplement the Federal Property Management Regulations (41 CFR chapter 101) and the Federal Management Regulation (41 CFR chapter 102).

(xv) Serve as USDA Senior Sustainability Officer under Executive Order 13514, "Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance" (74 FR 52117, Oct. 8, 2009) responsible for developing and achieving greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, developing and implementing a Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan, achieving sustainable practice goals in Executive Order 13423, "Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management," 3 CFR, 2007 Comp., p. 191, and reporting USDA's progress to OMB and the Council on Environmental Quality.

(xvi) Pursuant to the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (Act), as amended (41 U.S.C. 401, *et seq.*), designate the Department's Advocate for Competition with the responsibility for section 20 of the Act (41 U.S.C. 418), including:

(A) Reviewing the procurement activities of the Department.

(B) Developing new initiatives to increase full and open competition.

(C) Developing goals and plans and recommending actions to increase competition.

(D) Challenging conditions unnecessarily restricting competition in the acquisition of supplies and services.

(E) Promoting the acquisition of commercial items.

(F) Designating an Advocate for Competition for each procuring activity within the Department.

(xvii) *Related to compliance with environmental laws and sustainable operating requirements.* (A) Serve as Chair of the USDA Sustainable Operations Council.

(B) Represent USDA in consulting or working with the EPA, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Domestic

Policy Council, and others to develop policies relating to hazardous materials management and Federal facilities compliance with applicable pollution control laws.

(C) Monitor, review, evaluate, and oversee hazardous materials management program activities and compliance Department-wide.

(D) Monitor, review, evaluate, and oversee USDA agency expenditures for hazardous materials management program accomplishments.

(E) Represent USDA on the National Response Team and exercise responsibility for USDA response efforts for hazardous substance releases and oil spills pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601, *et seq.*); the Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251, *et seq.*); Oil Pollution Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 2701, *et seq.*); Executive Order 12580, "Superfund Implementation," 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193; Executive Order 12777, "Implementation of section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of October 18, 1972, as amended, and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990," 3 CFR, 1991 Comp., p. 351, and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan, 40 CFR Part 300.

(F) Approve disbursements from the New World Mine Response and Restoration Account, approve the New World Mine Response and Restoration Plan, and make quarterly reports to Congress under Sections 502(d) and (f) of Title V of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1998, Public Law 105-83.

(G) Ensure that the Hazardous Materials Management Program Department-wide is accomplished with regard to, and in compliance with, Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," 3 CFR, 1994 Comp. p. 859.

(H) Take such action as may be necessary, with the affected agency head and with the concurrence of the General Counsel, including issuance of administrative orders and agreements with any person to perform any response action under sections 106(a) and 122 (except subsection (b)(1)) of the

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Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9606(a), 9622), pursuant to sections 4(c)(3) and 4(d)(3) of Executive Order 12580, "Superfund Implementation," 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, as amended by Executive Order 13016, "Amendment to Executive Order No. 12580," 3 CFR, 1996 Comp., p. 214.

(I) Represent USDA on the EPA Brownfields Federal Partnership and coordinate USDA support for Brownfields redevelopment and establish policy and guidance for the implementation of the June 2003 amendment to Executive Order 12580, "Superfund Implementation," 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193 (Executive Order 13308, "Further Amendment to Executive Order 12580, As Amended, Superfund Implementation," 3 CFR, 2003 Comp., p. 239).

(xviii) *Related to occupational safety and health.* (A) Establish Department-wide safety and health policy and provide leadership in the development, coordination, and implementation of related standards, techniques, and procedures, and represent the Department in complying with laws, Executive Orders and other policy and procedural issuances related to occupational safety and health and workers' compensation programs within the Department.

(B) Represent the Department in all rulemaking, advisory, or legislative capacities on any groups, committees, or Governmentwide activities that affect the Department's Occupational Safety and Health Management Program; and serve as the USDA Designated Safety and Health Official.

(C) Determine and provide Departmentwide technical services and regional staff support for the safety and health programs.

(D) Administer the computerized management information systems for the collection, processing and dissemination of data related to the Department's occupational safety and health programs.

(E) Administer the Department's Occupational Health and Preventive Medicine Program, as well as design and operate employee assistance and workers' compensation activities.

(F) Provide education and training on a Departmentwide basis for safety

and health-related issues and develop resource and operational manuals.

(xix) In coordination with the Chief Financial Officer, implement the debarment authorities in section 14211 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2009j), in connection with procurement activities.

(xx) Provide services, including procurement of supplies, services, and equipment, with authority to take actions required by law or regulation to perform such services for:

(A) The Secretary of Agriculture.

(B) The general officers of the Department, except the Inspector General.

(C) Any other offices or agencies of the Department as may be agreed, including as a Working Capital Fund activity.

(7) [Reserved]

(8) *Related to homeland security.* (i) Serve as the principal advisor to the Secretary on national security, including emergency management, agriculture and food defense, and foreign investments in U.S. agriculture.

(ii) Coordinate activities of the Department, including policies, processes, budget needs, and oversight relating to national security, including emergency management, biodefense, agriculture and food defense, and foreign investments in U.S. agriculture.

(iii) Act as the primary liaison on behalf of the Department with other Federal departments and agencies in activities relating to national security, including emergency management, integrated laboratory networks, agriculture and food defense, foreign investments in U.S. agriculture, national intelligence collection priorities, and interagency coordination and data sharing.

(iv) Coordinate in the Department the gathering of information relevant to early warning and awareness of threats and risks to the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector; and share that information with, and provide assistance with interpretation and risk characterization of that information to, the intelligence community (as defined in 5 U.S.C. 3003), law enforcement agencies, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Health and

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Human Services, and State fusion centers (as defined in section 210A(j) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h(j)).

(v) Establish and maintain an effective defensive Counterintelligence Program to counter Foreign Intelligence Entity (FIE) threats to Departmental sensitive information and assets that includes identification and risk assessment to sensitive assets, development and implementation of mitigation strategies, integration of counter-FIE efforts across the Department, sharing of threat information and warnings, and promotion of counterintelligence training awareness.

(vi) Liaise with the Intelligence Community to assist in the development of periodic assessments and intelligence estimates, or other intelligence products, that support the defense of the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector and risks associated with foreign investments in U.S. agriculture.

(vii) Coordinate the conduct, evaluation, and improvement of exercises to identify and eliminate gaps in preparedness and response.

(viii) Produce a Department-wide centralized strategic coordination plan to provide a high-level perspective of the operations of the Department relating to homeland and national security, including emergency management and agriculture and food defense.

(ix) Establish and carry out an interagency Agriculture and Food Threat Awareness Partnership Program, including by entering into cooperative agreements or contracts with Federal, State, or local authorities (7 U.S.C. 6922).

(x) Administer the Department's Emergency Preparedness Program. This includes:

(A) Coordinate the delegations and assignments made to the Department under the Defense Production Act of 1950, 50 U.S.C. App. 2061, *et seq.*; the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121, *et seq.*; and by Executive Orders 12148, "Federal Emergency Management" (3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 412), 12656, "Assignment of Emergency Preparedness Responsibilities" (3 CFR, 1988 Comp., p. 585), and 13603, "National De-

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fense Resources Preparedness" (3 CFR, 2012 Comp., p. 225), or any successor to these Executive Orders, to ensure that the Department has sufficient capabilities to respond to any occurrence, including natural disaster, military attack, technological emergency, or any all hazards incident.

(B) Manage the Department Emergency Operations Center at Headquarters and the Secretary's alternative facilities; provide senior staff with international, national, and regional situational awareness reports; and provide and maintain current information systems technology and National Security Systems to support USDA executive crisis management capability.

(C) Provide facilities and equipment to facilitate inter-agency coordination during emergencies.

(D) Activate the USDA incident management system in accordance with the National Response Framework and the National Incident Management System in the event of a major incident; and provide oversight and coordination of the Department's Emergency Support Functions as outlined in the National Response Framework.

(E) Develop and promulgate policies for the Department regarding emergency preparedness and national security, including matters relating to anti-terrorism and agriculture-related emergency preparedness planning, both national and international, and guidance to USDA State and County Emergency Boards.

(F) [Reserved]

(G) Provide representation and liaison for the Department in contacts with other Federal entities and organizations, including the National Security Council's functional directorates, Homeland Security Council, Office of Management and Budget, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Department of State, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Department of Defense concerning matters of a national security, multilateral weapons conventions, natural disasters, other emergencies, and agriculture/food-related international civil emergency planning and related activities.

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(H) Act as the primary USDA representative for anti-terrorism activities and coordinates and oversees USDA's agroterrorism defense activities and programs.

(I) [Reserved]

(J) Provide guidance and direction regarding radiological emergency preparedness programs and the implementation of the National Response Framework's Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex to Departmental staff offices, mission areas, and agencies.

(K) Provide program leadership and coordination for USDA's radiological emergency preparedness requirements with respect to Emergency Management and Assistance (44 CFR parts 350 through 352).

(L) Represent USDA on the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) and Regional Assistance Committees (RACs) and assist them in carrying out their functions.

(M) Support USDA in its management of the Department's emergency response program with respect to radiological emergency response activities.

(N) [Reserved]

(xi) [Reserved]

(xii) Serve as the primary point of contact for Government Accountability Office (GAO) and Office of the Inspector General (OIG) audits of USDA homeland and national security activities.

(xiii) Coordinate interaction between Department agencies and private sector businesses and industries in emergency planning and public education under Department authorities delegated or assigned under the National Response Framework, National Infrastructure Protection Plan, Defense Production Act of 1950, 50 U.S.C. App. 2061, *et seq.*, and Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121, *et seq.*

(xiv) Oversee the Department's ability to collect and disseminate information and prepare for an agricultural disease emergency, agroterrorism act, or other threat to agricultural biosecurity, and coordinate such activities among agencies and offices within the Department (7 U.S.C. 8912).

(xv) Promulgate Departmental policies, standards, techniques, and proce-

dures and represent the Department in providing security guidance to the Food and Agricultural Sector nationwide. This includes the following duties:

(A) Provide guidance to USDA agencies and the Food and Agricultural Sector in matters of security through use of assessments and development of mitigation strategies.

(B) Represent and act as liaison for the Department in contacts with other Federal security entities and organizations, including the Interagency Security Committee and the Department of Homeland Security.

(C) Provide guidance and direction to ensure agriculture/food security are fully integrated in USDA's security preparations, which are reported to and coordinated with the White House.

(D) Provide assistance to the USDA agencies in preparation for and during a disaster to identify critical assets and possible alternate storage locations.

(xvi) Provide oversight and coordination of the development and administration of the Department Continuity Program. This includes:

(A) Provide guidance and direction regarding continuity of operations to the Office of the Secretary, Departmental staff offices, mission areas, and agencies.

(B) Represent and act as liaison for the Department in contacts with other Federal entities and organizations concerning matters of assigned continuity program responsibilities.

(C) Oversee Department continuity of operations and emergency relocation facility planning, development, equipping, and preparedness to ensure that resources are in a constant state of readiness.

(xvii) Establish procedures to prevent unnecessary access to classified national security information (CNSI) including procedures that require that need for access to CNSI is established before initiating security clearance procedures; and ensure that the number of persons granted access CNSI is limited to the minimum consistent with operational and security requirements:

(A) Direct and administer USDA's CNSI program pursuant to E.O. 13526,

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“Classified National Security Information” (75 FR 707, 3 CFR, 2010 Comp., p. 298), or subsequent orders.

(B) Establish and maintain Information Security policies and procedures for classifying, declassifying, safeguarding, and disposing of CNSI and materials.

(C) Investigate or delegate authority to investigate any potential compromises of CNSI and take corrective action for violations or infractions under section 5.5(b), of E.O. 13526 or any subsequent order.

(D) Develop and maintain oversight of all facilities throughout USDA where CNSI is or will be safeguarded, discussed, or processed including sole authority to liaison with the Central Intelligence Agency concerning guidance, approval, requirements, and oversight of USDA secure facilities.

(xviii) Control within USDA the acquisition, use, and disposal of material and equipment that can be a source of ionizing radiation.

(A) Promulgate policies and procedures for ensuring the safety of USDA employees, the public, and the environment resulting from USDA's use of ionizing radiation sources.

(B) Maintain and ensure compliance with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations (Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations) and license(s) issued to USDA for the acquisition, use, and disposal of radioactive materials.

(xix) Provide administrative supervision to the unit that grants, denies, or revokes security clearances for USDA employees and contractors.

(9) *Related to operations support to the Department of Agriculture headquarters complex, George Washington Carver Center, and leased facilities in the Washington metro area.* (i) Provide services relating to facilities management and daily operational support for agencies and offices occupying USDA's headquarters complex, George Washington Carver Center, and, in coordination with the General Services Administration (GSA), USDA leased facilities in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, as well as at emergency relocation sites and certain critical facilities specified by the Assistant Secretary for Administration in the following areas:

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(A) Acquiring, leasing, utilizing, constructing, maintaining, and disposing of real property, including control of space assignments, and architecture and engineering design oversight.

(B) Sustainable Operations leadership and management in the areas of internal energy efficiency, conservation and recycling in support of Executive Orders 13423, “Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management,” 3 CFR, 2007 Comp., p. 193, and 13514, “Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance” (74 FR 52117, Oct. 8, 2009).

(C) Occupational health, safety, and related functions; and environmental compliance pursuant to Executive Order 12088, “Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards,” 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243, to ensure actions are taken for the prevention, control, and abatement of environmental pollution.

(ii) Provide centralized Departmental business services including:

(A) Printing, copy reproducing, offset composing, mail management and delivery, and automated mailing lists.

(B) USDA Nationwide mail management policy.

(C) Operation of a disability resource center for all USDA agencies in the Washington, DC metropolitan area and nationwide in the areas of accessible technologies and reasonable accommodations.

(D) General supplies, shipping and receiving, warehouse and labor services.

(E) Operation of a USDA Consolidated Forms and Publications Distribution Center for storage and nationwide distribution of USDA program forms and publications.

(F) Excess personal property operations with disposition responsibility for all USDA agencies in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

(G) Operation of a GSA authorized Federal excess property Sales Center for USDA property and other government agencies in the Washington, DC metropolitan area via Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

(iii) [Reserved]

(iv) Provide management and oversight of the Secretary's People's Garden initiative and the USDA Visitor's

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Center for education and outreach to USDA and the public.

(v) Represent the Department in contacts with other organizations or agencies on matters related to assigned responsibilities.

(vi) Provide services, including travel support, conference management, and general administrative support including coordination of office renovations and moves (within USDA Whitten Building), with authority to take actions required by law or regulation to perform such services for:

(A) The Secretary of Agriculture.

(B) The general officers of the Department, except the Inspector General.

(C) The offices and agencies reporting to the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

(D) The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

(E) Any other offices or agencies of the Department as may be agreed.

(vii) Prepare responses to requests under the Freedom of Information Act with authority to take actions as required by law or regulation for the office and agencies reporting to the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

(viii) Administer the records management program in support of Departmental Administration, and prepare and coordinate responses to management audits by the Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office, with authority to take actions as required by law or regulation for the offices and agencies reporting to the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

(10) [Reserved]

(11) *Related to safety, security, and protection.* (i) Promulgate Departmental policies, standards, techniques, and procedures; and represent the Department in maintaining the security of physical facilities and providing security guidance to the Food and Agricultural Sector nationwide. This includes the following activities:

(A) Lead and coordinate the development and maintenance of a mission critical facility inventory with agency involvement to ensure proper security countermeasures are implemented in the Department's most critical infrastructure.

(B) Provide guidance to USDA agencies in matters of physical security through use of physical security assessments and development of mitigation strategies.

(C) Conduct physical security investigations and compliance reviews Department-wide.

(D) Review and provide coordinated technical physical security assessments for all new construction of laboratories, data centers, germplasm repositories, and other mission critical infrastructure during the design phase, and all leased facilities prior to contract award.

(E) Oversee and manage physical security aspects of the Common Identification Card (LincPass) Program to ensure National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and General Services Administration (GSA) compliancy within the National Capital Region and the physical access to USDA facilities.

(F) Provide enterprise connectivity to agency physical access control systems that provide cost leveraging and provisioning/de-provisioning nationwide.

(ii) Promulgate Departmental regulations, standards, techniques, and procedures and represent the Department in managing and maintaining a comprehensive physical and technical security program including access control, management of special police officer and guard services, executive driving, parking, ID badging in accordance with HSPD-12, occupant emergency and warden services at the USDA Headquarters Complex, George Washington Carver Center and, in coordination with GSA, USDA leased facilities in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, as well as at emergency relocation sites and certain critical facilities specified by the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

(iii) Carry out protection operations for the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and other individuals as specified in Section 12520 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, including by authorizing law enforcement officers or special agents to carry firearms; conduct criminal investigations into potential threats to the security of individuals protected under Section 12520;

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make arrests without a warrant for any offense against the United States committed in the presence of the law enforcement officer or special agent; perform protective intelligence work, including identifying and mitigating potential threats and conducting advance work to review security matters relating to sites and events; and coordinate with local law enforcement authorities (7 U.S.C. 2279k).

(12) *Related to Office of Administrative Law Judges.* (i) Assign, after appropriate consultation with other general officers, to the Office of Administrative Law Judges proceedings not subject to 5 U.S.C. 556 and 557, involving the holdings of hearings and performance of related duties pursuant to the applicable rules of practice, when the Assistant Secretary for Administration determines that because of the nature of the proceeding it would be desirable for the proceeding to be presided over by an Administrative Law Judge and that such duties and responsibilities would not be inconsistent with those of an Administrative Law Judge.

(ii) Provide administrative supervision of the Office of Administrative Law Judges.

(iii) Maintain overall responsibility and control over the Hearing Clerk's activities which include the custody of and responsibility for the control, maintenance, and servicing of the original and permanent records of all USDA administrative proceedings conducted under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 556 and 557:

(A) Receiving, filing and acknowledging the receipt of complaints, petitions, answers, briefs, arguments, and all other documents that may be submitted to the Secretary or the Department of Agriculture in such proceedings.

(B) Receiving and filing complaints, notices of inquiry, orders to show cause, notices of hearing, designations of Administrative Law Judges or presiding officers, answers, briefs, arguments, orders, and all other documents that may be promulgated or issued by the Secretary or other duly authorized officials of the Department of Agriculture in such proceedings.

(C) Supervising the service upon the parties concerned of any documents

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that are required to be served, and where required, preserving proof of service.

(D) Keeping a docket record of all such documents and proceedings.

(E) Filing a stenographic record of each administrative hearing where a transcript is required.

(F) Preparing for certification and certifying under the Secretary's facsimile signature, material on file in the Hearing Clerk's office.

(G) Performing any other clerical duties with respect to the documents relative to such proceedings as may be required to be performed.

(H) Cooperating with the Office of Operations in the letting of contracts for stenographic and reporting services; and forwarding vouchers to appropriate agencies for payment.

(I) Receiving and compiling data, views or comments filed in response to notices of proposed standards or rules or regulations.

(J) Performing upon request the following services with respect to any hearings in such proceedings:

(1) Arranging for suitable hearing place.

(2) Arranging for stenographic reporting of hearings and handling details in connection therewith.

(13) *Other general.* (i) Carry out prize competition authorities in section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) related to functions otherwise delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Administration, except for authorities delegated to the Chief Financial Officer in § 2.28(a)(29) and authorities reserved to the Secretary in paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(ii) Provide Departmentwide coordination for efforts to improve customer service.

(b) The following authorities are reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture:

(1) *Related to financial systems and budget formulation and execution.*

(i) Final approval of the Department's program and financial plans.

(ii) [Reserved]

(2) *Related to human resources management.* Make final determinations in the following areas:

(i) Separation of employees for security reasons.

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(ii) Restoration to duty of employees following suspension from duty for security reasons.

(iii) Reinstatement or restoration to duty or the employment of any person separated for security reasons.

(iv) Issuance of temporary certificates to occupy sensitive positions.

(3) *Other general.* (i) Approval of prize competitions that may result in the award of more than \$1,000,000 in cash prizes under section 24(m)(4)(B) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719(m)(4)(B)).

(ii) [Reserved]

[75 FR 43368, July 23, 2010, as amended at 77 FR 14951, 14952, Mar. 14, 2012; 78 FR 40937, July 9, 2013; 79 FR 44109, July 30, 2014; 80 FR 58337, Sept. 29, 2015; 83 FR 61311, Nov. 29, 2018; 85 FR 65510, Oct. 15, 2020; 87 FR 44267, July 26, 2022; 88 FR 70579, Oct. 12, 2023]

§2.25 Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

(a) The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights:

(1) Provide overall leadership, coordination, and direction for the Department's programs of civil rights, including program delivery, compliance, and equal employment opportunity, with emphasis on the following:

(i) Actions to enforce Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d, prohibiting discrimination in federally assisted programs.

(ii) Actions to enforce Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000e, prohibiting discrimination in Federal employment.

(iii) Actions to enforce Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. 1681, *et seq.*, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in USDA education programs and activities funded by the Department.

(iv) Actions to enforce the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. 6102, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in USDA programs and activities funded by the Department.

(v) Actions to enforce section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 794, prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities in USDA programs and ac-

tivities funded or conducted by the Department.

(vi) Actions to enforce related Executive Orders, Congressional mandates, and other laws, rules, and regulations, as appropriate.

(2) Evaluate Departmental agency programs, activities, and impact statements for civil rights concerns.

(3) Analyze and evaluate program participation data and equal employment opportunity data, and make its analyses available to other appropriate Departmental entities, including the Office of Advocacy and Outreach and affected agencies and mission areas.

(4) Provide leadership and coordinate the Department-wide programs of public notification regarding the availability of USDA programs and employment opportunities on a nondiscriminatory basis.

(5) Coordinate with the Department of Justice on matters relating to title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d), title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681, *et seq.*), and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794), except those matters in litigation, including administrative enforcement actions, which shall be coordinated by the Office of General Counsel.

(6) Coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services on matters relating to the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. 6102, except those matters in litigation, including administrative enforcement actions, which shall be coordinated by the Office of General Counsel.

(7) Order proceedings and hearings in the Department pursuant to §§15.9(e) and 15.86 of this title, which concern consolidated or joint hearings within the Department or with other Federal departments and agencies.

(8) Order proceedings and hearings in the Department pursuant to §15.8 of this title after the program agency has advised the applicant or recipient of his or her failure to comply and has determined that compliance cannot be secured by voluntary means.

(9) Issue orders to give a notice of hearing or the opportunity to request a hearing pursuant to part 15 of this title; arrange for the designation of an Administrative Law Judge to preside

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over any such hearing; and determine whether the Administrative Law Judge so designated will make an initial decision or certify the record to the Secretary with his or her recommended findings and proposed action.

(10) Authorize the taking of action pursuant to § 15.8(a) of this title relating to compliance by "other means authorized by law."

(11) Make determinations required by § 15.8(d) of this title that compliance cannot be secured by voluntary means, and then take action, as appropriate.

(12) Make determinations that program complaint investigations performed under § 15.6 of this title establish a proper basis for findings of discrimination and that actions taken to correct such findings are adequate.

(13) Investigate (or make determinations that program complaint investigations establish a proper basis for final determinations), make final determinations on both the merits and required corrective action, and, where applicable, make recommendations to the Secretary that relief be granted under 7 U.S.C. 6998(d) notwithstanding the finality of National Appeals Division decisions, as to complaints filed under parts 15a, 15b, and 15d of this title.

(14) Conduct civil rights investigations and compliance reviews Department-wide.

(15) Develop regulations, plans, and procedures necessary to carry out the Department's civil rights programs, including the development, implementation, and coordination of Action Plans.

(16) Related to Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO). Is designated as the Department's Director of Equal Employment Opportunity with authority:

(i) To perform the functions and responsibilities of that position under 29 CFR part 1614, including the authority:

(A) To make changes in programs and procedures designed to eliminate discriminatory practices and improve the Department's EEO program.

(B) To provide EEO services for managers and employees.

(C) To make final agency decisions, or enter into settlement agreements on EEO complaints by Department employees or applicants for employment

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and order such corrective measures in response to such complaints as may be considered necessary, except that in qualifying cases as described in § 2.31(a)(18) the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights must first obtain legal sufficiency review and concurrence by the General Counsel before extending settlement offers or entering into settlement agreements. Corrective measures may include recommending to the Office of Human Resources Management and the affected agency or office that appropriate disciplinary action be taken when an employee has been found to have engaged in a discriminatory practice.

(ii) Administer the Department's EEO program.

(iii) Oversee and manage the EEO counseling function for the Department.

(iv) Process formal EEO complaints by employees or applicants for employment.

(v) Investigate Department EEO complaints and make final decisions on EEO complaints, except in those cases where the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (or a person directly supervised by the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights) has participated in the events that gave rise to the matter.

(vi) Order such corrective measures in EEO complaints as may be considered necessary. Corrective measures may include recommending to the Office of Human Resources Management and the affected agency or office that appropriate disciplinary action be taken when an employee has been found to have engaged in a discriminatory practice.

(vii) Provide liaison on EEO matters concerning complaints and appeals with the Department agencies and Department employees.

(viii) Conduct EEO evaluations and develop policy regarding EEO programs.

(ix) Provide liaison on EEO programs and activities with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Office of Personnel Management.

(17) Administer the discrimination appeals and complaints program for the Department, including all formal individual or group appeals, where the

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system provides for an avenue of redress to the Department level, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or other outside authority, and provide timely notice of such appeals to the Office of General Counsel and the Civil Rights Director of the affected agency.

(18) Make final determinations, or enter into settlement agreements, on discrimination complaints in federally conducted programs subject to the Equal Credit Opportunity Act. This delegation includes the authority to make compensatory damage awards whether pursuant to a final determination or in a settlement agreement under the authority of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the authority to obligate agency funds, including Commodity Credit Corporation and Federal Crop Insurance Corporation funds to satisfy such an award.

(19) Make final determinations in proceedings under part 15f of this title where review of an administrative law judge decision is undertaken.

(20) Provide civil rights and equal employment opportunity support services, with authority to take actions required by law or regulation to perform such services for:

- (i) The Secretary of Agriculture.
- (ii) The general officers of the Department.
- (iii) The offices and agencies reporting to the Assistant Secretary for Administration.
- (iv) Any other offices or agencies of the Department as may be agreed.

(21) *Related to Alternative Dispute Resolution.*

(i) Designate the senior official to serve as the Department Dispute Resolution Specialist pursuant to section 3 of the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act, Public Law 101-552, as amended (5 U.S.C. 571 note), and provide leadership, direction, and coordination for the Department's conflict prevention and resolution activities.

(ii) Issue Departmental regulations, policies, and procedures relating to the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to resolve employment complaints and grievances, workplace disputes, program complaints alleging civil rights violations, and contract and procurement disputes.

(iii) Provide ADR services for:

- (A) The Secretary of Agriculture.
- (B) The general officers of the Department.

- (C) The offices and agencies reporting to the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

- (D) Any other office or agency of the Department as may be agreed.

- (iv) Develop and issue standards for mediators and other ADR neutrals utilized by the Department.

- (v) Coordinate ADR activities throughout the Department.

- (vi) Monitor agency ADR programs and report at least annually to the Secretary on the Department's ADR activities.

(22) Prepare, submit, and make publicly available the civil rights report required by section 14010 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2279-2).

(23) Redelegate, as appropriate, any authority delegated under paragraphs (a)(1) through (22) of this section to general officers of the Department and heads of Departmental agencies.

(24) Award grants and enter into cooperative agreements, as appropriate, under the following authorities only for the purpose of conducting outreach efforts in connection with the duties and powers delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights under this section:

- (i) Grants and cooperative agreements under section 2501(a)(3) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)(3));

- (ii) Cooperative agreements under section 1472(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3318(b));

- (iii) Grants and cooperative agreements under section 1472(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3318(c));

- (iv) Cooperative agreements under section 607(b)(4) of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2204b(b)(4)); and

- (v) Cooperative agreements under section 714 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (7 U.S.C. 6962a).

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(25) Carry out prize competition authorities in section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) related to functions otherwise delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, except for authorities delegated to the Chief Financial Officer in § 2.28(a)(29) and authorities reserved to the Secretary in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(26) As directed by section 12403(a) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, conduct civil rights impact analyses in accordance with Departmental Regulation 4300-004 issued on October 17, 2016, with respect to the Department's employment, federally conducted programs and activities, and federally assisted programs and activities.

(b) The following authorities are reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture:

(1) Approval of prize competitions that may result in the award of more than \$1,000,000 in cash prizes under section 24(m)(4)(B) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719(m)(4)(B)).

(2) [Reserved]

[77 FR 14953, Mar. 14, 2012, as amended at 78 FR 40937, July 9, 2013; 79 FR 44109, July 30, 2014; 80 FR 58337, Sept. 29, 2015; 85 FR 65512, Oct. 15, 2020]

§ 2.26 Director, Office of the Executive Secretariat.

(a) *Delegations.* The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary to the Director, Office of the Executive Secretariat:

(1) Exercise responsibility for all correspondence control and related records management functions for the Office of the Secretary;

(2) Provide administrative, editorial, and project management support services to the immediate Office of the Secretary.

(b) [Reserved]

[87 FR 44269, July 26, 2022]

Subpart D—Delegations of Authority to Other General Officers and Agency Heads

EDITORIAL NOTE: Nomenclature changes to subpart D of part 2 appear at 60 FR 66713, Dec. 26, 1995.

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§ 2.27 Office of Administrative Law Judges.

(a) The following designations are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Office of Administrative Law Judges:

(1) Administrative law judges (formerly hearing examiners) are designated pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 556(b)(3) to hold hearings and perform related duties in proceedings subject to 5 U.S.C. 556 and 557, arising under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*); the Commodity Exchange Act as amended (7 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*); the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 499a *et seq.*); the Federal Seed Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1551 *et seq.*); the (Laboratory) Animal Welfare Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2131 *et seq.*); the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, as amended and supplemented (7 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*); the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 630 *et seq.*); and any other acts providing for hearings to which the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 556 and 557, are applicable. Pursuant to the applicable rules of practice, the administrative law judges shall make initial decisions in adjudication and rate proceedings subject to 5 U.S.C. 556 and 557. Such decisions shall become final without further proceedings unless there is an appeal to the Secretary by a party to the proceeding in accordance with the applicable rules of practice: Provided, however, that no decision shall be final for purposes of judicial review except a final decision of the Secretary upon appeal. As used herein, "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, the Judicial Officer, or other officer or employee of the Department delegated, pursuant to the Act of April 4, 1940 (7 U.S.C. 450c-450g), and Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953 (5 U.S.C. App.), "regulatory functions" as that term is defined in the 1940 Act, in acting as final deciding officer in adjudication and rate proceedings subject to 5 U.S.C. 556 and 557. Administrative Law Judges are delegated authority to hold hearings and perform related duties as provided in the Rules of Practice Governing Cease and Desist Proceedings Under Section 2 of the Capper-

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Volstead Act, set forth in part 1, subpart I of this title.

(2) [Reserved]

(b) The Chief Administrative Law Judge is delegated the following administrative responsibilities subject to the guidance and control of the Assistant Secretary for Administration (See §2.24(a)(12)):

(1) Exercise general responsibility and authority for all matters related to the administrative activities of the Office of Administrative Law Judges; and

(2) Direct the functions of the Hearing Clerk as set out in §2.24(a)(12)(iii).

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 75 FR 43380, July 23, 2010]

§2.28 Chief Financial Officer.

(a) The Chief Financial Officer, under the supervision of the Secretary of Agriculture, is responsible for executing the duties enumerated for agency Chief Financial Officers in the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, Public Law 101-576, 31 U.S.C. 902, and additional specified duties, including:

(1) Report directly to the Secretary regarding financial management matters.

(2) Oversee all financial management activities relating to the programs and operations of the Department and component agencies.

(3) Develop and maintain an integrated accounting and financial system for the Department and component agencies, including financial reporting and internal controls, which—

(i) Complies with applicable accounting principles, standards, and requirements, and internal control standards;

(ii) Complies with such policies and requirements as may be prescribed by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB);

(iii) Complies with any other requirements applicable to such systems; and

(iv) Provides for complete, reliable, consistent, and timely information which is prepared on a uniform basis and which is responsive to the financial information needs of Department management and for the development and reporting of cost information, the integration of accounting and budgeting information, and the systematic measurement of performance.

(4) Make recommendations to the Secretary regarding the selection of the Deputy Chief Financial Officer of the Department, and selection of principal financial officers of component agencies of the Department.

(5) Direct, manage, and provide policy guidance and oversight of Department financial management personnel, activities, and operations, including:

(i) Prepare and annually revise a Departmental plan to:

(A) Implement the 5-year financial management plan prepared by the Director of OMB under 31 U.S.C. 3512(a)(3); and

(B) Comply with the requirements established for agency financial statements under 31 U.S.C. 3515 and with the requirements for audits of Department financial statements established in 31 U.S.C. 3521(e) and (f).

(ii) Develop Departmental financial management budgets, including the oversight and recommendation of approval of component agency financial management budgets.

(iii) Recruit, select, and train personnel to carry out Departmental financial management functions.

(iv) Approve and manage Departmental, and approve component agency, financial management systems design or enhancement projects.

(v) Implement and approve Departmental, and approve component agency, asset management systems, including systems for cash management, credit management, debt collection, and property and inventory management and control.

(6) Prepare and transmit, by not later than 60 days after the submission of the audit report required by 31 U.S.C. 3521(f), an annual report to the Secretary and the Director of OMB, which shall include:

(i) A description and analysis of the status of financial management of the Department.

(ii) The annual financial statements prepared under 31 U.S.C. 3521.

(iii) The audit report transmitted to the Secretary under 31 U.S.C. 3521.

(iv) A summary of the reports on internal accounting and administrative control systems submitted to the President and the Congress under the

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amendments made by the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (31 U.S.C. 1113, 3512).

(v) Other information the Secretary considers appropriate to inform fully the President and the Congress concerning the financial management of the Department.

(7) Monitor the financial execution of the budget of the Department in relation to projected and actual expenditures, and prepare and submit to the Secretary timely performance reports.

(8) Review, on a biennial basis, the fees, royalties, rent, and other charges imposed by the Department for services and things of value it produces, and make recommendations on revising those charges to reflect costs incurred by the Department in providing those services and things of value.

(9) Access all records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers, recommendations, or other material that are the property of the Department or that are available to the Department, and that relate to programs and operations with respect to which the Chief Financial Officer has responsibilities, except that this grant allows no access greater than that permitted under any other law to records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers, recommendations, or other material of the Office of Inspector General.

(10) Request such information or assistance as may be necessary for carrying out the duties and responsibilities granted by the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-576), from any Federal, State, or local governmental entity.

(11) To the extent and in such amounts as may be provided in advance by appropriations acts, enter into contracts and other arrangements with public agencies and with private persons for the preparation of financial statements, studies, analyses, and other services, and making such payments as may be necessary to carry out the duties and prerogatives of the Chief Financial Officer.

(12) Designate the Department's Comptroller of the Department Working Capital Fund.

(13) Establish Departmental policies, standards, techniques, and procedures

applicable to all USDA agencies for the following areas:

(i) Development, maintenance, review and approval of all departmental, and review and approval of component agency, internal control, fiscal, financial management and accounting systems including the financial aspects of payment management and property systems.

(ii) Selection, standardization, and simplification of program delivery processes utilizing grants, cooperative agreements and other forms of Federal assistance.

(iii) Review and approval of Federal assistance, internal control, fiscal, accounting and financial management regulations and instructions proposed or issued by USDA agencies for conformity with Departmental requirements.

(iv) Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 862) as it relates to grants, loans, and licenses.

(14) Establish policies related to the Department Working Capital Fund.

(15) Approve regulations, procedures and rates for goods and services financed through the Department Working Capital Fund which will impact the financial administration of the Fund.

(16) Exercise responsibility and authority for operating USDA's financial and subsidiary management systems and related administrative systems including: Departmentwide payroll and personnel information systems, statistics, administrative payments, billings and collections, and related reporting systems that are either requested by the agencies or required by the Department.

(17) Manage the National Finance Center (NFC).

(18) Provide management support services for the NFC, and by agreement with agency heads concerned, provide such services for other USDA tenants housed in the same facility. As used herein, such management support services shall include:

(i) Personnel services, as listed in § 2.24(a)(4)(x), and organizational support services, with authority to take actions required by law or regulation to perform such services; and

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(ii) Procurement, property management, space management, communications, messenger, paperwork management, and related administrative services, with authority to take actions required by law or regulation to perform such services.

(19) Exercise responsibility and authority for all matters related to the Department's accounting and financial operations including such activities as:

(i) Financial administration, including accounting and related activities.

(ii) Reviewing financial aspects of agency operations and proposals.

(iii) Furnishing consulting services to agencies to assist them in developing and maintaining accounting and financial management systems and internal controls, and for other purposes consistent with delegations in paragraph (a)(13) of this section.

(iv) Reviewing and monitoring agency implementation of Federal assistance policies.

(v) Reviewing and approving agencies' accounting systems documentation including related development plans, activities, and controls.

(vi) Monitoring agencies' progress in developing and revising accounting and financial management systems and internal controls.

(vii) Evaluating agencies' financial systems to determine the effectiveness of procedures employed, compliance with regulations, and the appropriateness of policies and practices.

(viii) Promulgation of Department schedule of fees and charges for reproductions, furnishing of copies and making searches for official records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

(ix) Monitoring USDA implementation of section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 862) as it relates to grants, loans, and licenses.

(20) Establish Department and approve component agency programs, policies, standards, systems, techniques and procedures to improve the management and operational efficiency and effectiveness of the USDA including:

(i) Increased use of operations research and management science in the areas of productivity and management.

(ii) All activities financed through the Department Working Capital Fund.

(21) Develop Departmental policies, standards, techniques, and procedures for the conduct of reviews and analysis of the utilization of the resources of State and local governments, other Federal agencies and of the private sector in domestic program operations.

(22) Represent the Department in contacts with OMB, General Services Administration, GAO, Department of the Treasury, Office of Personnel Management, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Labor, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Commerce, Congress of the United States, State and local governments, universities, and other public and private sector individuals, organizations or agencies on matters related to assigned responsibilities.

(23) Establish policies related to travel by USDA employees.

(24) Provide budget, accounting, fiscal, and related financial management services, with authority to take action required by law or regulation to provide such services for:

(i) The Secretary of Agriculture.

(ii) The general officers of the Department, except the Inspector General.

(iii) The offices and agencies reporting to the Assistant Secretary for Administration as a Working Capital Fund activity.

(iv) Any other offices or agencies of the Department as may be agreed.

(25) Develop, promulgate, and coordinate Department-wide policy concerning nonprocurement debarment and suspension.

(26) Prepare and submit to Congress reports on conferences sponsored or held by the Department or attended by employees of the Department (7 U.S.C. 2255b).

(27) Administer the debarment authorities in section 14211 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2209j) in coordination with the Director, Office of Contracting and Procurement.

(28) Redelegate, as appropriate, any authority delegated under paragraphs (a)(1) through (27) of this section to general officers of the Department and heads of Departmental agencies.

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(29) Provide Departmentwide guidance on implementation of prize competition authority in section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719); develop guidelines to ensure that judges appointed for prize competitions under that authority are fairly balanced and operate in a transparent manner (15 U.S.C. 3719(k)(3)).

(30) Settle claims not otherwise provided for under 31 U.S.C. 3702(a) or another provision of law.

(b) The following authorities are reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture:

(1) Approval of prize competitions that may result in the award of more than \$1,000,000 in cash prizes under section 24(m)(4)(B) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719(m)(4)(B)).

(2) [Reserved]

[79 FR 44110, July 30, 2014, as amended at 80 FR 58338, Sept. 29, 2015; 83 FR 61311, Nov. 29, 2018]

§ 2.29 Chief Economist.

(a) The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Chief Economist:

(1) *Related to economic analysis.* (i) Coordinate economic analyses of, and review Department decisions involving, policies and programs that have substantial economic implications.

(ii) Review and assess the economic impact of all significant regulations proposed by any agency of the Department.

(iii) Review economic data and analyses used in speeches and Congressional testimony by Department personnel and in materials prepared for release through the press, radio, and television.

(2) *Related to risk assessment.* (i) Responsible for assessing the risks to human health, human safety, or the environment, and for preparing cost-benefit analyses, with respect to proposed major regulations, and for publishing such assessments and analyses in the *FEDERAL REGISTER* as required by section 304 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 2204e).

(ii) Provide direction to Department agencies in the appropriate methods of risk assessment and cost-benefit anal-

yses and coordinate and review all risk assessments and cost-benefit analyses prepared by any agency of the Department.

(3) *Related to food and agriculture outlook and situation.* (i) Coordinate and review all crop and commodity data used to develop outlook and situation material within the Department.

(ii) Oversee and clear for consistency analytical assumptions and results of all estimates and analyses which significantly relate to international and domestic commodity supply and demand, including such estimates and analyses prepared for public distribution by the Foreign Agricultural Service, the Economic Research Service, or by any other agency or office of the Department.

(4) *Related to weather and climate.* (i) Advise the Secretary on climate and weather activities, and coordinate the development of policy options on weather and climate.

(ii) Coordinate all weather and climate information and monitoring activities within the Department and provide a focal point in the Department for weather and climate information and impact assessment.

(iii) Arrange for appropriate representation to attend all meetings, hearings, and task forces held outside the Department which require such representation.

(iv) Designate the Executive Secretary of the USDA Weather and Climate Program Coordinating Committee.

(v) Coordinate with the Director of the National Drought Mitigation Center and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to enhance the collection of data to improve the accuracy of the United States Drought Monitor (7 U.S.C. 5856).

(5) *Related to interagency commodity estimates committees.* (i) Establish Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees for Commodity Credit Corporation price-supported commodities, for major products thereof, and for commodities where a need for such a committee has been identified, in order to bring together estimates and supporting analyses from participating agencies, and to develop official estimates of supply,

utilization, and prices for commodities, including the effects of new program proposals on acreage, yield, production, imports, domestic utilization, price, income, support programs, carryover, exports, and availabilities for export.

(ii) Designate the Chairman, who shall also act as Secretary, for all Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees.

(iii) Assure that all committee members have the basic assumptions, background data and other relevant data regarding the overall economy and market prospects for specific commodities.

(iv) Review for consistency of analytical assumptions and results all proposed decisions made by Commodity Estimates Committees prior to any release outside the Department.

(6) [Reserved]

(7) *Related to long-range commodity and agricultural-sector projections.* Establish committees of the agencies of the Department to coordinate the development of a set of analytical assumptions and long-range agricultural-sector projections (2 years and beyond) based on commodity projections consistent with these assumptions and coordinated through the Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees.

(8) *Related to agricultural labor affairs.* Exercise the following functions of the Secretary under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended (8 U.S.C. 1101 *et seq.*):

(i) Pursuant to section 214(c) of INA (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)), provide consultation to the Attorney General and the Secretary of Labor concerning the question of the importation of aliens as nonimmigrant temporary agricultural workers, known as "H-2A" workers, under 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a);

(ii) Pursuant to section 218(e) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1188 note), provide consultation to the Attorney General and the Secretary of Labor concerning all regulations to implement 8 U.S.C. 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) and 1188 providing for the importation of H-2A workers;

(iii) Pursuant to section 210(h) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1160(h)), promulgate regulations to define "seasonal agricultural services" for purposes of the Special Agricultural Worker (SAW) Program;

(iv) Pursuant to section 210A(a) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1161(a)), determine

jointly with the Secretary of Labor the number (if any) of additional special agricultural workers, known as "replenishment agricultural workers" (RAWs), who should be admitted to the United States or otherwise acquire the status of aliens lawfully admitted for temporary residence during fiscal years 1990 through 1993 to meet a shortage of workers to perform seasonal agricultural services in the United States during each such fiscal year;

(v) Pursuant to section 210A(a)(7) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1161(a)(7)), determine jointly with the Secretary of Labor emergency requests to increase the shortage number;

(vi) Pursuant to section 210A(a)(8) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1161(a)(8)), determine jointly with the Secretary of Labor requests to decrease the number of man-days of seasonal agricultural services required of RAWs to avoid deportation and for naturalization under section 210A(d)(5)(A) and (B) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1161(d)(5)(A) and (B));

(vii) Pursuant to section 210A(b)(1) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1161(b)(1)), calculate jointly with the Secretary of Labor and annual numerical limitation on the number of RAWs who may be admitted or otherwise acquire the status of aliens lawfully admitted for temporary residence during fiscal years 1990 through 1993 under section 210A(c)(1) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1161(c)(1)); and

(viii) Pursuant to section 210A(b)(2) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1161(b)(2)), establish jointly with the Secretary of Labor the information that must be reported by any person or entity who employs SAWs or RAWs in seasonal agricultural services during fiscal years 1989 through 1992, and to designate jointly with the Secretary of Labor the official to whom the person or entity must furnish such certification.

(9) *Related to the Capper-Volstead Act.* Serve as Chairman of the Capper-Volstead Act Committee to identify cases of undue price enhancement by associations of producers and issue complaints requiring such associations to show cause why an order should not be made directing them to cease and desist from monopolization or restraint of trade. The Chairman is authorized to call upon any agency of the Department for

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support in carrying the functions of the Committee (7 U.S.C. 292).

(10) *Related to committee management.* Establish and reestablish regional, state, and local advisory committees for activities under his or her authority. This authority may not be redelegated.

(11) *Related to energy.* (i) Advise the Secretary and other policy-level officials of the Department on energy policies and programs, including legislative and budget proposals.

(ii) Serve as or designate the Department representative at hearings, conferences, meetings and other contacts with respect to energy and energy-related matters, including liaison with the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency and other governmental agencies and departments.

(iii)-(iv) [Reserved]

(v) Provide Department leadership in:

(A) Analyzing and evaluating existing and proposed energy policies and strategies, including those regarding the allocation of scarce resources;

(B) Developing energy policies and strategies, including those regarding the allocation of scarce resources;

(C) Reviewing and evaluating Departmental energy and energy-related programs and programs progress;

(D) Developing agricultural and rural components of national energy policy plans; and

(E) Preparing reports on energy and energy-related policies and programs required under Acts of Congress and Executive orders, including those involving testimony and reports on legislative proposals.

(vi) Provide Departmental oversight and coordination with respect to resources available for energy and energy-related activities, including funds transferred to USDA from other departments or agencies of the Federal Government pursuant to interagency agreements.

(vii) Administer a competitive biodiesel fuel education grants program (7 U.S.C. 8106).

(viii) Implement a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Energy regarding cooperation in the application of hydrogen and fuel cell

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technology programs for rural communities and agricultural producers.

(12) *Related to climate change.*

(i) Coordinate policy analysis, long-range planning, research, and response strategies relating to climate change issues.

(ii) Provide liaison with other Federal agencies, through the Office of Science and Technology Policy, regarding climate change issues.

(iii) Inform the Department of scientific developments and policy issues relating to the effects of climate change on agriculture and forestry, including broader issues that affect the impact of climate change on the farms and forests of the United States.

(iv) Recommend to the Secretary alternative courses of action with which to respond to such scientific developments and policy issues.

(v) Ensure that recognition of the potential for climate change is fully integrated into the research, planning, and decisionmaking processes of the Department.

(vi) Coordinate global climate change studies.

(vii) Coordinate the participation of the Department in interagency climate-related activities.

(viii) Consult with the National Academy of Sciences and private, academic, State, and local groups with respect to climate research and related activities.

(ix) Represent the Department to the Office of Science and Technology Policy on issues related to climate change.

(x) Represent the Department on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

(xi) Review all Department budget items relating to climate change issues, including specifically the research budget to be submitted by the Secretary to the Office of Management and Budget.

(13) *Related to environment.*

(i) Coordinate implementation of section 1245 of the Food Security Act of 1985 regarding environmental services markets (16 U.S.C. 3845).

(ii) [Reserved]

(14) *Related to agreements.*

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(i) Enter into contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements to further research programs in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3318).

(ii) Enter into cost-reimbursable agreements relating to agricultural research (7 U.S.C. 3319a).

(iii) Make competitive grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, agricultural and food policy research centers (7 U.S.C. 3155).

(iv) Carry out the duties of the Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison, including entering into contracts or cooperative agreements with the research centers of the Research, Education, and Economics mission area, institutions of higher education, or non-profit organizations (7 U.S.C. 6924).

(15) Carry out prize competition authorities in section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) related to functions otherwise delegated to the Chief Economist, except for authorities delegated to the Chief Financial Officer in § 2.28(a)(29) and authorities reserved to the Secretary in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(16) *Related to Pest Management and Policy.* (i) Coordinate USDA policy relative to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*) and coordinate the Department's Integrated Pest Management Programs and the Pesticide Assessment Program (7 U.S.C. 136-136y) (7 U.S.C. 7653).

(ii) Conduct a multiple crop and pesticide use survey as authorized by section 10109 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018.

(b) The following authorities are reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture:

(1) Approval of prize competitions that may result in the award of more than \$1,000,000 in cash prizes under section 24(m)(4)(B) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719(m)(4)(B)).

(2) [Reserved]

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 63 FR 66979, Dec. 4, 1998; 64 FR 40735, July 28, 1999; 68 FR 27442, May 20, 2003; 73 FR 56706, Sept. 30, 2008; 74 FR 3405, Jan. 21, 2009; 77 FR 14952, Mar. 14, 2012; 78 FR 40938, July 9, 2013; 79 FR 44111, July 30, 2014; 80 FR 58338, Sept. 29, 2015; 83 FR 61311, Nov. 29, 2018; 85 FR 65512, Oct. 15, 2020]

§ 2.30 Director, Office of Budget and Program Analysis.

(a) The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Director, Office of Budget and Program Analysis:

(1) Serve as the Department's Budget Officer and exercise general responsibility and authority for all matters related to the Department's budgeting affairs including:

(i) Resource administration, including all phases of the acquisition, and distribution of funds and staff years.

(ii) Legislative and regulatory reporting and related activities.

(2) Provide staff assistance for the Secretary, general officers, and other Department and agency officials.

(3) Formulate and promulgate Departmental budgetary, legislative and regulatory policies and procedures.

(4) Represent the Department in contacts with the Office of Management and Budget, the Government Accountability Office, the Department of the Treasury, Congressional Committees on Appropriations, and other organizations and agencies on matters related to his or her responsibility.

(5) Coordinate and/or conduct policy and program analyses on agency operations and proposals to assist the Secretary, general officers and other Department and agency officials in formulating and implementing USDA policies and programs.

(6) Review and analyze legislation, regulations, and policy options to determine their impact on USDA programs and policy objectives and on the Department's budget.

(7) Monitor ongoing studies with significant program or policy implications.

(8) Exercise responsibility for coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, Public Law 103-62, and the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, Public Law 111-352, at the Department.

(9) Administer the Departmental forms, reports, and directives management programs.

(b) The following authority is reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture:

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Final approval of the Department's program and financial plans.

[79 FR 44111, July 30, 2014, as amended at 87 FR 44269, July 26, 2022]

§ 2.31 General Counsel.

(a) *Related to legal services.* The General Counsel, as the chief law officer of the Department, is legal advisor to the Secretary and other officials of the Department and responsible for providing legal services for all the activities of the Department. The delegations of authority by the Secretary of Agriculture to the General Counsel include the following:

(1) Consider, ascertain, adjust, determine, compromise, and settle claims pursuant to the Federal Tort Claims Act, as amended (28 U.S.C. 2671–2680), and the regulations of the Attorney General contained in 28 CFR part 14; delegate the authority to consider, ascertain, adjust, determine, compromise, and settle, pursuant to the Federal Tort Claims Act as amended (28 U.S.C. 2671–2680) and the regulations of the Attorney General contained in 28 CFR part 14, claims less than \$2500 that allege the negligence or wrongful act of an employee of a USDA agency; and consider, ascertain, adjust, determine, compromise, and settle claims pursuant to section 920 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, Public Law 104–127 (7 U.S.C. 2262a).

(2) Certify documents as true copies of those on file in the Department.

(3) Sign releases of claims of the United States against private persons for damage to or destruction of property of the department, except those claims cognizable under the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (41 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*).

(4) Responsible for the overall management and operation of the Law Library, furnishing complete legal and legislative library services to the Office of the General Counsel and the Department.

(5) Make determinations as to whether employees of the Department may retain commercial rights in inventions; prepare patent applications and prosecute the same before the Patent Office.

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(6) Represent the Department in formal rulemaking and adjudicatory proceedings held in connection with the administration of the Department's activities, and decide whether initial decisions of the administrative law judges shall be appealed by the Department to the Secretary.

(7) Represent the Department in connection with legal issues that arise in its relations with the Congress, the General Accounting Office, or other agencies of the Government.

(8) [Reserved]

(9) In civil actions arising out of the activities of the Department, present the Department's case to the Attorney General and U.S. attorneys and, upon request of the Department of Justice, assist in the preparation and trial of such cases and in the briefing and argument of such cases at the appellate level.

(10) Review cases having criminal aspects and refer them to the Department of Justice.

(11) Act as liaison between the Department and the Department of Justice.

(12) Perform the following legal services:

(i) Render legal opinions on questions arising in the conduct of the Department's activities;

(ii) Prepare or review regulations;

(iii) Draft proposed legislation;

(iv) Prepare or review contracts, mortgages, deeds, leases, and other documents; and

(v) Examine titles to land to be acquired or accepted as security for loans.

(13) Perform such other legal services as may be required in the administration of the Department's activities, including the defense program.

(14) Serve as a member of the Capper-Volstead Act Committee to identify cases of undue price enhancement by associations of producers and issue complaints requiring such associations to show cause why an order should not be made directing them to cease and desist from monopolization or restraint of trade (7 U.S.C. 292).

(15) Settle claims for damage to, or loss of, privately owned property pursuant to the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 3723.

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(16) Serve on the USDA Hazardous Materials Policy Council.

(17) On a non-exclusive basis, assert in litigation the deliberative process privilege and other legally recognized privileges.

(18) Conduct legal sufficiency reviews and concur before a proposed settlement offer is made to an opposing party for all informal and formal Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Office of Special Counsel (OSC), or Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) complaints that:

(i) Require a payment of compensatory damages or attorney's fees resulting in costs to the Department totaling \$50,000 or more; or

(ii) Are brought by, or allege discriminatory conduct by, any political appointee; or

(iii) Place any political appointee on a detail outside the Department or on an Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) agreement for one year or more if the Department retains the obligation to pay the employee's salary and benefits during the duration of the detail or IPA agreement.

(19) Review monetary settlement agreements of any dollar amount negotiated by USDA offices or agencies upon request except that legal sufficiency review conducted by and concurrence from the Office of the General Counsel is required prior to execution for all proposed settlement agreements negotiated by USDA offices or agencies totaling \$500,000 or more, including attorney's fees. This required review is in addition to existing delegations of authority and processes for USDA offices' or agencies' processing of settlement agreements. This required review does not apply to:

(i) Settlements pursuant to the Federal Tort Claims Act, which the Office of the General Counsel handles pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) of this section;

(ii) Settlements for personnel matters, which the Office of the General Counsel handles pursuant to paragraph (a)(18) of this section;

(iii) Settlement of contract claims, which contracting officers handle pursuant to the Contract Disputes Act (41 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) and Federal Acquisition Regulation (48 CFR parts 1 through 99); or

(iv) Settlement of USDA offices' or agencies' debt collection actions.

(20) Conduct legal sufficiency reviews and concur with all proposed agency contracts or other transactions to retain outside counsel or for the provision of legal services regardless of whether an agency has specific statutory authority to retain outside counsel or legal services. The following services do not require legal sufficiency review and concurrence from the Office of the General Counsel: Contracts for the provision of services in relation to USDA office's and agencies' Freedom of Information Act activities; contracts for the performance of trademark searches or other trademark or copyright related services; or contracts for the performance of patent prosecution or other related patent services.

(21) Enter into cooperative agreements with nongovernmental organizations and educational institutions related to public interest and agricultural law for the purpose of agricultural and public service programs, sponsorships, convenings, and trainings (7 U.S.C. 2204b(b)(4)).

(b) *Related to ethics.* The following delegation of authority is made by the Secretary to the General Counsel: Provide administrative supervision for the Office of Ethics.

(c) *Related to the Freedom of Information Act.* (1) Serve as the Chief Freedom of Information Act Officer for the Department; oversee general officers and agency heads in efficient and appropriate compliance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552); monitor implementation of 5 U.S.C. 552 throughout the agency and keep the Secretary and the Attorney General informed regarding agency performance in its implementation; recommend to the Secretary necessary adjustments to agency practices, policies, personnel, and funding to improve implementation of 5 U.S.C. 552; review and report to the Attorney General, through the Secretary, as the Attorney General may direct; and, facilitate public understanding of the purposes of the statutory exemptions contained in 5 U.S.C. 552.

(2) Manage the Freedom of Information Act operations for the Research, Education, and Economics mission

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area, the Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs mission area, and all staff offices of the Department.

(d) *Related to records management.* Administer the Departmental records management program.

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 61 FR 49237, Sept. 19, 1996; 65 FR 12429, Mar. 9, 2000; 70 FR 23927, May 6, 2005; 70 FR 30610, May 27, 2005; 78 FR 40938, July 9, 2013; 79 FR 44112, July 30, 2014; 83 FR 22184, May 14, 2018; 85 FR 65512, Oct. 15, 2020; 87 FR 44269, July 26, 2022; 89 FR 80074, Oct. 2, 2024]

§ 2.32 Chief Information Officer.

(a) *Delegations.* The Chief Information Officer is responsible for executing the duties enumerated in Public Law 104-106 for agency Chief Information Officers, and additional specified duties, as follows:

(1) Report directly to the Secretary of Agriculture regarding information technology matters.

(2) Oversee all information technology and information resource management activities relating to the programs and operations of the Department and component agencies. This oversight includes approving information technology investments, monitoring and evaluating the performance of those investments and information resource management activities, approval of all architectures and components thereto and determining whether to continue, modify, or terminate an information technology program or project.

(3) Provide advice and other assistance to the Secretary and other senior management personnel to ensure that information technology acquired and managed for the Department consistent with chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (Coordination of Federal Information Policy).

(4) Develop, implement, and maintain a sound and integrated Department-wide information technology architecture.

(5) Promote the effective and efficient design and operation of all major information resources management processes for the Department, including improvements to work processes of the Department.

(6) Approve the acquisition or procurement of information technology

resources by, or on behalf of, any Department agency or office.

(7) Collaborate with Department procurement personnel with respect to information technology acquisition strategy and policy.

(8) Function as the Major Information Technology Systems Executive in USDA to integrate and unify the management process for the Department's major information technology system acquisitions and to monitor implementation of the policies and practices set forth in Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular No. A-109, Major Systems Acquisitions, for information technology. This includes the authority to:

(i) Ensure that OMB Circular No. A-109 is effectively implemented for information technology systems in the Department and that the management objectives of the Circular are realized.

(ii) Review the program management of each major information technology system acquisition.

(iii) Approve the appointment of the program manager for each major information technology systems acquisition.

(iv) Designate any Departmental information technology acquisition as a major system acquisition under OMB Circular No. A-109.

(9) On an annual basis:

(i) Assess Departmentwide personnel requirements regarding knowledge and skill in information resources management, and the adequacy of such requirements, to achieve the performance goals established for information resources management.

(ii) Develop strategies and specific plans for hiring, training, and professional development at the executive and management level to meet personnel information technology personnel requirements.

(iii) Report to the Assistant Secretary for Administration on progress made in improving information resources management capability.

(10) Function as the senior official to carry out the responsibilities of the Department under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (Coordination of Federal Information Policy), including:

(i) Ensure that the information policies, principles, standards, guidelines,

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rules and regulations prescribed by OMB are appropriately implemented within the Department.

(ii) Review proposed Department reporting and record keeping requirements, including those contained in rules and regulations, to ensure that they impose the minimum burden upon the public and have practical utility for the Department.

(iii) Develop and implement procedures for assessing the burden to the public and costs to the Department of information requirements contained in proposed legislation affecting Department programs.

(iv) Assist OMB in the performance of its functions assigned under the E-Government Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-347), including review of Department and Agency activities for compliance.

(v) Assist OMB in the performance of its functions assigned under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), including review of Department and Agency activities for compliance.

(11) The Chief Information Officer is also responsible for the following:

(i) Provide Departmentwide guidance and direction in planning, developing, documenting, and managing applications software projects in accordance with Federal and Department information processing standards, procedures, and guidelines.

(ii) Provide Departmentwide guidance and direction in all aspects of information technology, including: Feasibility studies; economic analyses; systems design; acquisition of equipment, software, services, and timesharing arrangements; systems installation; systems performance and capacity evaluation; information technology investment governance; cybersecurity; and privacy. Monitor these activities for agencies' major systems development efforts to assure effective and economic use of resources and compatibility among systems of various agencies when required.

(iii) Manage the Enterprise Data Centers, with the exception of the National Finance Center; and oversee the delivery of Enterprise Data Center goods and services, with authority to take actions required by law or regulation

to perform such services as a Working Capital Fund activity.

(iv) Manage a comprehensive set of end user office automation services and oversee the delivery of goods and services associated with end user office automation services, including desktop computers, enterprise networking support, handheld devices, and voice telecommunications, with authority to take actions required by law or regulation to perform such services as a Working Capital Fund activity.

(v) Manage the Agricultural Security Operations Center to enable the Department to effectively monitor, detect, analyze, protect, report, and respond against known cyber vulnerabilities, attacks, and exploitations.

(vi) Manage the Department's Certification and Accreditation process to ensure the Department and agencies have successfully conducted periodic risk assessments of its systems; grant the authority to operate for systems that have successfully completed the Certification and Accreditation process; and rescind or suspend the authority to operate for systems subject to repeated and/or significant security issues.

(vii) Ensure that OMB Circular No. A-16, Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities, is effectively implemented in the Department and that the management objectives of the Circular are realized; and providing Departmentwide guidance and direction in governing, developing, implementing, and maintaining a sound and integrated geospatial architecture.

(viii) Provide technical assistance, coordination, and guidance to Department agencies in planning, developing, and carrying out satellite remote sensing activities to ensure full consideration and evaluation of advanced technology; designate the Executive Secretary for the Remote Sensing Coordination Committee; and coordinate administrative, management, and budget information relating to the Department's remote sensing activities including:

(A) Inter- and intra-agency meetings, correspondence, and records;

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- (B) Budget and management tracking systems; and
- (C) Inter-agency contacts and technology transfer.

- (ix) Review and evaluate information technology activities related to delegated functions to assure that they conform to all applicable Federal and Department information technology management policies, plans, standards, procedures, and guidelines.
- (x) Design, develop, implement, and revise systems, processes, work methods, and techniques to improve the management and operational effectiveness of information resources.
- (xi) Manage all aspects of the USDA Telecommunications Program including planning, development, acquisition, and use of equipment and systems for voice, data, and communications, excluding the actual procurement of data transmission equipment, software, maintenance, and related supplies.
- (xii) Manage Departmental telecommunications contracts.
- (xiii) Provide technical advice throughout the Department.
- (xiv) Implement a program for applying information resources management technology to improve productivity in the Department.
- (xv) Plan, develop, install, and operate computer-based systems for message exchange, scheduling, computer conferencing, televideo technologies, and other applications of office automation technology which can be commonly used by multiple Department agencies and offices.
- (xvi) Represent the Department in contacts with the Government Accountability Office, the General Services Administration, OMB, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and other organizations or agencies on matters related to delegated responsibilities.

(12) Implement policies established pursuant to paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(11) of this section by:

- (i) Disposing of information technology that is acquired by a Department agency in violation of procedures or standards for the Department Information Systems Technology Architecture.
- (ii) Establishing information technology and information resources man-

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agement performance standards for mission area Chief Information Officers, information resources managers, and project managers to be used in the performance appraisal process.

(iii) Approving the selection of mission area Chief Information Officers and mission area major information technology system project managers in accordance with OMB policies.

(iv) Providing recommendations to mission area heads for the removal or replacement of information technology project managers, when, in the opinion of the Chief Information Officer, applicable laws and policies are being violated, or, when the cost, schedule, or performance of an information technology project would indicate management deficiencies.

(v) Withdrawing agencies' authority to obligate funds on Information Technology programs or projects if the agency violates the Chief Information Officer policies, standards, or Department Information Systems Technology Architecture.

(vi) Requiring mission areas to validate and verify major information technology systems through the use of an existing contract for such purpose designated by the Chief Information Officer.

(vii) Requiring approval by the Chief Information Officer of any proposed acquisition of information technology (whether through the award or modification of a procurement contract, a cooperative or other agreement with a non-Federal party, or an interagency agreement) to ensure technical conformance to the Department technical architecture.

(viii) Providing guidance to USDA regarding implementation of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, as well as on-going consultative assistance regarding information technology accessibility, and reviewing progress made toward achieving information technology accessibility for USDA employees and individuals with disabilities.

(13) *Related to the Privacy Act.* Appoint a Department Privacy Act Officer; oversee general officers and agency heads in the development and implementation of policies issued pursuant to the provisions of the Privacy Act, 5

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U.S.C. 552a; and provide consultation and guidance regarding those policies.

(14) Administer the Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) Program for the Department pursuant to E.O. 13556, “Controlled Unclassified Information” (75 FR 68675, 3 CFR, 2011 Comp., p. 267) and 32 CFR part 2002.

(b) [Reserved]

[85 FR 65512, Oct. 15, 2020, as amended at 88 FR 70580, Oct. 12, 2023]

§2.33 Inspector General.

(a) The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Inspector General:

(1) Advise the Secretary and General officers in the planning, development, and execution of Department policies and programs.

(2) At the request of the Director, Homeland Security Staff (Director), determine the availability of law enforcement personnel of the Office of Inspector General to assist the Director in providing for the personal security for the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary.

(3) Serve as liaison official for the Department for all audits of USDA performed by the General Accounting Office.

(4) In addition to the above delegations of authority, the Inspector General, under the general supervision of the Secretary, has specific duties, responsibilities, and authorities pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, Pub. L. No. 95-452, 5 U.S.C. App.

(b) The following authority is reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture: Approving the implementation in the Office of Inspector General of administrative policies or procedures that contravene standard USDA administrative policies as promulgated by the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 72 FR 36859, July 6, 2007]

§2.34 Director, National Appeals Division.

The Director, National Appeals Division, under the general supervision of the Secretary or Deputy Secretary, has specific duties, responsibilities, and authorities pursuant to subtitle H of the Department of Agriculture Reorganiza-

tion Act of 1994, Public Law 103-354 (7 U.S.C. 6991 *et seq.*), including:

(a) Deciding appeals from adverse decisions, made by an officer or employee of an agency of the Department designated by the Secretary, that are adverse to participants. The term “agency” shall include the following and any predecessor agency: the Farm Service Agency; the Commodity Credit Corporation (with respect to domestic programs); the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation; the Rural Housing Service; the Rural Business-Cooperative Service; the Natural Resources Conservation Service; and a State, county, or area committee established under section 8(b)(5) of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act (16 U.S.C. 590h(b)(5)); and

(b) The authority to appoint such hearing officers and other employees as are necessary for the administration of the activities of the Division.

(c) Prepare a report each year on the number of requests for equitable relief and the disposition of such requests for inclusion in the report of the Secretary to Congress on equitable relief requests made to the Department under farm and conservation programs (7 U.S.C. 7996(g)(2)).

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 68 FR 27442, May 20, 2003; 79 FR 44112, July 30, 2014]

§2.35 Judicial Officer.

(a) Pursuant to the Act of April 4, 1940, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450c-450g), and Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953 (5 U.S.C. app.), the Secretary of Agriculture makes the following delegations of authority to the Judicial Officer. The Judicial Officer is authorized to:

(1) Act as final deciding officer in adjudicatory proceedings subject to 5 U.S.C. 556 and 557;

(2) Act as final deciding officer in adjudicatory proceedings which are or may be subject to the “Rules of Practice Governing Formal Adjudicatory Proceedings Instituted by the Secretary Under Various Statutes” set forth in part 1, subpart H, of this title;

(3) Act as final deciding officer in adjudicatory proceedings which are or

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may be subject to the “Rules of Practice Governing Cease and Desist Proceedings Under Section 2 of the Capper-Volstead Act” set forth in part 1, subpart I, of this title;

(4) Act as final deciding officer in adjudicatory proceedings subject to the “Procedures Related to Administrative Hearings Under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986” set forth in part 1, subpart L, of this title;

(5) Act as final deciding officer in adjudicatory proceedings subject to the “Rules of Practice Governing Adjudication of Sourcing Area Applications and Formal Review of Sourcing Areas Pursuant to the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*)” set forth in part 1, subpart M, of this title;

(6) Act as final deciding officer in rate proceedings under the Packers and Stockyards Act, as amended and supplemented (7 U.S.C. 181-229);

(7) Act as final deciding officer in reparation proceedings under statutes administered by the United States Department of Agriculture;

(8) Act as final deciding officer in appeals under section 63 of the Plant Variety Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 2443), and in reexamination proceedings under section 91 of the Plant Variety Protection Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2501);

(9) Act as final deciding officer in adjudicatory proceedings under section 359i of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1359ii);

(10) Issue rules of practice applicable to proceedings conducted under section 359i of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1359ii);

(11) Act as final deciding officer in adjudicatory proceedings subject to the “Rules of Practice Governing Proceedings on Petitions To Modify or To Be Exempted From Marketing Orders” set forth in sections 900.50 through 900.71 of this title;

(12) Act as final deciding officer in adjudicatory proceedings subject to the “Rules of Practice Governing Proceedings on Petitions to Modify or To Be Exempted from Research, Promotion, and Information Programs”

set forth in part 1200, subpart B, of this title; and

(13) Act as final deciding officer in adjudicatory proceedings subject to “Appeals of Quality Control (‘QC’) Claims” set forth in part 283 of this title.

(b) The delegation of authority from the Secretary of Agriculture to the Judicial Officer in paragraph (a) of this section shall not be construed to limit the authority of the Judicial Officer to perform any functions, in addition to those identified in the Act of April 4, 1940, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450c-450g), which may be assigned by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Judicial Officer.

(c) As used in this section, the term *Judicial Officer* shall mean any person or persons so designated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

[68 FR 27443, May 20, 2003, as amended at 75 FR 43380, July 23, 2010]

§ 2.36 Director, Office of Communications.

(a) *Delegations.* The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to Director, Office of Communications:

(1) *Related to public affairs.* (i) Advise and counsel general officers on public affairs matters to the Department.

(ii) Organize and direct the activities of a public affairs office to include press relations of the secretary of agriculture and other executive functions and services for general officers of the Department.

(2) *Related to information activities.* (i) Advise the secretary and general officers in the planning, development, and execution of Department policies and programs.

(ii) Direct and coordinate the overall formulation and development of policies, programs, plans, procedures, standards and organization structures and staffing patterns for the information activities of the Department and its agencies, both in Washington and in the field.

(iii) Exercise final review and approval of all public information material prepared by the Department and its agencies and select the most effective method and audience for distributing this information.

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(iv) Serve as the central public information authority in the USDA, with authority to determine policy for all USDA and Agency communication activities, as well as emergency public information and messaging communication activities, in order to provide leadership and centralized operational direction for all USDA public information activities and ensure all materials shall effectively support USDA policies and programs, including the defense program.

(v) Serve as the central printing authority in the USDA, with authority to represent the USDA with Joint Committee on Printing of the Congress, the Government Printing Office, and other Federal and State agencies on information matters.

(vi) Cooperate with and secure the cooperation of commercial, industrial and other nongovernmental agencies and concerns regarding information work as required in the execution of the Department's programs.

(vii) Plan and direct communication research and training for the Department and its agencies.

(viii) [Reserved]

(ix) Supervise and provide leadership and final clearance for the planning, production, and distribution of visual information material for the department and its agencies in Washington, D.C., and the field, and provide such information services as may be deemed necessary.

(x) Maintain overall responsibility and control over the preparation of the "Agricultural Decisions."

(xi) Administer, direct and coordinate publications and user fee authority granted under section 1121 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, as amended by section 1769 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2242a; and publish any appropriate regulations necessary to the exercise of this authority.

(xii) Serve as the central authority to determine policy, plans, procedures, and standards for the Department and agency strategic communications plans; request, receive, review, and approve agency communications plans; and provide centralized communication strategies for the Secretary and agencies, including the creativity, produc-

tion, and oversight of communication products.

(xiii) When required, support and coordinate staffing of a JIC as identified in the NIMS, and if required, establish and administer a JIC to provide a structure for developing and delivering incident-related coordinated messages.

(xiv) Serve as the central authority to determine policy, plans, procedures, guidelines, and standards for the creation and use of logos/marks by the Department's mission areas, staff offices or agencies, not otherwise provided for by specific laws and regulations, and excluding the Official USDA Seal and Official USDA Symbol.

(b) [Reserved]

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 74 FR 19373, Apr. 29, 2009; 76 FR 66601, 66602, Oct. 27, 2011]

§2.37 Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.

(a) In compliance with the Small Business Act, the Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization is designated as the Department's Director of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, who shall report directly to the Secretary of Agriculture or the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. The Director of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization has specific responsibilities under the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 644(k). These duties include being responsible for the following:

(1) Administer the Department's small and disadvantaged business activities related to procurement contracts, minority bank deposits, and grants and loan activities affecting small and minority businesses including women-owned business, and the small business, small minority business, and small women-owned business subcontracting programs.

(2) Provide Departmentwide liaison and coordination of activities related to small, small disadvantaged, and women-owned businesses with the Small Business Administration and others in the public and private sector.

(3) Develop policies and procedures required by the applicable provision of the Small Business Act, as amended, to include the establishment of goals.

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(4) Implement and administer programs described under sections 8 and 15 of the Small Business Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 637 and 644).

(5) In compliance with the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 (Pub. L. 108-183) amending the Small Business Act, implement and administer procurement programs for small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

(b) The following additional authorities are delegated by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization:

(1) In compliance with the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 8501 *et seq.*), implement and administer the Department's AbilityOne program for purchases from qualified nonprofit agencies for the blind or for the severely disabled.

(2) [Reserved]

[79 FR 44112, July 30, 2014]

§ 2.38 Director, Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement.

(a) *Delegations.* The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Director, Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement:

(1) Related to Advocacy and Outreach:

(i) Ensure that small farms and ranches, beginning farmers or ranchers, and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers have access to, and equitable participation in, programs and services of the Department pursuant to section 226B(c) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6934(c)).

(ii) Oversee the Advisory Committee for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.

(iii) Oversee the operations of the Office of Small Farms Coordination.

(iv) Administer section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279), as amended, except for the beginning farmer and rancher development program in subsection (d) and authorities related to the Census of Agriculture and economic studies in subsection (j) of that section.

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(v) Oversee the Minority Farmer Advisory Committee pursuant to section 14008 of FCEA (7 U.S.C. 2279 note).

(vi) Administer the low-income migrant and seasonal farmworker grants program under section 2281 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 5177a).

(vii) Consult with appropriate entities regarding integration of farmworker interests into Department programs, including assisting farmworkers in becoming agricultural producers or landowners, and research, program improvements, and agricultural education opportunities for low-income and migrant seasonal farmworkers.

(viii) Administer the grants program under section 14204 of FCEA (7 U.S.C. 2008q-1) to improve the supply, stability, safety, and training of the agricultural labor force.

(ix) Administer and coordinate a USDA outreach program in collaboration with USDA agencies.

(x) Administer section 2501A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279-1), including the authority to coordinate Department policy for the issuance of receipts under subsection (e) of that section.

(xi) Provide strategic planning and performance measurement, coordinate outreach activities, monitor goals and objectives, and evaluate programs, of Department programs and activities involving small farms or ranches and beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

(xii) [Reserved]

(xiii) Administer the USDA/1890 Liaison Officer Program.

(xiv) Administer the Hispanic Serving Institutions National Program, including through the use of cooperative agreements under 7 U.S.C. 3318(b).

(xv) Serve as a lead agency in carrying out student internship programs (7 U.S.C. 2279c).

(xvi) Coordinate outreach to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

(2) [Reserved]

(3) Oversee the Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison (7 U.S.C. 6919).

(4) [Reserved]

(5) Oversee the Women in Agriculture Initiative.

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(6) With the exception of competitive grant programs administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, or any youth employment opportunity programs such as Pathways or Job Corp, serve as the Department lead for strategic planning and coordinating youth outreach activities of USDA agencies' programs (including, but not limited to, 4-H; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs; information and cyber technology student programs, Future Farmers of America (FFA) activities; summer high school internships; and youth gardening programs); development of program evaluation metrics and consistent messaging for youth outreach activities; and monitoring goals and objectives.

(7) Oversee the Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator (7 U.S.C. 6934b).

(8) Exercise the authority of the Secretary related to Tribal Promise Zones under section 12510 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (25 U.S.C. 4301 note).

(b) [Reserved]

[83 FR 61312, Nov. 29, 2018, as amended at 85 FR 65514, Oct. 15, 2020; 87 FR 44269, July 26, 2022; 88 FR 70580, Oct. 12, 2023]

§ 2.39 Director, Office of Tribal Relations.

(a) *Delegations.* The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary to the Director, Office of Tribal Relations.

(1) Serve as the Department's primary point of contact for tribal issues.

(2) Advise the Secretary on policies related to Indian tribes.

(3) Serve as the official with principal responsibility for the implementation of Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments," including the provision of Department-wide guidance and oversight regarding tribal consultation, coordination, and collaboration.

(4) Coordinate the Department's programs involving assistance to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

(5) Enter into cooperative agreements to improve the coordination and effectiveness of Federal programs, services, and actions affecting rural

areas (7 U.S.C. 2204b(b)(4)); and to provide outreach and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers (7 U.S.C. 2279(c)(4)).

(6) Consult with the Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service on the implementation of section 3312 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 5608) to support greater inclusion of Tribal agricultural food products in Federal trade activities.

(7) In coordination with the Under Secretary for Rural Development, provide technical assistance to improve access by Tribal entities to rural development programs funded by the Department of Agriculture through available cooperative agreement authorities (7 U.S.C. 2671).

(8) Oversee the Tribal Advisory Committee (7 U.S.C. 6921).

(9) Administer the USDA/1994 Land Grant Institutions (Tribal Colleges) Programs.

(10) Enter into cooperative agreements with associations of institutions of higher education for the purpose of participation in internship programs for graduate and undergraduate students in support of the 1994 Tribal College Program and carry out the related authorities and responsibilities outlined in 7 U.S.C. 2279c.

(b) [Reserved]

[87 FR 44269, July 26, 2022, as amended at 88 FR 70580, Oct. 12, 2023; 89 FR 80074, Oct. 2, 2024]

Subpart E [Reserved]**Subpart F—Delegations of Authority by the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation**

EDITORIAL NOTE: Nomenclature changes to subpart F of part 2 appear at 60 FR 66713, Dec. 26, 1995.

§ 2.40 Deputy Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation.

Pursuant to § 2.16(a), subject to reservations in § 2.16(b), and subject to policy guidance and direction by the

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Under Secretary, the following delegation of authority is made to the Deputy Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, to be exercised only during the absence or unavailability of the Under Secretary: Perform all the duties and exercise all the powers which are now or which may hereafter be delegated to the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation: Provided, that this authority shall be exercised by the respective Deputy Under Secretary in the order in which he or she has taken office as a Deputy Under Secretary.

[83 FR 22184, May 14, 2018]

§ 2.41 Chief Operating Officer, Farm Production and Conservation Business Center.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.16(a), subject to the reservations in § 2.16(b)(1), the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation to the Chief Operating Officer, Farm Production and Conservation Programs Business Center:

(1) Provide to the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Risk Management Agency management support services including information technology, financial management, human resources, procurement, property management, and related business and administrative processes.

(2) Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), concerning agricultural production; food processing, storage, and distribution; distribution of farm equipment and fertilizer; rehabilitation and use of food, agricultural, and related agribusiness facilities; CCC resources; and farm credit and financial assistance.

(3) Conduct fiscal, accounting and claims functions relating to CCC programs for which the Foreign Agricultural Service has been delegated authority under § 2.601 and, in conjunction with other agencies of the U.S. Government, develop and formulate

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agreements to reschedule amounts due from foreign countries.

(4) Administer Section 15353(a) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-246 relating to information reporting for Commodity Credit Corporation transactions.

(5) Coordinate and prevent duplication of aerial photographic work of the Department, including:

(i) Clearing photography projects;

(ii) Assigning symbols for new aerial photography, maintaining symbol records, and furnishing symbol books;

(iii) Recording departmental aerial photography flow and coordinating the issuance of aerial photography status maps of latest coverage;

(iv) Promoting interchange of technical information and techniques to develop lower costs and better quality;

(v) Representing the Department on committees, task forces, work groups, and other similar groups concerned with aerial photography acquisition and reproduction;

(vi) Providing a Chairperson for the Photography Sales Committee of the Department;

(vii) Coordinating development, preparation, and issuance of specifications for aerial photography for the Department;

(viii) Coordinating and performing procurement, inspection, and application of specifications for USDA aerial photography;

(ix) Maintaining library and files of USDA aerial film and retrieving and supplying reproductions on request.

(6) Administer a Century Farms Program as authorized by section 12508 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2266a).

(7) Establish programs with any bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), or with other agencies within USDA, in support of the Service First initiative for the purpose of promoting customer service and efficiency, including delegating to employees of DOI and other USDA agencies the authorities of the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center necessary to carry out projects on behalf of USDA (43 U.S.C. 1703).

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(b) [Reserved]

[83 FR 61312, Nov. 29, 2018, as amended at 85 FR 65514, Oct. 15, 2020; 89 FR 80075, Oct. 2, 2024]

§ 2.42 Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.16(a)(1) and (2) and (a)(6) through (8), subject to the reservations in § 2.16(b)(1), the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation to the Administrator, Farm Service Agency:

(1) Formulate policies and administer programs authorized by the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1282 *et seq.*).

(2) Formulate policies and administer programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1441 *et seq.*), except the provisions of section 416(a)(1), (a)(2) and (b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, unless specifically provided herein.

(3)–(4) [Reserved]

(5) *Related to defense and emergency preparedness.* (i) [Reserved]

(ii) Administer functions delegated by the President to the Secretary under Executive Order 13603, "National Defense Resources Preparedness" (3 CFR, 2012 Comp., p. 225), and Executive Order 12742, "National Security Industrial Responsiveness" (3 CFR, 1991 Comp., p. 309), including administration of an Agriculture Priorities and Allocations System.

(6) Administer the Emergency Conservation Program under the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978, as amended (16 U.S.C. 2201 *et seq.*).

(7) [Reserved]

(8) Conduct assigned activities under the Strategic and Critical Materials Stockpiling Act, as amended (50 U.S.C. 98 *et seq.*).

(9) Supervise and direct Farm Service Agency State and county offices and designate functions to be performed by Farm Service Agency State and county committees.

(10) Administer the Dairy Indemnity Program under the Act of August 13, 1968, as amended (7 U.S.C. 4551 *et seq.*).

(11) Administer procurement, processing, handling, distribution, disposition, transportation, payment, and related services with respect to surplus

removal and supply operations which are carried out under section 210 of the Agricultural Act of 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1859), the Act of August 19, 1958, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1431 note), and section 709 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1446a-1), except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services in § 2.19 and to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs in § 2.16(a)(3), and assist the Food and Consumer Service and the Agricultural Marketing Service in the procurement, handling, payment, and related services under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, as amended (7 U.S.C. 612c), the Act of June 28, 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 713c), the National School Lunch Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1751 *et seq.*), section 8 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1777), section 311 of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3030a), and section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973, as amended (7 U.S.C. 612c note), and section 1114 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 1431e).

(12)–(13) [Reserved]

(14) Administer the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) except those functions delegated in § 2.21(a)(8)(xi).

(15) Administer energy management activities as assigned.

(16) Conduct producer referenda of commodity promotion programs under the Beef Research and Information Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2901 *et seq.*) and the Agricultural Promotion Programs Act of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C. 6001 *et seq.*).

(17) Conduct field operations of diversion programs for fresh fruits and vegetables under section 32 of the Act of August 29, 1935.

(18) [Reserved]

(19) Collect, summarize, and publish data on the production, distribution, and stocks of sugar.

(20) Formulate and carry out the Conservation Reserve Program, including the implementation of technical assistance, under the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1231

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et seq.), and the functions of the Grassland Reserve Program transferred to the Conservation Reserve Program.

(21) Carry out functions relating to highly erodible land and wetland conservation under sections 1211–1213 and 1221–1223 of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3811–3813 and 3821–3823).

(22) With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, exercise the functions delegated to the Secretary by Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, under the following provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (“the Act”), as amended:

(i) Sections 104(a), (b), and (c)(4) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(a), (b), and (c)(4)), with respect to removal and remedial actions in the event of release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant into the environment;

(ii) Sections 104(e)–(h) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(e)–(h)), with respect to information gathering and access requests and orders; compliance with Federal health and safety standards and wage and labor standards applicable to covered work; and emergency procurement powers;

(iii) Section 104(i)(11) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(11)), with respect to the reduction of exposure to significant risk to human health;

(iv) Section 104(j) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(j)), with respect to the acquisition of real property and interests in real property required to conduct a remedial action;

(v) The first two sentences of section 105(d) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(d)), with respect to petition for preliminary assessment of a release or threatened release;

(vi) Section 105(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(f)), with respect to consideration of the availability of qualified minority firms in awarding contracts, but excluding that portion of section 105(f) pertaining to the annual report to Congress;

(vii) Section 109 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9609), with respect to the assessment of civil penalties for violations of section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), and the

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granting of awards to individuals providing information;

(viii) Section 111(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9611(f)), with respect to the designation of officials who may obligate money in the Hazardous Substances Superfund;

(ix) Section 113(k) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9613(k)), with respect to establishing an administrative record upon which to base the selection of a response action and identifying and notifying potentially responsible parties;

(x) Section 116(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9616(a)), with respect to preliminary assessment and site inspection of facilities;

(xi) Sections 117(a) and (c) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9617(a) and (c)), with respect to public participation in the preparation of any plan for remedial action and explanation of variances from the final remedial action plan for any remedial action or enforcement action, including any settlement or consent decree entered into;

(xii) Section 119 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9119), with respect to indemnifying response action contractors;

(xiii) Section 121 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9621), with respect to cleanup standards; and

(xiv) Section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), with respect to settlements, but excluding section 122(b)(1) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622(b)(1)), related to mixed funding agreements.

(23) With respect to facilities and activities under his or her authority, to exercise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to section 1–102 related to compliance with applicable pollution control standards and section 1–601 of Executive Order 12088, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243, to enter into an inter-agency agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an administrative consent order or a consent judgment in an appropriate State, interstate, or local agency, containing a plan and schedule to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable pollution control standards established pursuant to the following:

(i) Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as further amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste

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Amendments, and the Federal Facility Compliance Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*);

(ii) Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*);

(iii) Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*);

(iv) Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*);

(v) Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4901 *et seq.*);

(vi) Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*);

(vii) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*); and

(viii) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*).

(24)–(26) [Reserved]

(27) Formulate and administer regulations regarding program ineligibility resulting from convictions under Federal or State law of planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting, or storing a controlled substance, as required under section 1764 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (21 U.S.C. 881a).

(28) Administer the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 *et seq.*) except for the authority contained in the following sections:

(i) [Reserved]

(ii) Section 306 (7 U.S.C. 1926), relating to all programs in that section;

(iii) Section 306A (7 U.S.C. 1926a) and section 306B (7 U.S.C. 1926b), relating to the Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant Programs, and section 306D (7 U.S.C. 1926d), relating to water systems for rural Alaskan Native Villages;

(iv) Section 306C (7 U.S.C. 1926c) to administer the water and waste facility loans and grants to alleviate health risks;

(v) Sections 309 (7 U.S.C. 1929) and 309A (7 U.S.C. 1929a), regarding assets and programs related to rural development;

(vi) Section 310A (7 U.S.C. 1931), relating to watershed and resource conservation and development loans;

(vii) Section 310B (7 U.S.C. 1932), regarding various Rural Development programs;

(viii) Section 310C (7 U.S.C. 1933), relating to housing program interest rates;

(ix) Section 310G (7 U.S.C. 1936a), relating to the use of rural development loans and grants for other purposes, and section 353A (7 U.S.C. 2001a), relating to the servicing of community facilities loans;

(x) Section 364 (7 U.S.C. 2006f) and section 365 (7 U.S.C. 2008);

(xi) Administrative provisions of subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act related to Rural Utilities Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Housing Service activities.

(xii) Section 375 (7 U.S.C. 2008j), relating to the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

(xiii) Sections 379 (7 U.S.C. 2008n) through 379G (7 U.S.C. 2008u) and subtitles E through I (7 U.S.C. 2009–2009dd-7) relating to rural development programs and activities.

(29) Collect, service, and liquidate loans made or insured by the Farm Service Agency, or its predecessor agencies.

(30) Administer the Rural Rehabilitation Corporation Trust Liquidation Act (40 U.S.C. 440 *et seq.*), and trust, liquidation, and other agreements entered into pursuant thereto.

(31) Establish programs with any bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), or with other agencies within USDA, in support of the Service First initiative for the purpose of promoting customer service and efficiency, including delegating to employees of DOI and other USDA agencies the authorities of the Farm Service Agency necessary to carry out projects on behalf of USDA (43 U.S.C. 1703).

(32) Administer Farmers Home Administration or any successor agency assets conveyed in trust under the Participation Sales Act of 1966 (12 U.S.C. 1717).

(33) Administer the emergency loan and guarantee programs under sections 232, 234, 237, and 253 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1970 (Pub. L. No. 91-606), the Disaster Relief Act of 1969 (Pub. L. No. 91-79), Pub. L. No. 92-385, approved August 16, 1972, and the Emergency Livestock Credit Act of 1974 (Pub. L. No. 93-357), as amended.

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(34) Administer loans to homestead or desertland entrymen and purchasers of land in reclamation projects or to an entryman under the desertland law (7 U.S.C. 1006a and 1006b).

(35) [Reserved]

(36) Service, collect, settle, and liquidate:

(i) Deferred land purchase obligations of individuals under the Wheeler-Case Act of August 11, 1939, as amended (16 U.S.C. 590y), and under the item, "Water Conservation and Utilization projects" in the Department of the Interior Appropriation Act, 1940 (53 Stat. 719), as amended;

(ii) Puerto Rican Hurricane Relief loans under the Act of July 11, 1956 (70 Stat. 525); and

(iii) Loans made in conformance with section 4 of the Southeast Hurricane Disaster Relief Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 1301).

(37) Administer loans to Indian tribes, tribal corporations, and purchasers of highly fractionated land (25 U.S.C. 488–492).

(38) Administer the State Agricultural Loan Mediation Program under title 5 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5101 *et seq.*).

(39) Administer financial assistance programs relating to Economic Opportunity Loans to Cooperatives under part A of title III and part D of title I and the necessarily related functions in title VI of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2763–2768, 2841–2855, 2942, 2943(b), 2961), delegated by the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity to the Secretary of Agriculture by documents dated October 23, 1964 (29 FR 14764), and June 17, 1968 (33 FR 9850), respectively.

(40) Exercise all authority and discretion vested in the Secretary by section 331(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended by section 2 of the Farmers Home Administration Improvement Act of 1994, Pub. L. No. 103–248 (7 U.S.C. 1981(c)), including the following:

(i) Determine, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, which actions are to be referred to the Department of Justice for the conduct of litigation, and refer such actions to the Department of Justice through the General Counsel;

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(ii) Determine, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, which actions are to be referred to the General Counsel, for the conduct of litigation and refer such actions; and

(iii) Enter into contracts with private sector attorneys for the conduct of litigation, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, after determining that the attorneys will provide competent and cost effective representation for the Farm Service Agency.

(41)–(42) [Reserved]

(43) Determine the type and quantity of commodities that are available for programming under section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1431(b)), and the Food for Progress Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1736o), and arrange for the processing, packaging, transportation, handling and delivery to port of such commodities in connection therewith.

(44) [Reserved]

(45) Administer all programs of the Commodity Credit Corporation that provide assistance with respect to the production of agricultural commodities or the income of producers, including disaster assistance and the domestic marketing of such commodities, except as may otherwise be reserved by the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, and similar programs (including commodity quality development programs) consigned by statute to the Secretary of Agriculture unless otherwise delegated.

(46) Administer the following provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 with respect to functions otherwise delegated to the Administrator, Farm Service Agency:

(i) The equitable relief provisions of section 1613 (7 U.S.C. 7996).

(ii) The tracking of benefits under section 1614 (7 U.S.C. 7997).

(47) Administer programs for Apple Loans and Emergency Loans for Seed Producers under section 203(f) and 253, respectively, of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 1421 note, Pub. L. 106–224).

(48) Administer evaluations of direct and guaranteed loan programs under section 5301 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1992 note).

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(49) Formulate and carry out the Grassroots Source Water Protection Program, authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3839bb-2).

(50) Administer cooperative agreements authorized under 7 U.S.C. 2204b(b)(4) as follows:

(i) Administer cooperative agreements with respect to conservation programs;

(ii) Administer cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, State, local, and tribal governments, non-governmental organizations, and educational institutions related to outreach and technical assistance for programs carried out by the Farm Service Agency, and, where such cooperative agreements focus on outreach activities to beginning, underserved, or veteran producers, coordinate with the Director, Office of Advocacy and Outreach to reduce potential duplication.

(51) Administer the feedstock flexibility program for bioenergy producers under section 9010 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8110) and the biomass crop assistance program under section 9011 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 8111).

(52)-(53) [Reserved]

(54) Implement the authority in section 1241 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841) to accept and use voluntary contributions of non-Federal funds in support of natural resources conservation programs under subtitle D of title XII of that Act with respect to authorities delegated to the Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

(55) In coordination with the Director, Office of Advocacy and Outreach, issue receipts under section 2501A(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279-1(e)).

(56) Administer the following provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-246:

(i) [Reserved]

(ii) Section 1609 relating to the tracking of benefits.

(iii)-(iv) [Reserved]

(iv) Section 1613 relating to the durum wheat quality program.

(v) Section 1621 relating to direct reimbursement payments to geographi-

cally disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

(vi)-(vii) [Reserved]

(viii) Section 14212 relating to the closure or relocation of county or field offices of the Farm Service Agency.

(ix) [Reserved]

(57) Implement the information disclosure authorities of section 1619(b)(3)(A) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8791(b)(3)(A)).

(58) Administer the following provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014, Public Law 113-79, as amended:

(i) Sections 1401-1410 relating to a margin protection program for dairy producers (7 U.S.C. 9051-9060), and section 1431 relating to a dairy product donation program (7 U.S.C. 9071).

(ii) Section 1612 relating to the tracking of benefits (7 U.S.C. 9095).

(iii) Section 12314 relating to the Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Fund (7 U.S.C. 2101 note), in coordination with the Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

(iv) Section 12315 relating to the Agriculture Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund (7 U.S.C. 7101 note), in coordination with the Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

(59) Enter into cooperative agreements under section 1472(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3318(b)) for the purpose of implementing section 1614(c)(3) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9097(c)).

(60) Administer the funds made available to the Office of the Secretary under Title I of Subdivision B, Further Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018, Public Law 115-123.

(61) Administer the Organic Certification Cost Share Programs authorized under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(b)(4)(C)(ii)), and under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act, as amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 6523).

(62) Determine the agricultural commodities acquired under price support programs which are available for export.

(63) Administer the following provisions of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, Public Law 116-334:

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(i) Section 5413 relating to reporting on farm loans (7 U.S.C. 2008x).

(ii) Section 12304 relating to the National Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator (7 U.S.C. 6934a).

(iii) Section 12612 relating to a national agriculture imagery program (7 U.S.C. 2204j).

(iv) Section 12615 relating to the eligibility for farm operators on heirs' property to obtain a farm loan number (7 U.S.C. 2266b).

(b) *Reservations.* The following authorities are reserved to the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation:

(1) Designating counties and areas for emergency programs under Pub. L. No. 85-58, as amended.

(2) Making and issuing notes to the Secretary of the Treasury for the purposes of the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund as authorized by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1929).

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 61 FR 25776, May 23, 1996; 61 FR 37552, July 18, 1996; 62 FR 1031, Jan. 8, 1997; 62 FR 19901, Apr. 24, 1997; 68 FR 27443, May 20, 2003; 69 FR 34254, June 21, 2004; 71 FR 35491, June 21, 2006; 71 FR 51421, Aug. 30, 2006; 74 FR 3406, Jan. 21, 2009; 75 FR 43380, July 23, 2010; 78 FR 40938, July 9, 2013; 79 FR 44112, July 30, 2014; 80 FR 58338, Sept. 29, 2015; 83 FR 22184, May 14, 2018; 83 FR 61313, Nov. 29, 2018; 85 FR 65514, Oct. 15, 2020; 87 FR 44269, July 26, 2022; 89 FR 80075, Oct. 2, 2024]

§ 2.43 Chief, Natural Resources and Conservation Service.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.16(a)(3), subject to reservations in § 2.16(b) of this chapter, the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation to the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service:

(1) Provide national leadership in the conservation, development and productive use of the Nation's soil, water, and related resources. Such leadership encompasses soil, water, plant, and wildlife conservation; small watershed protection and flood prevention; and resource conservation and development. Integrated in these programs are erosion control, sediment reduction, pollution abatement, land use planning, multiple use, improvement of water

quality, and several surveying and monitoring activities related to environmental improvement. All are designed to assure:

(i) Quality in the natural resource base for sustained use;

(ii) Quality in the environment to provide attractive, convenient, and satisfying places to live, work, and play; and

(iii) Quality in the standard of living based on community improvement and adequate income.

(2) Provide national leadership in evaluating and coordinating land use policy, and administer the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. 4201 *et seq.*), including the Farms for the Future Program authorized by sections 1465-1470 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 4201 note), except as otherwise delegated to the Administrator, Agricultural Research Service in § 2.65(a)(80) and the Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture in § 2.66(a)(76).

(3) Administer the basic program of soil and water conservation under Public Law 74-46, as amended, and related laws (16 U.S.C. 590a-f, q, q-1; 42 U.S.C. 3271-3274; 7 U.S.C. 2201), including:

(i) Technical and financial assistance to land users in carrying out locally adapted soil and water conservation programs primarily through soil and water conservation districts in the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and Federally recognized Native American tribes, but also to communities, watershed groups, Federal and State agencies, and other cooperators. This authority includes such assistance as:

(A) Comprehensive planning assistance in nonmetropolitan districts;

(B) Assistance in the field of income-producing recreation on rural non-Federal lands;

(C) Forestry assistance, as part of total technical assistance to private land owners and land users when such services are an integral part of land management and such services are not available from a State agency; and forestry services in connection with

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windbreaks and shelter belts to prevent wind and water erosion of lands;

(D) Assistance in developing programs relating to natural beauty; and

(E) Assistance to other USDA agencies in connection with the administration of their programs, as follows:

(1) To the Farm Service Agency in the development and technical servicing of certain programs, such as the Agricultural Conservation Program and other such similar conservation programs;

(2) To the Rural Housing Service in connection with their loan and land disposition programs.

(ii) Soil Surveys, including:

(A) Providing leadership for the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey which includes conducting and publishing soil surveys;

(B) Conducting soil surveys for resource planning and development; and

(C) Performing the cartographic services essential to carrying out the functions of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, including furnishing photographs, mosaics, and maps.

(iii) Conducting and coordinating snow surveys and making water supply forecasts pursuant to Reorganization Plan No. IV of 1940 (5 U.S.C. App.);

(iv) Operating plant materials centers for the assembly and testing of plant species in conservation programs, including the use, administration, and disposition of lands under the administration of the Natural Resources Conservation Service for such purposes under title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1010-1011); and

(v) Providing leadership in the inventorying and monitoring of soil, water, land, and related resources of the Nation.

(4) Administer the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Programs, including:

(i) The eleven authorized watershed projects authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1944 (Pub. L. 78-534), except for responsibilities assigned to the Forest Service;

(ii) The emergency flood control work under 33 U.S.C. 701b-1, except for responsibilities assigned to the Forest Service;

(iii) The Cooperative River Basin Surveys and Investigations Programs under 16 U.S.C. 1006, except for responsibilities assigned to the Forest Service;

(iv) The pilot watershed projects under 16 U.S.C. 590a-f, and 16 U.S.C. 1001-1009, except for responsibilities assigned to the Forest Service;

(v) The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program under 16 U.S.C. 1001-1010, including rehabilitation of water resource structural measures constructed under certain Department of Agriculture programs under 16 U.S.C. 1012, except for responsibilities assigned to the Rural Housing Service and the Forest Service.

(vi) The joint investigations and surveys with the Department of the Army under 16 U.S.C. 1009; and

(vii) The Emergency Conservation Program and the Emergency Watershed Protection Program under sections 401-405 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. 2201-2205, except for the provisions of sections 401 and 402, 16 U.S.C. 2201-2202, as administered by the Farm Service Agency.

(5) Establish programs with any bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), or with other agencies within USDA, in support of the Service First initiative for the purpose of promoting customer service and efficiency, including delegating to employees of DOI and other USDA agencies the authorities of the Natural Resources and Conservation Service necessary to carry out projects on behalf of USDA (43 U.S.C. 1703).

(6) Administer the Resource Conservation and Development Program under 16 U.S.C. 590a-f; 7 U.S.C. 1010-1011; and 16 U.S.C. 3451-3461, except for responsibilities assigned to the Rural Utilities Service.

(7) Responsibility for entering into long-term contracts for carrying out conservation and environmental measures in watershed areas.

(8) Provide national leadership for and administer the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 (16 U.S.C. 2001 *et seq.*), except for responsibilities assigned to other USDA agencies.

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(9) Administer Rural Clean Water Program and other responsibilities assigned under section 35 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*).

(10) Monitor actions and progress of USDA in complying with Executive Order 11988, Flood Plain Management, 3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 117, and Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, 3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 121, regarding management of floodplains and protection of wetlands; monitor USDA efforts on protection of important agricultural, forest and rangelands; and provide staff assistance to the USDA Natural Resources and Environment Committee.

(11) Administer the search and rescue operations authorized under 7 U.S.C. 2273.

(12) Administer section 202(c) of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act, 43 U.S.C. 1592(c) including:

(i) Identify salt source areas and determine the salt load resulting from irrigation and watershed management practices;

(ii) Conduct salinity control studies of irrigated salt source areas;

(iii) Provide technical and financial assistance in the implementation of salinity control projects including the development of salinity control plans, technical services for application, and certification of practice applications;

(iv) Develop plans for implementing measures that will reduce the salt load of the Colorado River;

(v) Develop and implement long-term monitoring and evaluation plans to measure and report progress and accomplishments in achieving program objectives; and

(vi) Enter into and administer contracts with program participants and waive cost-sharing requirements when such cost-sharing requirements would result in a failure to proceed with needed on-farm measures.

(13) Administer natural resources conservation authorities, including authorities related to programs of the Commodity Credit Corporation that provide assistance with respect to natural resources conservation, under Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (the Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 3801 *et seq.*), including the following:

(i) Technical assistance related to the conservation of highly erodible

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lands and wetlands pursuant to sections 1211–1224 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3811–3824);

(ii) Technical assistance related to the Conservation Reserve Program authorized by sections 1231–1235 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3831–3835);

(iii) The Wetlands Reserve Program and the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program authorized by sections 1237–1237F of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3837–3837f) prior to February 7, 2014, the transition authority under section 2703 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, and the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Relief from the Major, Widespread Flooding in the Midwest Act, Public Law 103–75;

(iv) The Conservation Security Program authorized by sections 1238–1238C of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3838–3838c) and the Conservation Stewardship Program authorized by sections 1240I–1240L–1 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21–3839aa–25).

(v) The Farmland Protection Program authorized by sections 1238H–1238I of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3838h–3838i) prior to February 7, 2014, and the transition authority under section 2704 of the Agricultural Act of 2014;

(vi) The Farm Viability Program authorized by section 1238J of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3838j) prior to February 7, 2014, and the transition authority under section 2704 of the Agricultural Act of 2014;

(vii) The Environmental Quality Incentives Program authorized by sections 1240–1240H of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–3839aa–8), the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program authorized by section 1240H of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–9) prior to February 7, 2014, and section 2706 of the Agricultural Act of 2014;

(viii) The conservation of private grazing lands authorized by section 1240M of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3839bb);

(ix) The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program authorized by section 1240N of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–1) prior to February 7, 2014 and Section 2707 of the Agricultural Act of 2014;

(x) The program for soil erosion and sedimentation control in the Great Lakes basin authorized by section 1240P of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–3) prior to February 7, 2014, and section 2708 of the Agricultural Act of 2014;

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(xi) The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program authorized by section 1240Q of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3839bb-4) prior to February 7, 2014, and section 2709 of the Agricultural Act of 2014;

(xii) The delivery of technical assistance under section 1242 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3842), including the approval of persons or entities outside of USDA to provide technical services;

(xiii) The authority for partnerships and cooperation provided by section 1243 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3843) prior to February 7, 2014, and section 2710 of the Agricultural Act of 2014; and

(xiv) The incentives for certain farmers and ranchers and Indian tribes and the protection of certain proprietary information related to natural resources conservation programs as provided by section 1244 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3844), except for responsibilities assigned to the Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

(xv) The Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program authorized by section 1252 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3851).

(xvi) The authority under sections 1261–1262 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3861–3862) to establish and utilize State Technical Committees.

(xvii) Those portions of the Grassland Reserve Program under sections 1238N–1238Q of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3838n–3838q) prior to February 7, 2014, and section 2705 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 that are or become the responsibility of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation.

(xviii) The authority in section 1241 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3841) to accept and use voluntary contributions of non-Federal funds in support of natural resources conservation programs under subtitle D of title XII of the Act with respect to authorities delegated to the Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

(xix) The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program authorized by sections 1265–1265D of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3865–3865d).

(xx) The Regional Conservation Partnership Program authorized by sections 1271–1271F of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3871–3871f).

(xxi) The Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program authorized by section 1240R of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3839bb-5).

(xxii) A wetlands mitigation banking program authorized by section 1222(k) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3822(k)).

(14) Approve and transmit to the Congress comprehensive river basin reports.

(15) Provide representation on the Water Resources Council and river basin commissions created by 42 U.S.C. 1962, and on river basin interagency committees.

(16) Administer the state and private forest landscape-scale restoration program (16 U.S.C. 2109a).

(17) Administer the Water Bank Program under the Water Bank Act (16 U.S.C. 1301 *et seq.*).

(18) Administer the agricultural management assistance provisions of section 524(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1524(b)), except for responsibilities assigned to the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, and to the Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

(19) Administer the Healthy Forests Reserve Program authorized by sections 501–508, Title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571–6578).

(20) Coordinate USDA input and assistance to the Department of Commerce and other Federal agencies consistent with section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1456), and coordinate USDA review of qualifying state and local government coastal management plans or programs prepared under such Act and submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, consistent with section 306(a) and (c) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1455(a) and (c)).

(21) Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), relating to agricultural lands and water.

(22) Administer the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program for Rural Lands and other responsibilities assigned under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*), except for responsibilities assigned to the Forest Service.

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(23) With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, to exercise the functions delegated to the Secretary by Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, under the following provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 ("the Act"), as amended:

(i) Sections 104(a), (b), and (c)(4) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(a), (b), and (c)(4)), with respect to removal and remedial actions in the event of release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant into the environment;

(ii) Sections 104(e)–(h) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604 (e)–(h)), with respect to information gathering and access requests and orders; compliance with Federal health and safety standards and wage and labor standards applicable to covered work; and emergency procurement powers;

(iii) Section 104(i)(11) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(11)), with respect to the reduction of exposure to significant risk to human health;

(iv) Section 104(j) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(j)), with respect to the acquisition of real property and interests in real property required to conduct a remedial action;

(v) The first two sentences of section 105(d) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(d)), with respect to petitions for preliminary assessment of a release or threatened release;

(vi) Section 105(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(f)), with respect to consideration of the availability of qualified minority firms in awarding contracts, but excluding that portion of section 105(f) of the Act pertaining to the annual report to Congress;

(vii) Section 109 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9609), with respect to the assessment of civil penalties for violations of section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622) and the granting of awards to individuals providing information;

(viii) Section 111(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9611(f)), with respect to the designation of officials who may obligate money in the Hazardous Substances Superfund;

(ix) Section 113(k) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9613(k)), with respect to establishing an administrative record upon

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which to base the selection of a response action and identifying and notifying potentially responsible parties;

(x) Section 116(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9616(a)), with respect to preliminary assessment and site inspection of facilities;

(xi) Section 117(a) and (c) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9617(a) and (c)), with respect to public participation in the preparation of any plan for remedial action and explanation of variances from the final remedial action plan for any remedial action or enforcement action, including any settlement or consent decree entered into;

(xii) Section 119 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9619), with respect to indemnifying response action contractors;

(xiii) Section 121 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9621), with respect to cleanup standards; and

(xiv) Section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), with respect to settlement, but excluding section 122(b)(1) of the Act.

(24) With respect to facilities and activities under his or her authority, to exercise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to section 1-102 related to compliance with applicable pollution control standards and section 1-601 of Executive Order 12088, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243, to enter into an inter-agency agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an administrative consent order or a consent judgment in an appropriate United States District Court with an appropriate State, interstate, or local agency, containing a plan and schedule to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable pollution control standards established pursuant to the following:

(i) Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, and the Federal Facility Compliance Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*);

(ii) Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*);

(iii) Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*);

(iv) Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*);

(v) Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4901 *et seq.*);

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(vi) Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended, (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*);

(vii) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*); and

(viii) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*).

(25) Administer the following provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 with respect to functions otherwise delegated to the Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service:

(i) The equitable relief provisions of section 1613 (7 U.S.C. 7996); and

(ii) The tracking of benefits under section 1614 (7 U.S.C. 7997).

(26) Implement the information disclosure authorities of section 1619(b)(3)(A) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8791(b)(3)(A)).

(27) In coordination with the Director, Office of Advocacy and Outreach, issue receipts under section 2501A(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279-1(e)).

(28) Authorize employees of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to carry and use firearms for personal protection while conducting field work in remote locations in the performance of their official duties (7 U.S.C. 2274a).

(29) Conduct activities that assist the Director, Office of Environmental Markets, in developing guidelines regarding the development of environmental services markets.

(30) Administer the Terminal Lakes assistance program authorized by section 2507 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb-6).

(31) Enter into cooperative agreements, which may provide for the acquisition of goods or services, including personal services, as authorized by Public Law 106-387 (7 U.S.C. 6962a).

(32) Administer the following provisions of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 116-334):

(i) Section 1704 (7 U.S.C. 1308-3a), authorizing waivers of the adjusted gross income limitation.

(ii) In consultation with the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, and the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Section 2707 (16 U.S.C. 1531 note), relating to wildlife management.

(iii) In coordination with the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Section 2408 (7 U.S.C. 8351 note), relating to the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program.

(iv) Section 8628, relating to the purchase of Natural Resources Conservation Service property in Riverside County, California.

(v) Section 12302, relating to the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.

(b) *Reservations.* The following authorities are reserved to the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation:

(1) Executing cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding for multi-agency cooperation with conservation districts and other districts organized for soil and water conservation within States, territories, possessions, and American Indian Nations.

(2) Approving additions to authorized Resource Conservation and Development Projects that designate new project areas in which resource conservation and development program assistance will be provided, and withdrawing authorization for assistance, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 590a-f; 7 U.S.C. 1010-1011; 16 U.S.C. 3451-3461.

(3) Giving final approval to and transmitting to the Congress watershed work plans that require congressional approval.

[83 FR 22185, May 14, 2018, as amended at 85 FR 65515, Oct. 15, 2020; 89 FR 80075, Oct. 2, 2024]

§2.44 Administrator, Risk Management Agency and Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to §2.16(a)(4), subject to reservations in §2.16(b)(3), the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation to the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, and Manager Federal Crop Insurance Corporation:

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(1) Appoint such officers and employees as may be necessary for the transaction of the business of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and the Risk Management Agency.

(2) Conduct pilot programs involving revenue insurance, risk management savings accounts, or the use of futures markets to manage risk and support farm income.

(3) Provide education in management of the financial risks inherent in the production and marketing of agricultural commodities.

(4) Conduct a study and issue a report on the efficacy and accuracy of the application of pack factors regarding the measurement of farm-stored production for purposes of providing policies or plans of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*).

(5) Carry out functions relating to highly erodible land and wetland conservation under sections 1211–1213 and 1221–1223 of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3811–3813 and 3821–3823).

(6) Prepare cropland reports as required by section 11014(c) of the Agricultural Act of 2013, Public Law 113–79.

(7) Assist the Administrator, Economic Research Service with implementing section 10016 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 regarding locally or regionally produced agricultural food products (7 U.S.C. 2204h).

(8) Administer the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501, *et seq.*), except for sections 524(a)(1)(B), (a)(3), and (b) (7 U.S.C. 1524(a)(1)(B), (a)(3), (b)) and 531 (7 U.S.C. 1531).

(9) Coordinate with the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, on the type and format of data received under the noninsured crop assistance program authorized by Sec. 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Pub. L 104–127, as amended) (7 U.S.C. 7333).

(10) Establish programs with any bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), or with other agencies within USDA, in support of the Service First initiative for the purpose of promoting customer service and efficiency, including delegating to employees of DOI and other USDA agencies the authorities of the Risk Manage-

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ment Agency to carry out projects on behalf of USDA (43 U.S.C. 1703).

(b) [Reserved]

[62 FR 19901, Apr. 24, 1997, as amended at 74 FR 3407, Jan. 21, 2009; 79 FR 44113, July 30, 2014; 83 FR 22188, May 14, 2018; 85 FR 65516, Oct. 15, 2020; 89 FR 80075, Oct. 2, 2024]

Subpart G—Delegations of Authority by the Under Secretary for Rural Development

EDITORIAL NOTE: Nomenclature changes to subpart G of part 2 appear at 60 FR 66713, Dec. 26, 1995.

§ 2.45 Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Pursuant to § 2.17(a), subject to reservations in § 2.17(b), and subject to policy guidance and direction by the Under Secretary for Rural Development, the following delegation of authority is made to the Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development, to be exercised only during the absence or unavailability of the Under Secretary: Perform all the duties and exercise all the powers which are now or which may hereafter be delegated to the Under Secretary for Rural Development.

[85 FR 65516, Oct. 15, 2020]

§ 2.46 Chief Operating Officer, Rural Development Business Center.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.17(a), subject to the reservations in § 2.17(b), the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Rural Development Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development to the Chief Operating Officer, Rural Development Business Center: (1) Provide to the Rural Utilities Service, Rural Housing Service, and Rural Business-Cooperative Service management support services including information technology, financial management, human resources, procurement, property management, and related business and administrative processes.

(2) With respect to land and facilities under the authority of the Under Secretary for Rural Development Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development, exercise the functions delegated to the Secretary by Executive Order

12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, under the following provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 ("the Act"), as amended:

(i) Sections 104(a), (b), and (c)(4) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(a), (b), and (c)(4)), with respect to removal and remedial actions in the event of release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant into the environment;

(ii) Sections 104(e)–(h) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(e)–(h)), with respect to information gathering and access requests and orders; compliance with Federal health and safety standards and wage and labor standards applicable to covered work; and emergency procurement powers;

(iii) Section 104(i)(11) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(11)), with respect to the reduction of exposure to significant risk to human health;

(iv) Section 104(j) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(j)), with respect to the acquisition of real property and interests in real property required to conduct a remedial action;

(v) The first two sentences of section 105(d) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(d)), with respect to petitions for preliminary assessment of a release or threatened release;

(vi) Section 105(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(f)), with respect to consideration of the availability of qualified minority firms in awarding contracts, but excluding that portion of section 105(f) pertaining to the annual report to Congress;

(vii) Section 109 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9609), with respect to the assessment of civil penalties for violations of section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), and the granting of awards to individuals providing information;

(viii) Section 111(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9611(f)), with respect to the designation of officials who may obligate money in the Hazardous Substances Superfund;

(ix) Section 113(k) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9613(k)), with respect to establishing an administrative record upon which to base the selection of a response action and identifying and notifying potentially responsible parties;

(x) Section 116(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9616(a)), with respect to preliminary assessment and site inspection of facilities;

(xi) Sections 117(a) and (c) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9617(a) and (c)), with respect to public participation in the preparation of any plan for remedial action and explanation of variances from the final remedial action plan for any remedial action or enforcement action, including any settlement or consent decree entered into;

(xii) Section 119 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9119), with respect to indemnifying response action contractors;

(xiii) Section 121 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9621), with respect to cleanup standards; and

(xiv) Section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), with respect to settlements, but excluding section 122(b)(1) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622(b)(1)), related to mixed funding agreements.

(3) With respect to facilities and activities under the authority of the Under Secretary for Rural Development/Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development, exercise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to section 1–102 related to compliance with applicable pollution control standards and section 1–601 of Executive Order 12088, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243, to enter into an inter-agency agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an administrative consent order or a consent judgment in an appropriate State, interstate, or local agency, containing a plan and schedule to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable pollution control standards established pursuant to the following:

(i) Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as further amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, and the Federal Facility Compliance Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*);

(ii) Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*);

(iii) Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*);

(iv) Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*);

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- (v) Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4901 *et seq.*);
- (vi) Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*);
- (vii) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*); and
- (viii) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*).

(4) Collect, service, and liquidate single family housing loans made, insured, or guaranteed by the Rural Housing Service.

(b) [Reserved]

[83 FR 61313, Nov. 29, 2018]

§ 2.47 Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to §§ 2.17(a)(14) and (a)(16) through (a)(20), and subject to policy guidance and direction by the Under Secretary for Rural Development, the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Rural Development to the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service:

(1) Administer the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901, *et seq.*): Provided, however, that the Administrator may utilize consultants and attorneys for the provision of legal services pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 918, with the concurrence of the General Counsel.

(2) Administer the Rural Electrification Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 903 note).

(3) The Administrator, Rural Utilities Service is designated to serve as the chief executive officer of the Rural Telephone Bank.

(4) Administer the following sections of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921, *et seq.*):

- (i) Section 306 (7 U.S.C. 1926), related to water and waste facilities.
- (ii) Section 306A (7 U.S.C. 1926a).
- (iii) Section 306B (7 U.S.C. 1926b).
- (iv) Section 306C (7 U.S.C. 1926c).
- (v) Section 306D (7 U.S.C. 1926d).
- (vii) Section 306E (7 U.S.C. 1926e).
- (vii) Sections 309 (7 U.S.C. 1929 and 309A (7 U.S.C. 1929a), relating to assets and programs related to watershed facilities, resource and conservation facilities, and water and waste facilities.

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(viii) Section 305 (7 U.S.C. 1926) relating to hazardous weather early warning systems.

(ix) Section 310A (7 U.S.C. 1931), relating to watershed and resource conservation and development.

(x) Section 310B(b) (7 U.S.C. 1932(b)).

(xi)–(xii) [Reserved]

(xiii) Administrative Provisions of subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act relating to Rural Utilities Service activities.

(xiv) Section 379B (7 U.S.C. 2009;).

(5) Administer section 8, and those functions with respect to repayment of obligations under section 4, of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1006a, 1004) and administer the Resource Conservation and Development Program to assist in carrying out resource conservation and development projects in rural areas under section 32(e) of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(e)).

(6) Administer the Water and Waste Loan Program (7 U.S.C. 1926-1).

(7) Administer the Rural Wastewater Treatment Circuit Rider Program (7 U.S.C. 1926 note).

(8) Collect, service, and liquidate loans made, insured, or guaranteed by the Rural Utilities Service or its predecessor agencies.

(9) Consult with the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to assist in the verification of eligibility of the broadband loan and grant programs of the Department of Agriculture (7 U.S.C. 950bb-6).

(10) Administer responsibilities and function assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*) and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), relating to rural development credit and financial assistance.

(11) In coordination with the Federal Communications Commission, administer Section 12511 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334) relating to the precision agriculture connectivity task force.

((12) [Reserved]

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(13) Administer the Distance Learning and Medical Link Programs (7 U.S.C. 950aaa *et seq.*).

(14) Administer water and waste facility programs and activities (7 U.S.C. 1926-1).

(15) In coordination with the Office of Tribal Relations, provide technical assistance to improve access by Tribal entities to rural development programs funded by the Department of Agriculture through available cooperative agreement authorities (7 U.S.C. 2671).

(16) In coordination with the Director, Office of Advocacy and Outreach, issue receipts under section 2501A(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279-1(e)).

(17) Administer section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a), relating to a rural energy savings program.

(18) Administer section 6210 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, Public Law 113-79, relating to funding of pending rural development loan and grant applications.

(19) Administer the authority under Sec. 746 of Division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Pub. L. 115-141), and any successor provisions in subsequent appropriations acts, to issue waivers to the U.S. iron and steel requirements for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water or wastewater system.

(b) *Reservations.* The following authority is reserved to the Under Secretary for Rural Development:

(1) Making and issuing notes to the Secretary of the Treasury for the purposes of the Rural Development Insurance Fund as authorized by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1929a).

(2) Administering loans for rural telephone facilities and service in rural areas as authorized by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 *et seq.*).

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 66 FR 16593, Mar. 27, 2001; 68 FR 27443, May 20, 2003; 74 FR 3407, Jan. 21, 2009; 75 FR 43380, July 23, 2010; 78 FR 40938, July 9, 2013; 79 FR 44113, July 30, 2014; 83 FR 22188, May 14, 2018; 83 FR 61314, Nov. 29, 2018; 85 FR 65516, Oct. 15, 2020]

§ 2.48 Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to §§ 2.17(a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(14), (a)(16) through (a)(19), and (a)(21), subject to reservations in § 2.17(b)(1), and subject to policy guidance and direction by the Under Secretary for Rural Development, the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Rural Development to the Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service:

(1) Administer the rural economic development loan and grant programs under the Rural Electrification Act (7 U.S.C. 940c and 950aa *et seq.*).

(2) Administer the following sections of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 *et seq.*):

(i) Section 306(a)(11)(A) (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(11)(A)), related grants for business technical assistance and planning;

(ii) [Reserved]

(iii) Sections 309 (7 U.S.C. 1929) and 309A (7 U.S.C. 1929a), relating to assets and programs related to rural development;

(iv) Section 310B (7 U.S.C. 1932), relating to various Rural Development programs, except for subsection (b) of that section.

(v) Section 310H (7 U.S.C. 1936b), relating to an intermediary relending program.

(vi) Administrative Provisions of subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act relating to Rural Business-Cooperative Service activities;

(vii) Section 378 (7 U.S.C. 2008m) relating to the National Rural Development Partnership; and

(viii) Section 379E (7 U.S.C. 2008s) relating to the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program.

(ix) Section 379F (7 U.S.C. 2000t) relating to the Expansion of Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities in Rural Areas Program.

(x) Section 379G (7 U.S.C. 2008u) relating to Health Care Services.

(xi) Section 382A *et seq.* (7 U.S.C. 2009aa *et seq.*) relating to the Delta Regional Authority.

(xii) Section 383A *et seq.* (7 U.S.C. 2009bb *et seq.*) relating to the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority.

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(xiii) Section 384A *et seq.* (7 U.S.C. 2009cc *et seq.*) relating to the Rural Business Investment program.

(xiv) Section 385A *et seq.* (7 U.S.C. 2009dd *et seq.*) relating to the Rural Collaborative Investment Program.

(3) Administer Alcohol Fuels Credit Guarantee Program Account (Pub. L. No. 102-341, 106 Stat. 895).

(4) [Reserved]

(5) Administer loan programs in the Appalachian region under sections 203 and 204 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App. 204).

(6) Administer section 601 of the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (Pub. L. No. 95-620).

(7) Administer the Drought and Disaster Guaranteed Loan program under section 331 of the Disaster Assistance Act of 1988 (7 U.S.C. 1929a note).

(8) Administer the Disaster Assistance for Rural Business Enterprises Guaranteed Loan Program under section 401 of the Disaster Assistance Act of 1989 (7 U.S.C. 1929a note).

(9) Administer the Rural Economic Development Demonstration Grant Program (7 U.S.C. 2662a).

(10) Administer the Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community Loan program (7 U.S.C. 6616).

(11) Administer programs authorized by the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926 (7 U.S.C. 451-457).

(12) Carry out the responsibilities of the Secretary of Agriculture relating to the marketing aspects of cooperatives, including economic research and analysis, the application of economic research findings, technical assistance to existing and developing cooperatives, education on cooperatives, and statistical information pertaining to cooperatives as authorized by the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627).

(13) Work with institutions and international organizations throughout the world on subjects related to the development and operation of agricultural cooperatives. Such work may be carried out by:

(i) Exchanging materials and results with such institutions or organizations;

(ii) Engaging in joint or coordinated activities; or

(iii) Stationing representatives at such institutions or organizations in foreign countries (7 U.S.C. 3291).

(14) Collect, service, and liquidate loans made, insured, or guaranteed by the Rural Business-Cooperative Service or its predecessor agencies.

(15) In coordination with the Office of Tribal Relations, provide technical assistance to improve access by Tribal entities to rural development programs funded by the Department of Agriculture through available cooperative agreement authorities (7 U.S.C. 2671).

(16) Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), relating to rural development credit and financial assistance.

(17)-(18) [Reserved]

(19) Administer in rural areas the process of designation, provision of monitoring and oversight, and provision of technical assistance for Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities pursuant to section 13301 of Pub. L. No. 103-66, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (26 U.S.C. 1391 *et seq.*).

(20) Provide leadership and coordination within the executive branch at the state and local level of Federal rural development program utilizing the services of executive branch departments and agencies and the agencies, bureaus, offices, and services of the Department of Agriculture in coordination with rural development programs of State and local governments (7 U.S.C. 2204).

(21) Coordinate, at the state and local level, activities relative to rural development among agencies reporting to the Under Secretary for Rural Development and, through appropriate channels, serve as the coordinating agency for other departmental agencies having primary responsibilities, in coordination with rural development programs of State and local governments (7 U.S.C. 2204).

(22) Work with Federal agencies in encouraging the creation of local rural community development organizations. Within a State, assist other Federal agencies in developing means for

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(iii) Stationing representatives at such institutions or organizations in foreign countries (7 U.S.C. 3291).

(14) Collect, service, and liquidate loans made, insured, or guaranteed by the Rural Business-Cooperative Service or its predecessor agencies.

(15) In coordination with the Office of Tribal Relations, provide technical assistance to improve access by Tribal entities to rural development programs funded by the Department of Agriculture through available cooperative agreement authorities (7 U.S.C. 2671).

(16) Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), relating to rural development credit and financial assistance.

(17)-(18) [Reserved]

(19) Administer in rural areas the process of designation, provision of monitoring and oversight, and provision of technical assistance for Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities pursuant to section 13301 of Pub. L. No. 103-66, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (26 U.S.C. 1391 *et seq.*).

(20) Provide leadership and coordination within the executive branch at the state and local level of Federal rural development program utilizing the services of executive branch departments and agencies and the agencies, bureaus, offices, and services of the Department of Agriculture in coordination with rural development programs of State and local governments (7 U.S.C. 2204).

(21) Coordinate, at the state and local level, activities relative to rural development among agencies reporting to the Under Secretary for Rural Development and, through appropriate channels, serve as the coordinating agency for other departmental agencies having primary responsibilities, in coordination with rural development programs of State and local governments (7 U.S.C. 2204).

(22) Work with Federal agencies in encouraging the creation of local rural community development organizations. Within a State, assist other Federal agencies in developing means for

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extending their services effectively to rural areas and in designating pilot projects in rural areas (7 U.S.C. 2204).

(23) Conduct assessments to determine how programs of the Department can be brought to bear on the economic development problems of a State or local area and assure that local groups are receiving adequate and effective technical assistance from Federal agencies or from local and State governments in formulating development programs and in carrying out planned development activities (7 U.S.C. 2204b).

(24) Develop a process through which State, sub-state and local rural development needs, goals, objectives, plans, and recommendations can be received and assessed on a continuing basis (7 U.S.C. 2204b).

(25) Prepare local or area-wide rural development strategies based on the needs, goals, objectives, plans and recommendations of local communities, sub-state areas and States (7 U.S.C. 2204b).

(26) Develop a system of outreach in the State or local area to promote rural development and provide for the publication and dissemination of information, through multi-media methods, relating to rural development. Advise local rural development organizations of availability of Federal programs and the type of assistance available, and assist in making contact with Federal program contact (7 U.S.C. 2204; 7 U.S.C. 2204b).

(27) Administer the assets of the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Corporation and the funds in the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Fund in accordance with section 6201 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2000 (see note to 7 U.S.C. 5901 (repealed)).

(28) In coordination with the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, administer the value-added producer grants program and farmers' markets and local food promotion program (7 U.S.C. 1627c(d)(5)–(6)).

(29) Administer the Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration program (7 U.S.C. 1632b).

(30) Administer the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements program (7 U.S.C. 8106).

(30) Administer the renewable energy programs authorized in sections 9003, 9004, 9005, 9007, and 9009 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103, 8104, 8105, 8107, and 8109).

(31) Implement the information disclosure authorities of section 1619(b)(3)(A) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8791(b)(3)(A)).

(32) In coordination with the Director, Office of Advocacy and Outreach, issue receipts under section 2501A(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279–1(e)).

(33) Administer the Healthy Food Financing Initiative under section 243 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953).

(34) Administer section 6209 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 2207b), relating to the collection and reporting of program metrics.

(35) Implementation of a program for the Federal procurement of biobased products and of a voluntary “USDA Certified Biobased product” labeling program (7 U.S.C. 8102).

(36) Entering into cooperative agreements to further research programs in the food and agricultural sciences, related to establishing and implementing Federal biobased procurement and voluntary biobased labeling programs (7 U.S.C. 3318).

(b) *Reservation.* The following authority is reserved to the Under Secretary for Rural Development: Making and issuing notes to the Secretary of the Treasury for the purposes of the Rural Development Insurance Fund as authorized by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1929a).

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 66 FR 33107, June 11, 2001; 68 FR 27444, May 20, 2003; 73 FR 3407, Jan. 21, 2009; 75 FR 43380, July 23, 2010; 78 FR 40938, July 9, 2013; 79 FR 44114, July 30, 2014; 83 FR 61314, Nov. 29, 2018; 85 FR 65516, Oct. 15, 2020]

§2.49 Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to §§2.17(a)(14), (a)(16) through (a)(19) and (a)(22), and subject to policy guidance and direction by the Under Secretary

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for Rural Development, the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Rural Development to the Administrator, Rural Housing Service:

(1) Administer the following under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 *et seq.*):

(i) Section 306 (7 U.S.C. 1926) except subsection 306(a)(11) and except financing for water and waste disposal facilities; hazardous weather early warning systems; grazing facilities; irrigation and drainage facilities; rural electrification or telephone systems or facilities; and hydro-electric generating and related distribution systems and supplemental and supporting structures if they are eligible for Rural Utilities financing;

(ii) Section 309A (7 U.S.C. 1929a), regarding assets and programs relating to community facilities; and

(iii) Administrative Provisions of subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act relating to Rural Housing Service activities;

(iv) Section 379 (7 U.S.C. 2008n) relating to the Rural Telework program.

(v) Section 379A (7 U.S.C. 2008o) relating to the Historic Barn Preservation program.

(vi) Section 379C (7 U.S.C. 2008q) relating to the Farm Workers Training Grant program.

(2) Administer title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 *et seq.*), except those functions pertaining to research.

(3) [Reserved]

(4) Administer the rural housing disaster program under sections 232, 234, and 253 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1970 (Pub. L. No. 91-606).

(5) [Reserved]

(6) Exercise all authority and discretion vested in the Secretary by section 510(d) of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended by section 1045 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1988, Pub. L. No. 100-628 (42 U.S.C. 1480(d)), including the following:

(i) Determine, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, which actions are to be referred to the Department of Justice for the conduct of litigation, and refer such actions to the Depart-

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ment of Justice through the General Counsel;

(ii) Determine, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, which actions are to be referred to the General Counsel for the conduct of litigation and refer such actions; and

(iii) Enter into contracts with private sector attorneys for the conduct of litigation, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, after determining that the attorneys will provide competent and cost effective representation for the Rural Housing Service and representation by the attorney will either accelerate the process by which a family or person eligible for assistance under section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949 will be able to purchase and occupy the housing involved, or preserve the quality of the housing involved.

(7) In coordination with the Office of Tribal Relations, provide technical assistance to improve access by Tribal entities to rural development programs funded by the Department of Agriculture through available cooperative agreement authorities (7 U.S.C. 2671).

(8) Administer responsibilities and function assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*) and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), relating to rural housing and community development credit and financial assistance.

(9) In consultation with the Department of Justice, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Secretary of Health and Human Services, administer the emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance grant program (34 U.S.C. 20127).

(10) [Reserved]

(11) Administer the Rural Fire-fighters and Emergency Personnel Grant program (7 U.S.C. 2655).

(12) Implement the information disclosure authorities of section 1619(b)(3)(A) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8791(b)(3)(A)).

(13) In coordination with the Director, Office of Advocacy and Outreach, issue receipts under section 2501A(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279-1(e)).

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(b) *Reservation.* The following authority is reserved to the Under Secretary for Rural Development: Making and issuing notes to the Secretary of the Treasury for the purposes the Rural Development Insurance Fund as authorized by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1929(a)) and the Rural Housing Insurance Fund as authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 1487).

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 66 FR 16593, Mar. 27, 2001; 68 FR 27444, May 20, 2003; 74 FR 3408, Jan. 21, 2009; 75 FR 43380, July 23, 2010; 78 FR 40938, July 9, 2013; 79 FR 44114, July 30, 2014; 85 FR 65516, Oct. 15, 2020]

Subpart H—Delegations of Authority by the Under Secretary for Food Safety**§ 2.51 Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety.**

Pursuant to § 2.18, and subject to policy guidance and direction by the Under Secretary, the following delegation of authority is made by the Under Secretary for Food Safety to the Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, to be exercised only during the absence or unavailability of the Under Secretary: Perform all the duties and exercise all the powers which are now or which may hereafter be delegated to the Under Secretary for Food Safety: Provided, that this authority shall be exercised first by a career Deputy Under Secretary in the order in which he or she has taken office as Deputy Under Secretary, and second by a non-career Deputy Under Secretary in the order in which he or she has taken office as Deputy Under Secretary.

[80 FR 58338, Sept. 29, 2015]

§ 2.53 Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.18, the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Food Safety to the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service:

(1) Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture contained in the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627), relating to voluntary inspection of poultry and edible products thereof; voluntary in-

spection and certification of technical animal fat; certified products for dogs, cats and other carnivora; voluntary inspection of rabbits and edible products thereof; and voluntary inspection and certification of edible meat and other products.

(2) Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture contained in the following legislation:

(i) Poultry Products Inspection Act, as amended (21 U.S.C. 451–470, 472);

(ii) Federal Meat Inspection Act, as amended, and related legislation, excluding so much of section 18 as pertains to issuance of certificates of condition of live animals intended and offered for export (21 U.S.C. 601–613, 615–624, 641–645, 661, 671–680, 683, 691–692, 694–695);

(iii) Egg Products Inspection Act, except for the shell egg surveillance program, voluntary laboratory analyses of egg products, and the voluntary egg grading program (21 U.S.C. 1031–1056);

(iv) Talmadge-Aiken Act (7 U.S.C. 450) with respect to cooperation with States in administration of the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act;

(v) Humane Slaughter Act (7 U.S.C. 1901–1906); and

(vi) Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), relating to wholesomeness of meat and poultry and products thereof and inspection of egg and egg products.

(3) With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, exercise the functions delegated to the Secretary by Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, under the following provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (“the Act”), as amended:

(i) Sections 104 (a), (b), and (c)(4) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604 (a), (b), and (c)(4)), with respect to removal and remedial actions in the event of release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant into the environment;

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- (ii) Sections 104(e)–(h) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(e)–(h)), with respect to information gathering and access requests and orders; compliance with Federal health and safety standards and wage and labor standards applicable to covered work; and emergency procurement powers;
- (iii) Section 104(i)(11) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(11)), with respect to the reduction of exposure to significant risk to human health;
- (iv) Section 104(j) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(j)), with respect to the acquisition of real property and interests in real property required to conduct a remedial action;
- (v) The first two sentences of section 105(d) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(d)), with respect to petitions for preliminary assessment of a release or threatened release;
- (vi) Section 105(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(f)), with respect to consideration of the availability of qualified minority firms in awarding contracts, but excluding that portion of section 105(f) pertaining to the annual report to Congress;
- (vii) Section 109 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9609), with respect to the assessment of civil penalties for violations of section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), and the granting of awards to individuals providing information;
- (viii) Section 111(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9611(f)), with respect to the designation of officials who may obligate money in the Hazardous Substances Superfund;
- (ix) Section 113(k) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9613(k)), with respect to establishing an administrative record upon which to base the selection of a response action and identifying and notifying potentially responsible parties;
- (x) Section 116(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9616(a)), with respect to preliminary assessment and site inspection of facilities;
- (xi) Sections 117 (a) and (c) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9617 (a) and (c)), with respect to public participation in the preparation of any plan for remedial action and explanation of variances from the final remedial action plan for any remedial action or enforcement action, including any settlement or consent decree entered into;

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- (xii) Section 119 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9119), with respect to indemnifying response action contractors;
- (xiii) Section 121 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9621), with respect to cleanup standards; and
- (xiv) Section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), with respect to settlements, but excluding section 122(b)(1) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622(b)(1)), related to mixed funding agreements.

(4) With respect to facilities and activities under his or her authority, to exercise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to section 1–102 related to compliance with applicable pollution control standards and section 1–601 of Executive Order 12088, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243, to enter into an inter-agency agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an administrative consent order or a consent judgment in an appropriate State, interstate, or local agency, containing a plan and schedule to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable pollution control standards established pursuant to the following:

- (i) Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as further amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, and the Federal Facility Compliance Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*);
- (ii) Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*);
- (iii) Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*);
- (iv) Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*);
- (v) Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4901 *et seq.*);
- (vi) Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*);
- (vii) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*); and
- (viii) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*).

(5) Administer the National Laboratory Accreditation Program (7 U.S.C. 138–138i) with respect to laboratories accredited only for pesticide residue analysis in meat and poultry products.

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(6) Administer and conduct a food safety research program (7 U.S.C. 427).

(7) Coordinate with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service the administration of programs relating to human pathogen reduction (such as *salmonella enteritidis*) pursuant to section 2 of the Act of February 2, 1903, as amended (21 U.S.C. 111), and sections 4 and 5 of the Act of May 29, 1884, as amended (21 U.S.C. 120).

(8) Enter into contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements to further research programs in the agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3318).

(9) Conduct an education program regarding the availability and safety of processes and treatments that eliminate or substantially reduce the level of pathogens on meat, meat food products, poultry, and poultry products (21 U.S.C. 679b).

(b) [Reserved]

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 68 FR 27444, May 20, 2003; 74 FR 3408, Jan. 21, 2009]

Subpart I—Delegations of Authority by the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services**§2.55 Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.**

Pursuant to §2.19(a), subject to reservations in §2.19(b), and subject to policy guidance and direction by the Under Secretary, the following delegation of authority is made by the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services to the Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, to be exercised only during the absence or unavailability of the Under Secretary: Perform all the duties and exercise all the powers which are now or which may hereafter be delegated to the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.

§2.57 Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to §2.19(a)(1), (a)(2) and (a)(5), subject to reservations in §2.91(b), the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Food, Nutri-

tion, and Consumer Services to the Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service:

(1) Administer the following legislation:

(i) The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2011–2036), except for section 25, regarding assistance for community food projects.

(ii) Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1751–1769i), except procurement of agricultural commodities and other foods under section 6 thereof.

(iii) Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1771–1790).

(iv) Sections 933–939 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act Amendments of 1991 (7 U.S.C. 5930 note).

(v) Section 301 of the Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103–448).

(vi) Section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007).

(vii) Section 4403 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3171 note).

(viii) Section 4404 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2 U.S.C. 1161).

(ix) Section 4142 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110–246).

(x) Section 4301 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1758a).

(xi) Section 4305 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1755a).

(xii) Section 4307 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110–246).

(xiii) Section 4208 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2026a).

(xiv) Section 12614 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 6925).

(2) Administer those functions relating to the distribution and donation of agricultural commodities and products thereof under the following legislation:

(i) Clause (3) of section 416(a) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1431(a)), except the estimate and announcement of the types and varieties of food commodities, and the

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quantities thereof, to become available for distribution thereunder;

(ii) Section 709 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1446a-1);

(iii) Section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, as amended (7 U.S.C. 612c), as supplemented by the Act of June 28, 1937 (15 U.S.C. 713c), and related legislation;

(iv) Section 9 of the Act of September 6, 1958 (7 U.S.C. 1431b);

(v) Section 210 of the Agricultural Act of 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1859), except with respect to donations to Federal penal and correctional institutions;

(vi) [Reserved]

(vii) Section 311 of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3030a);

(viii) Sections 412 and 413(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5179, 5180(b));

(ix) Sections 4 and 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973, as amended (7 U.S.C. 612c note);

(x) Section 1114 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1431e);

(xi) Section 1336 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Pub. L. No. 97-98);

(xii) Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983, as amended (7 U.S.C. 7501 *et seq.*);

(xiii) Sections 3(b)-(i), 3A and 4 of the Commodity Distribution Reform Act and WIC Amendments of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 612c note); and

(xiv) Section 110 of the Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 (7 U.S.C. 612c note).

(3) Administer those functions relating to the distribution of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits under section 412 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5179).

(4) In connection with the functions assigned in paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3) of this section, relating to the distribution and donation of agricultural commodities and products thereof and supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to eligible recipients, authority to determine the requirements for such agricultural commodities and products thereof and supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to be so distributed.

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(5) Receive donation of food commodities under clause (3) of section 416(a) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, section 709 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965, as amended, section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973, section 1114(a) of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, and section 202(a) and 202A of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983.

(6) Authorize defense emergency supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits.

(7) Develop and implement USDA policy and procedural guidelines for carrying out the Department's Consumer Affairs Plan.

(8) Advise the Secretary and other policy level officials of the Department on consumer affairs policies and programs.

(9) Coordinate USDA consumer affairs activities and monitor and analyze agency procedures and performance.

(10) Represent the Department at conferences, meetings and other contacts where consumer affairs issues are discussed, including liaison with the White House and other governmental agencies and departments.

(11) Work with the Office of Budget and Program Analysis and the Office of Communications to ensure coordination of USDA consumer affairs and public participation programs, policies and information, and to prevent duplication of responsibilities.

(12) Serve as a consumer ombudsman and communication link between consumers and the Department.

(13) Approve the designation of agency Consumer Affairs Contacts.

(14) Administer those functions under title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1612) relating to the eligibility of aliens for benefits under the domestic food assistance programs.

(15) Administer the following provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014, Public Law 113-79:

(i) Section 4004(b), relating to a demonstration project regarding the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (7 U.S.C. 2013 note).

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(ii) Section 4031, relating to a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands pilot program regarding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (48 U.S.C. 1841 note).

(iii) Section 4032, relating to annual State reporting on verification of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participation (7 U.S.C. 2036c).

(iv) Section 4033, relating to service of traditional foods in public facilities (25 U.S.C. 443d).

(v) Section 4214, relating to a pilot project for canned, frozen, or dried fruits and vegetables as part of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769a note).

(16) Administer section 301 of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990, relating to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (7 U.S.C. 5341).

(b) [Reserved]

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 63 FR 35787, July 1, 1998; 68 FR 27444, May 20, 2003; 74 FR 3408, Jan. 21, 2009; 79 FR 44114, July 30, 2014; 85 FR 65516, Oct. 15, 2020]

Subpart J—Delegations of Authority by the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment

EDITORIAL NOTE: Nomenclature changes to subpart J of part 2 appear at 60 FR 66713, Dec. 26, 1995.

§2.59 Deputy Under Secretaries for Natural Resources and Environment.

Pursuant to §2.20(a), subject to reservations in §2.20(b), and subject to policy guidance and direction by the Under Secretary, the following delegation of authority is made by the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment to the Deputy Under Secretaries for Natural Resources and Environment, to be exercised only during the absence or unavailability of the Under Secretary: Perform all the duties and exercise all the powers which are now or which may hereafter be delegated to the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment. Provided, that, except in the absence of both the Under Secretary and a Deputy

Under Secretary, this authority shall be exercised by the respective Deputy Under Secretary only with respect to the area or responsibility assigned to him or her.

§2.60 Chief, Forest Service.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to §2.20(a)(1), (2), and (6), (a)(7)(ii), and (a)(8), the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment to the Chief of the Forest Service:

(1) Provide national leadership in forestry. (As used here and elsewhere in this section, the term "forestry" encompasses renewable and nonrenewable resources of forests, including lands governed by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, forest-related rangeland, grassland, brushland, woodland, and alpine areas including but not limited to recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish; natural scenic, scientific, cultural, and historic values of forests and related lands; and derivative values such as economic strength and social well-being).

(2) Protect, manage, and administer the national forests, national forest purchase units, national grasslands, and other lands and interests in lands administered by the Forest Service, which collectively are designated as the National Forest System.

(3) Acquire, dispose, and lease lands and interest in lands as may be authorized for the protection, management, and administration of the National Forest System, including the authority to approve acquisition of land under the Weeks Act of March 1, 1911, as amended, and special forest receipts acts (Pub. L. 337, 74th Cong., 49 Stat. 866, as amended by Pub. L. 310, 78th Cong., 58 Stat. 227; Pub. L. 505, 75th Cong., 52 Stat. 347, as amended by Pub. L. 310, 78th Cong., 58 Stat. 227; Pub. L. 634, 75th Cong., 52 Stat. 699, as amended by Pub. L. 310, 78th Cong., 58 Stat. 227; Pub. L. 748, 75th Cong., 52 Stat. 1205, as amended by Pub. L. 310, 78th Cong., 58 Stat. 227; Pub. L. 427, 76th Cong., 54 Stat. 46; Pub. L. 589, 76th Cong., 54 Stat. 297; Pub. L. 591, 76th Cong., 54 Stat. 299; Pub. L. 637, 76th Cong., 54

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Stat. 402; Pub. L. 781, 84th Cong., 70 Stat. 632).

(4) As necessary for administrative purposes, divide into and designate as national forests any lands of 3,000 acres or less which are acquired under or subject to the Weeks Act of March 1, 1911, as amended, and which are contiguous to existing national forest boundaries established under the authority of the Weeks Act.

(5) Plan and administer wildlife and fish conservation rehabilitation and habitat management programs on National Forest System lands, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 670g, 670h, and 670.

(6) For the purposes of the National Forests System Drug Control Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 559b-559g), specifically designate certain specially trained officers and employees of the Forest Service, not exceeding 500, to have authority in the performance of their duties within the boundaries of the National Forest System:

(i) To carry firearms;

(ii) To enforce and conduct investigations of violations of section 401 of the Controlled Substance Act (21 U.S.C. 841) and other criminal violations relating to marijuana and other controlled substances that are manufactured, distributed, or dispensed on National Forest System lands;

(iii) To make arrests with a warrant or process for misdemeanor violations, or without a warrant for violations of such misdemeanors that any such officer or employee has probable cause to believe are being committed in that employee's presence or view, or for a felony with a warrant or without a warrant if that employee has probable cause to believe that the person being arrested has committed or is committing such a felony;

(iv) To serve warrants and other process issued by a court or officer of competent jurisdiction;

(v) To search, with or without a warrant or process, any person, place, or conveyance according to Federal law or rule of law; and

(vi) To seize, with or without warrant or process, any evidentiary item according to Federal law or rule of law.

(7) Cooperate with the law enforcement officials of any Federal agency, State, or political subdivision, in the

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investigation of violations of, and enforcement of, section 401 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841), other laws and regulations relating to marijuana and other controlled substances, and State drug control laws or ordinances, within the boundaries of the National Forest System.

(8) Administer programs under section 23 of the Federal Highway Act (23 U.S.C. 101(a), 120(f), 125(a)-(c), 138, 202(a)-(b), 203, 204(a)-(c), 205(a)-(d), 211, 317, 401).

(9) Administer provisions of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1272, 1305) as they relate to management of the National Forest System.

(10) Conduct, support, and cooperate in investigations, experiments, tests, and other activities deemed necessary to obtain, analyze, develop, demonstrate, and disseminate scientific information about protecting, managing, and utilizing forest and rangeland renewable resources in rural, suburban, and urban areas in the United States and foreign countries. The activities conducted, supported, or cooperated in shall include, but not be limited to: Renewable resource management research; renewable resource environmental research; renewable resource protection research, renewable resource utilization research, and renewable resource assessment research (16 U.S.C. 1641-1647).

(11) Use authorities and means available to disseminate the knowledge and technology developed from forestry research (16 U.S.C. 1645).

(12) Coordinate activities with other agencies in USDA, other Federal and State agencies, forestry schools, and private entities and individuals (16 U.S.C. 1643).

(13) Enter into contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements for the support of scientific research in forestry activities (7 U.S.C. 3105, 1624; 16 U.S.C. 582a-8, 1643-1645, 1649).

(14) Enter into cooperative research and development agreements with industry, universities, and others; institute a cash award program to reward scientific, engineering, and technical personnel; award royalties to inventors; and retain and use royalty income (15 U.S.C. 3710a-3710c).

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(15) Enter into contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements to further research, extension, or teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3152, 3318).

(16) Enter into cost-reimbursable agreements relating to agricultural research, extension, or teaching activities (7 U.S.C. 3319a).

(17) Administer programs of cooperative forestry assistance in the protection, conservation, and multiple resource management of forests and related resources in both rural and urban areas and forest lands in foreign countries (16 U.S.C. 2101-2114).

(18) Provide assistance to States and other units of government in forest resources planning and forestry rural revitalization (7 U.S.C. 6601, 6611-6617; 16 U.S.C. 2107).

(19) Conduct a program of technology implementation for State forestry personnel, private forest landowners and managers, vendors, forest operators, public agencies, and individuals (16 U.S.C. 2107).

(20) Administer rural fire protection and control program (16 U.S.C. 2106c).

(21) Provide technical assistance on forestry technology or the implementation of the conservation reserve and softwood timber programs authorized in sections 1231-1244 and 1254 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831-3844; 7 U.S.C. 1981 note).

(22) Administer forest insect, disease, and other pest management programs (16 U.S.C. 2104).

(23) Exercise the custodial functions of the Secretary for lands and interests in lands under lease or contract of sale to States and local agencies pursuant to title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act and administer reserved and reversionary interests in lands conveyed under that Act (7 U.S.C. 1010-1013a).

(24) Under such general program criteria and procedures as may be established by the Natural Resources Conservation Service:

(i) Administer the forestry aspects of the programs listed in paragraphs (a)(24)(i)(A) through (C) of this section on the National Forest System, rangelands with national forest boundaries, adjacent rangelands which are admin-

istered under formal agreement, and other forest lands:

(A) The cooperative river basin surveys and investigations program (16 U.S.C. 1006);

(B) The eleven authorized watershed improvement programs and emergency flood prevention measures program under the Flood Control Act of 1944 (Pub. L. 78-534);

(C) The small watershed protection program under the Pilot Watershed Protection and Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Acts (7 U.S.C. 701a-h; 16 U.S.C. 1001-1009).

(ii) Exercise responsibility in connection with the forestry aspects of the resource conservation and development program authorized by title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(e)).

(25) Provide assistance to the Farm Service Agency in connection with the agricultural conservation program, the naval stores conservation program, and the cropland conversion program (16 U.S.C. 590g-q).

(26) Provide assistance to the Rural Housing Service in connection with grants and loans under authority of section 303 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S.C. 1923;

(27) Coordinate mapping work of USDA including:

(i) Clearing mapping projects to prevent duplication;

(ii) Keeping a record of mapping done by USDA agencies;

(iii) Preparing and submitting required USDA reports;

(iv) Serving as liaison on mapping with the Office of Management and Budget, Department of the Interior, and other departments and establishments;

(v) Promoting interchange of technical mapping information, including techniques which may reduce costs or improve quality; and

(vi) Maintaining the mapping records formerly maintained by the Office of Operations.

(28) Administer the radio frequency licensing work of USDA, including:

(i) Representing USDA on the Interdepartmental Radio Advisory Committee and its Frequency Assignment

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Subcommittee of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce;

(ii) Establishing policies, standards, and procedures for allotting and assigning frequencies within USDA and for obtaining effective utilization of them;

(iii) Providing licensing action necessary to assign radio frequencies for use by the agencies of USDA and maintenance of the records necessary in connection therewith; and

(iv) Providing inspection of USDA's radio operations to ensure compliance with national and international regulations and policies for radio frequency use.

(29) Represent USDA in all matters relating to responsibilities and authorities under the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 791a-823).

(30) Administer the Youth Conservation Corps Act (16 U.S.C. 1701-1706) for USDA.

(31) Establish and operate the Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers on National Forest System lands as authorized by title I, sections 106 and 107 of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2716), in accordance with the terms of an agreement dated May 11, 1967, between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Labor; and administration of other cooperative manpower training and work experience programs where the Forest Service serves as host or prime sponsor with other Departments of Federal, State, or local governments.

(32) Administer the Volunteers in the National Forests Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 558a-558d, 558a note).

(33) Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture authorized in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101-3215).

(34) Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. 4501 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.*), relating to forests and forest products, rural fire defense, and forestry research.

(35) Represent USDA on Regional Response Teams on hazardous spills and

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oil spills pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*), the Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*), the Oil Pollution Act (OPA), as amended (33 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*), Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, Executive Order 12777, 3 CFR, 1991 Comp., p. 351, and the National Contingency Plan, 40 CFR part 300.

(36) Exercise the functions of the Secretary as authorized in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287, except for making recommendations to the President regarding additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

(37) Issue proposed rules relating to the authorities delegated in this section, issue final rules and regulations as provided in 36 CFR 261.70, issue technical amendments and corrections to final rules issued by the Secretary or Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, and issue proposed and final rules necessary and appropriate to carry out title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101-3215) with regard to National Forest System Lands.

(38) Jointly administer gypsy moth eradication activities with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, under the authority of section 102 of the Organic Act of 1944, as amended; and the Act of April 6, 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 7759, 148, 148a-148e); and the Talmadge Aiken Act (7 U.S.C. 1633), by assuming primary responsibility for treating isolated gypsy moth infestations on Federal lands, and on State and private lands contiguous to infested Federal lands, and any other infestations over 640 acres on State and private lands.

(39) With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, to exercise the functions delegated to the Secretary by Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, under the following provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 ("the Act"), as amended:

(i) Sections 104(a), (b), and (c)(4) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604 (a), (b), and

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(c)(4)), with respect to removal and remedial actions in the event of release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant into the environment;

(ii) Sections 104 (e)-(h) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604 (e)-(h)), with respect to information gathering and access requests and orders; compliance with Federal health and safety standards and wage and labor standards applicable to covered work; and emergency procurement powers;

(iii) Section 104(i)(11) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(11)), with respect to the reduction of exposure to significant risk to human health;

(iv) Section 104(j) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(j)), with respect to the acquisition of real property and interests in real property required to conduct a remedial action;

(v) The first two sentences of section 105(d) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(d)), with respect to petitions for preliminary assessment of a release or threatened release;

(vi) Section 105(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(f)), with respect to consideration of the availability of qualified minority firms in awarding contracts, but excluding that portion of section 105(f) of the Act pertaining to the annual report to Congress;

(vii) Section 109 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9609), with respect to the assessment of civil penalties for violations of section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), and the granting of awards to individuals providing information;

(viii) Section 111(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9611(f)), with respect to the designation of officials who may obligate money in the Hazardous Substances Superfund;

(ix) Section 113(g) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9613(g)), with respect to receiving notification of a natural resource trustee's intent to file suit;

(x) Section 113(k) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9613(k)), with respect to establishing an administrative record upon which to base the selection of a response action and identifying and notifying potentially responsible parties;

(xi) Section 116(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9616(a)), with respect to preliminary assessment and site inspection of facilities;

(xii) Section 117(a) and (c) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9617(a) and (c)), with respect to public participation in the preparation of any plan for remedial action and explanation of variances from the final remedial action plan for any remedial action or enforcement action, including any settlement or consent decree entered into;

(xiii) Section 119 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9619), with respect to indemnifying response action contractors;

(xiv) Section 121 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9621), with respect to cleanup standards; and

(xv) Section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), with respect to settlements, but excluding section 122(b)(1) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622(b)(1)), related to mixed funding agreements.

(40) Exercise the functions of the Secretary authorized in the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 (30 U.S.C. 226 *et seq.*).

(41) With respect to facilities and activities under his or her authority, to exercise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to section 1-102 related to compliance with applicable pollution control standards and section 1-601 of Executive Order 12088, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243, to enter into an inter-agency agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an administrative consent order or a consent judgment in an appropriate United States District Court with an appropriate State, interstate, or local agency, containing a plan and schedule to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable pollution control standards established pursuant to the following:

(i) Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendment, and the Federal Facility Compliance Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*);

(ii) Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*);

(iii) Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*);

(iv) Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*);

(v) Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4901 *et seq.*);

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(vi) Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended, (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*);

(vii) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*); and

(viii) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*).

(42) With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, exercise the functions delegated to the Secretary by Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, and Executive Order 12777, 3 CFR, 1991 Comp., p. 351, to act as Federal trustee for natural resources in accordance with section 107(f) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9607(f)), section 311(f)(5) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(f)(5)), and section 1006(b)(2) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2706(b)(2)).

(43) With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, to exercise the authority vested in the Secretary of Agriculture to act as the "Federal Land Manager" pursuant to the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

(44) Administer the Public Lands Corps program (16 U.S.C. 1721 *et seq.*) for USDA consistent with the Department's overall national service program.

(45) Enforce and conduct investigations of violations of the Lacey Act, which prohibits importing or exporting any plant or plant product in interstate or foreign commerce in violation of any federal, state, Tribal, or foreign law regulating plants or plant products (16 U.S.C. 3371-3378).

(46) Focusing on countries that could have a substantial impact on global warming, provide assistance that promotes sustainable development and global environmental stability; share technical, managerial, extension, and administrative skills; provide education and training opportunities; engage in scientific exchange; and cooperate with domestic and international organizations that further international programs for the management and protection of forests,

rangelands, wildlife, fisheries and related natural resources (16 U.S.C. 4501-4505).

(47) Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture authorized in Title V of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1998, Public Law 105-83, relating to the acquisition so the New World Mines and other priority land acquisitions, land exchanges, and other activities.

(48) Establish programs with any bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), or with other agencies within USDA, in support of the Service First initiative for the purpose of promoting customer service and efficiency, including delegating to employees of DOI and other USDA agencies the authorities of the Forest Service necessary to carry out projects on behalf of USDA (43 U.S.C. 1703).

(49) At the request of the Director, Homeland Security Staff (Director), designate law enforcement personnel of the Forest Service to assist the Director in providing for the personal security for the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary in the National Forest System.

(50) Implement the information disclosure authorities of section 1619(b)(3)(A) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8791(b)(3)(A)).

(51) Administer a program, through the Deputy Chief of State and Private Forestry, for providing loans to eligible units of local government to finance the purchase of equipment to monitor, remove, dispose of, and replace infested trees located under their jurisdiction and within the borders of quarantined areas (16 U.S.C. 2104a).

(52) [Reserved]

(53) Administer the community wood energy program providing grants to develop community wood energy plans, acquire or upgrade community wood energy systems, and establish or expand biomass consumer cooperatives (7 U.S.C. 8113).

(54) Conduct activities that assist the Director, Office of Environmental Markets, in developing guidelines regarding the development of environmental services markets.

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(55) Administer the programs authorized by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6501 *et seq.*), except for the Healthy Forests Reserve Program authorized in title V of such act (16 U.S.C. 6571–6578).

(56) Administer Good Neighbor contracts and cooperative agreements with a State to carry out forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services on National Forest System lands (16 U.S.C. 2113a).

(57) Utilize the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) Program (16 U.S.C. 3851) to provide technical services for conservation-related programs and authorities carried out on National Forest System lands (16 U.S.C. 3851a).

(58) Enter into reciprocal fire agreements or contracts with domestic entities. Administer reimbursements received for fire suppression (42 U.S.C. 1856–1856e).

(59) Administer the large airtanker and aerial asset lease program (16 U.S.C. 551c).

(60) Provide technical and other assistance with respect to eligibility of forest products for the “USDA Certified Biobased Products” labeling program (7 U.S.C. 8102(g)).

(61) Cooperate with public or private entities or individuals to perform work on state, county, municipal, or private lands within or near the boundary of National Forest System lands for administration, protection, improvement, reforestation, and other kinds of work the Forest Service is authorized to do on National Forest System lands, and cooperate with public or private entities or individuals to perform the same kinds of work in connection with the use or occupancy of National Forest System lands (16 U.S.C. 572).

(62) Enter into reciprocal fire agreements with foreign fire organizations. (42 U.S.C. 1856m–1856o).

(63) Administer the payments to states program (16 U.S.C. 500; 16 U.S.C. 7101–7153); establish, maintain, and appoint members to Resource Advisory Committees (16 U.S.C. 7125).

(64) Conduct performance-driven research and development, education, and technical assistance for the purpose of facilitating the use of innovative wood products in wood building

construction in the United States (7 U.S.C. 7655c) and administer the Wood Innovation Grant program (7 U.S.C. 7655d).

(65) Furnish subsistence to employees without consideration as, or deduction from, the compensation of such employees where warranted by emergency conditions connected with the work of the Forest Service (7 U.S.C. 2228).

(b) *Reservations.* The following authorities are reserved to the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment:

(1) The authority to issue final rules and regulations relating to the administration of Forest Service programs, except as provided in 36 CFR 261.70 and §2.60(a)(87).

(2) As deemed necessary for administrative purposes, the authority to divide into and designate as national forests any lands of more than 3,000 acres acquired under or subject to the Weeks Act of March 1, 1911, as amended (16 U.S.C. 521).

(3) The authority to make recommendations to the Administrator of General Services regarding transfer to other Federal, State, or Territorial agencies lands acquired under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, together with recommendations on the conditions of use and administration of such lands, pursuant to the provisions of section 32(c) of title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(c)), and Executive Order 11609, 3 CFR, 1971–1975 Comp., p. 586).

(4) Making recommendations to the President for establishing new units or adding to existing units of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (16 U.S.C. 1271–1278); National Scenic Trails System (16 U.S.C. 1241–1249) and the National Wilderness Preservation System (16 U.S.C. 1131–1136).

(5) Signing of declarations of taking and requests for condemnation of property as authorized by law to carry out the mission of the Forest Service (40 U.S.C. 257).

(7) The authority to approve disbursements from the New World Mine Response and Restoration Account and the authority to prepare and approve

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the New World Mine Response and Restoration Plan, including the coordination of the response and restoration activities of the Forest Service and the other Federal and State agencies, and make quarterly reports to Congress under section 502(d) and (f) of Title V of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-83.

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 64 FR 34967, June 30, 1999; 65 FR 12429, Mar. 9, 2000; 67 FR 59135, Sept. 20, 2002; 72 FR 36859, July 6, 2007; 74 FR 3408, Jan. 21, 2009; 78 FR 40938, July 9, 2013; 79 FR 44114, July 30, 2014; 85 FR 65516, Oct. 15, 2020; 87 FR 44270, July 26, 2022; 88 FR 70580, Oct. 12, 2023; 89 FR 80075, Oct. 2, 2024]

§ 2.61 [Reserved]

Subpart K—Delegations of Authority by the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics

§ 2.63 Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

Pursuant to § 2.21(a), subject to reservations in § 2.21(b), and subject to policy guidance and direction by the Under Secretary, the following delegation of authority is made by the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, to be exercised only during the absence or unavailability of the Under Secretary: Perform all the duties and exercise all the powers which are now or which may hereafter be delegated to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

§ 2.65 Administrator, Agricultural Research Service.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.21(a)(1), (a)(3) and (a)(5) through (a)(7), subject to reservations in § 2.21(b)(1), the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics to the Administrator, Agricultural Research Service:

(1) [Reserved]

(2) Conduct research related to the economic feasibility of the manufacture and commercialization of natural rubber from hydrocarbon-containing plants and other critical agricultural materials from native agricultural

crops having strategic and industrial importance (7 U.S.C. 178-178n).

(3) Conduct research on the control of undesirable species of honeybees in cooperation with specific foreign governments (7 U.S.C. 284).

(4) Conduct research concerning domestic animals and poultry, their protection and use, the causes of contagious, infectious, and communicable diseases, and the means for the prevention and cure of the same (7 U.S.C. 391).

(5) Conduct research related to the dairy industry and to the dissemination of information for the promotion of the dairy industry (7 U.S.C. 402).

(6) Conduct research and demonstrations at Mandan, ND, related to dairy livestock breeding, growing, and feeding, and other problems pertaining to the establishment of the dairy and livestock industries (7 U.S.C. 421-422).

(7) Conduct research on new uses for cotton and on cotton ginning and processing (7 U.S.C. 423-424).

(8) Conduct research into the basic problems of agriculture in its broadest aspects, including, but not limited to, production, marketing (other than statistical and economic research but including research related to family use of resources), distribution, processing, and utilization of plant and animal commodities; problems of human nutrition; development of markets for agricultural commodities; discovery, introduction, and breeding of new crops, plants, animals, both foreign and native; conservation development; and development of efficient use of farm buildings, homes, and farm machinery except as otherwise delegated in §§ 2.22(a)(1)(ii) and 2.79(a)(2) (7 U.S.C. 427, 1621-1627, 1629, 2201 and 2204).

(9) Conduct research on varietal improvement of wheat and feed grains to enhance their conservation and environmental qualities (7 U.S.C. 428b).

(10) Administer an experienced services program to obtain technical, professional, and administrative services to support the research, education, and economics mission area of the Department (16 U.S.C. 3851).

(11) Enter into agreements with and receive funds from any State, other political subdivision, organization, or individual for the purpose of conducting

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cooperative research projects (7 U.S.C. 450a).

(12) Conduct research under the IR-4 program (7 U.S.C. 450i(e)).

(13) Conduct research related to soil and water conservation, engineering operations, and methods of cultivation to provide for the control and prevention of soil erosion (7 U.S.C. 1010 and 16 U.S.C. 590a).

(14) Maintain four regional research laboratories and conduct research at such laboratories to develop new scientific, chemical, and technical uses and new and extended markets and outlets for farm commodities and products and the by-products thereof (7 U.S.C. 1292).

(15) Conduct a Special Cotton Research Program designed to reduce the cost of producing upland cotton in the United States (7 U.S.C. 1444a(c)).

(16) [Reserved]

(17) Conduct research to develop and determine methods for the humane slaughter of livestock (7 U.S.C. 1904).

(18) Provide national leadership and support for research programs and other research activities in the food and agricultural sciences to meet major needs and challenges in food and agricultural system productivity; development of new food, fiber, and energy sources; agricultural energy use and production; natural resources; promotion of the health and welfare of people; human nutrition; and international food and agriculture pursuant to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*).

(19) [Reserved]

(20) Administer the National Agricultural Science Award for research or advanced studies in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3153).

(21) Conduct program evaluations to improve the administration and effectiveness of agricultural research and education programs (7 U.S.C. 3317).

(22) Enter into contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements to further research programs and library and related information programs supporting research, extension, and teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3318).

(23) Enter into cost-reimbursable agreements with State cooperative in-

stitutions or other colleges and universities for the acquisition of goods or services in support of research, extension, or teaching activities in the food and agricultural sciences, including the furtherance of library and related information programs (7 U.S.C. 3319a).

(24) Conduct research for the development of supplemental and alternative crops (7 U.S.C. 3319d).

(25)–(26) [Reserved]

(27) Cooperate and work with national and international institutions, Departments and Ministries of Agriculture in other nations, land-grant colleges and universities, and other persons throughout the world in the performance of agricultural research activities (7 U.S.C. 3291).

(28) Provide a biennial report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate on efforts of the Federal Government to coordinate international agricultural research within the Federal Government, and to more effectively link the activities of domestic and international agricultural researchers, particularly researchers of the Agricultural Research Service (7 U.S.C. 3291(d)(2)).

(29) Conduct a program of basic research on cancer in animals and birds (7 U.S.C. 3902).

(30) Promote cooperation and coordination between 1862, 1890, 1994, and NLGCA Institutions, HSACUs, and cooperating forestry schools and international partner institutions in developing countries by exercising the Secretary's authority in 7 U.S.C. 3292, including coordinating with the Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service to place interns from covered institutions in, or in service to benefit, developing countries.

(31) Conduct research to optimize crop and livestock production potential, integrated resource management, and integrated crop management (7 U.S.C. 5821).

(32) Administer a national research program on genetic resources to provide for the collection, preservation, and dissemination of genetic material important to American food and agriculture production (7 U.S.C. 5841).

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(33) Conduct remote-sensing and other weather-related research (7 U.S.C. 5852).

(34)–(37) [Reserved]

(38) Administer a grant program for risk assessment research to address concerns about the environmental effects of biotechnology (7 U.S.C. 5921).

(39) Conduct a research initiative known as the Agricultural Genome Initiative, and make grants or enter into cooperative agreements on a competitive basis to carry out the Initiative (7 U.S.C. 5924).

(40) Facilitate access, including through the National Agricultural Library, by research and extension professionals, farmers, and other interested persons in the United States to, and the use by those persons of, organic research conducted outside the United States (7 U.S.C. 5925d).

(41)–(46) [Reserved]

(47) Establish a National Plant Disease Recovery System to engage in strategic long-range planning to recover from high-consequence plant transboundary diseases (7 U.S.C. 8914(d)).

(48) Coordinate Departmental policies under the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2601–2629).

(49) With respect to facilities and activities under his or her authority, to exercise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to section 1–102 related to compliance with applicable pollution control standards and section 1–601 of Executive Order 12088, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243, to enter into an inter-agency agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an administrative consent order or a consent judgment in an appropriate State, interstate, or local agency, containing a plan and schedule to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable pollution control standards established pursuant to the following:

(i) Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as further amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, and the Federal Facility Compliance Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*);

(ii) Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*);

(iii) Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*);

(iv) Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*);

(v) Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4901 *et seq.*);

(vi) Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*);

(vii) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*); and

(viii) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*).

(50) Perform research and administer grants for research and development in aquaculture (16 U.S.C. 2804).

(51) Maintain a National Arboretum for the purposes of research and education concerning tree and plant life, and order disbursements from the Treasury, in accordance with the Act of March 4, 1927 (20 U.S.C. 191 *et seq.*).

(52) Conduct research on foot-and-mouth disease and other animal diseases (21 U.S.C. 113a).

(53)–(56) [Reserved]

(57) Pursuant to the authority delegated by the Administrator of General Services to the Secretary of Agriculture in 34 FR 6406, 36 FR 1293, 36 FR 18840, and 38 FR 23838, appoint uniformed armed guards and special policemen, make all needful rules and regulations, and annex to such rules and regulations such reasonable penalties (not to exceed those prescribed in 40 U.S.C. 318(c)), as will insure their enforcement, for the protection of persons, property, buildings, and grounds of the Arboretum, Washington, DC; the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, NE.; the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, MD; and the Animal Disease Center, Plum Island, NY, over which the United States has exclusive or concurrent criminal jurisdiction, in accordance with the limitations and requirements of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (40 U.S.C. 471 *et seq.*), the Act of June 1, 1948, as amended (40 U.S.C. 318 *et seq.*), and the policies, procedures, and controls prescribed by the General Services Administration. Any rules or regulations promulgated under this authority shall be

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approved by the Director, Office of Operations, and the General Counsel prior to issuance.

(58) Administer the Department's Patent Program except as delegated to the General Counsel in § 2.31(a)(5).

(59) Provide management support services for the Economic Research Service, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service as agreed upon by the agencies with authority to take actions required by law or regulation. As used herein, the term management support services includes budget, finance, personnel, information technology, procurement, property management, communications, paperwork management, and related administrative services.

(60) With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, exercise the functions delegated to the Secretary by Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, under the following provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 ("the Act"), as amended:

(i) Sections 104 (a), (b), and (c)(4) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604 (a), (b), and (c)(4)), with respect to removal and remedial actions in the event of release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant into the environment;

(ii) Sections 104(e)–(h) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(e)–(h)), with respect to information gathering and access requests and orders; compliance with Federal health and safety standards and wage and labor standards applicable to covered work; and emergency procurement powers;

(iii) Section 104(i)(11) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(11)), with respect to the reduction of exposure to significant risk to human health;

(iv) Section 104(j) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(j)), with respect to the acquisition of real property and interests in real property required to conduct a remedial action;

(v) The first two sentences of section 105(d) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(d)), with respect to petitions for preliminary assessment of a release or threatened release;

(vi) Section 105(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(f)), with respect to consideration of the availability of qualified minority firms in awarding contracts, but excluding that portion of section 105(f) pertaining to the annual report to Congress;

(vii) Section 109 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9609), with respect to the assessment of civil penalties for violations of section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), and the granting of awards to individuals providing information;

(viii) Section 111(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9611(f)), with respect to the designation of officials who may obligate money in the Hazardous Substances Superfund;

(ix) Section 113(k) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9613(k)), with respect to establishing an administrative record upon which to base the selection of a response action and identifying and notifying potentially responsible parties;

(x) Section 116(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9616(a)), with respect to preliminary assessment and site inspection of facilities;

(xi) Sections 117(a) and (c) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9617 (a) and (c)), with respect to public participation in the preparation of any plan for remedial action and explanation of variances from the final remedial action plan for any remedial action or enforcement action, including any settlement or consent decree entered into;

(xii) Section 119 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9119), with respect to indemnifying response action contractors;

(xiii) Section 121 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9621), with respect to cleanup standards; and

(xiv) Section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), with respect to settlements, but excluding section 122(b)(1) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622(b)(1)), related to mixed funding agreements.

(61) [Reserved]

(62) Perform food and agricultural research in support of functions assigned to the Department under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*).

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(63) Propagate bee-breeding stock and release bee germplasm to the public (7 U.S.C. 283).

(64) Administer a National Food and Human Nutrition Research Program under the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended. As used herein the term "research" includes:

(i) Research on the nutrient composition of foods and the effects of agricultural practices, handling, food processing, and cooking on the nutrients they contain;

(ii) Surveillance of the nutritional benefits provided to participants in the food programs administered by the Department; and

(iii) Research on the factors affecting food preference and habits (7 U.S.C. 3171–3173, 3175).

(65) The authority in paragraph (a)(64) of this section includes the authority to:

(i) Appraise the nutritive content of the U.S. food supply;

(ii) Develop and make available data on the nutrient composition of foods needed by Federal, State, and local agencies administering food and nutrition programs, and the general public, to improve the nutritional quality of diets;

(iii) Coordinate nutrition education research and professional education projects within the Department; and

(iv) Maintain data generated on food composition in a National Nutrient Data Bank.

(66) Conduct, in cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Program. Included in this delegation is the authority to:

(i) Design and carry out periodic nationwide food consumption surveys to measure household food consumption;

(ii) Design and carry out a continuous, longitudinal individual intake survey of the United States population and special high-risk groups; and

(iii) Design and carry out methodological research studies to develop improved procedures for collecting household and individual food intake consumption data;

(67) [Reserved]

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(68) Provide staff support to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics related to the Ten-Year Comprehensive Plan and the Interagency Board for Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research required by Pub. L. No. 101-445, 7 U.S.C. 5301 *et seq.*

(69) Obtain and furnish excess property to eligible recipients for use in the conduct of research and extension programs.

(70) [Reserved]

(71) Establish and maintain a Food Safety Research Information Office at the National Agricultural Library to provide to the research community and the general public information on publicly and privately funded food safety research initiatives (7 U.S.C. 7654(a)).

(72) Develop and maintain library and information systems and networks and facilitate cooperation and coordination of the agricultural libraries of colleges, universities, USDA, and their closely allied information gathering and dissemination units in conjunction with private industry and other research libraries (7 U.S.C. 2201, 2204, 3125a, and 3126).

(73) Accept gifts and order disbursements from the Treasury for the benefit of the National Agricultural Library or for the carrying out of any of its functions (7 U.S.C. 2264–2265).

(74) Provide for the dissemination of appropriate rural health and safety information resources possessed by the National Agricultural Library Rural Information Center, in cooperation with State educational program efforts (7 U.S.C. 2662).

(75) Provide national leadership in the development and maintenance of library and related information systems and other activities to support the research, extension, and teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences pursuant to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3101 and 3121).

(76) Administer the programs and services of the National Agricultural Library consistent with its charge to serve as the primary agricultural information resource of the United States and enter into agreements and receive funds from various entities to conduct

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National Agricultural Library activities (7 U.S.C. 3125a).

(77) Provide and distribute information and data about Federal, State, local, and other rural development assistance programs and services available to individuals and organizations. To the extent possible, the National Agricultural Library shall use telecommunications technology to disseminate such information to rural areas (7 U.S.C. 3125b).

(78) Assemble and collect food and nutrition educational materials, including the results of nutrition research, training methods, procedures, and other materials related to the purposes of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended; maintain such information; and provide for the dissemination of such information and materials on a regular basis to State educational agencies and other interested parties (7 U.S.C. 3126).

(79) Conduct program evaluations to improve the administration and efficacy of the National Agricultural Library and related information systems in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3317).

(80) Administer the National Agricultural Library, including the farmland information center, pursuant to section 1544(b) of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. 4205(b)).

(81) Support Department water programs through participation in State water quality coordination programs and dissemination of agrichemical information (7 U.S.C. 5503-5506).

(82)-(83) [Reserved]

(84) Represent the Department on all library and information science matters before Congressional Committees and appropriate commissions, and provide representation to the coordinating committees of the Federal and State governments concerned with library and information science activities.

(85) Represent the Department in international organizational activities and on international technical committees concerned with library and information science activities.

(86) Prepare and disseminate computer files, indexes and abstracts, bibliographies, reviews and other analytical information tools.

(87) Arrange for the consolidated purchasing and dissemination of printed and automated indexes, abstracts, journals, and other widely used information resources and services.

(88) Provide assistance and support to professional organizations and others concerned with library and information science matters and issues.

(89) Copy and deliver on demand selected articles and other materials from the National Agricultural Library's collections by photographic reproduction or other means within the permissions, constraints, and limitations of sections 106, 107, and 108 of the Copyright Act of October 19, 1976 (17 U.S.C. 106, 107 and 108).

(90) Formulate, write, or prescribe bibliographic and technically related standards for the library and information services of USDA (7 U.S.C. 3125a *et seq.*).

(91) Assure the acquisition, preservation, and accessibility of all information concerning food and agriculture by providing leadership to and coordination of the acquisition programs and related activities of the library and information systems, with the agencies of USDA, other Federal departments and agencies, State agricultural experiment stations, colleges and universities, and other research institutions and organizations.

(92) Determine by survey or other appropriate means, the information needs of the Department's scientific, professional, technical, and administrative staffs, its constituencies, and the general public in the areas of food, agriculture, the environment, and other related areas.

(93) Review cooperative research and development agreements entered into pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 3710a-3710c, with authority to disapprove or require the modification of any such agreement.

(94) Administer the Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center (16 U.S.C. 778 *et seq.*; Pub. L. 104-127, sec. 889).

(95) Provide technical and educational assistance to conserve and enhance private grazing land resources (16 U.S.C. 2005b).

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(96) Provide technical assistance to farmers and ranchers under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (16 U.S.C. 3830 *et seq.*).

(97) Enter into cooperative research and development agreements with industry, universities, and others; institute a cash award program to reward scientific, engineering, and technical personnel; award royalties to inventors; and retain and use royalty income (15 U.S.C. 3710a-3710c).

(98) Coordinate USDA activities delegated under 15 U.S.C. 3710a-3710c.

(99) Ensure that agricultural research conducted by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) addresses a concern that is a priority and has national, multistate, or regional significance (7 U.S.C. 7611).

(100) Solicit and consider input and recommendations from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, extension, or education (7 U.S.C. 7612(b)).

(101) Consider the results of the annual review performed by the Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board regarding the relevance to priorities of the funding of all agricultural research, extension, or education activities conducted or funded by the Department and the adequacy of funding when formulating each request for proposals, and evaluating proposals, involving an agricultural research, extension, or education activity funded, on a competitive basis, by the Department; and solicit and consider input from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, extension, or education regarding the prior year's request for proposals for each activity funded on a competitive basis (7 U.S.C. 7613(c)).

(102) Establish procedures that ensure scientific peer review of all research activities conducted by the Agricultural Research Service (7 U.S.C. 7613(d)).

(103) Coordinate the resources of the Department to develop, commercialize, and promote the use of biobased products, and enter into cooperative agreements with private entities to operate pilot plants and other large-scale preparation facilities under which the facilities and technical expertise of the

Agricultural Research Service may be made available (7 U.S.C. 7624).

(104) Administer grants to consortia of land-grant colleges and universities to enhance the ability of the consortia to carry out multi-State research projects aimed at understanding and combating diseases of wheat, triticale, and barley caused by *Fusarium graminearum* and related fungi or *Tilletia indica* and related fungi (7 U.S.C. 7628).

(105) Administer a program of fees to support the Patent Culture Collection maintained and operated by the Agricultural Research Service (7 U.S.C. 7641).

(106) Update on a periodic basis, nutrient composition data, and report to Congress the method that will be used to update the data and the timing of the update (7 U.S.C. 7651).

(107) Ensure that each research activity conducted by an Agricultural Research Service facility serves a national or multistate need (7 U.S.C. 390a(e)).

(108) Exchange, sell, or otherwise dispose of animals, animal products, plants, and plant products, and use the sale or other proceeds to acquire such items or to offset costs related to the maintenance, care, or feeding of such items (7 U.S.C. 2241a).

(109) Establish and administer a pilot program at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and National Agricultural Library to lease nonexcess property (7 U.S.C. 3125a note).

(110) Lease land at the Grazinglands Research Laboratory at El Reno, Oklahoma, pursuant to section 7503 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246).

(111) Administer a natural products research program (7 U.S.C. 5937).

(112) Provide staff support to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics related to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (7 U.S.C. 3123).

(113) Carry out pollinator health research activities (7 U.S.C. 5925(g)(2)).

(114) Enter into grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, or other legal instruments with former Department of Agriculture agricultural research facilities (7 U.S.C. 3315(b)).

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(115) Enter into cooperative agreements with institutions of higher education regarding the dissemination of agricultural and food law research, legal tools, and information (7 U.S.C. 3125a-1).

(b) [Reserved]

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 62 FR 65594, Dec. 15, 1997; 65 FR 5416, Feb. 4, 2000; 68 FR 27445, May 20, 2003; 74 FR 3409, Jan. 21, 2009; 75 FR 43381, July 23, 2010; 76 FR 4802, 4803, Jan. 27, 2011; 79 FR 44115, July 30, 2014; 83 FR 61314, Nov. 29, 2018; 85 FR 65520, Oct. 15, 2020; 87 FR 44270, July 26, 2022]

§ 2.66 Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.21 (a)(1) and (a)(3), subject to the reservations in § 2.21(b)(1), the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics (Under Secretary) to the Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, who shall report directly to the Under Secretary.

(1) Administer research and technology development grants related to the economic feasibility of the manufacture and commercialization of natural rubber from hydrocarbon-containing plants and other critical agricultural materials from native agricultural crops having strategic and industrial importance (7 U.S.C. 178-178n).

(2) Administer the appropriation for the endowment and maintenance of colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanical arts (7 U.S.C. 321-326a).

(3) Administer teaching funds authorized by section 22 of the Bankhead Jones Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 329).

(4) Cooperate with the States for the purpose of encouraging and assisting them in carrying out research related to the problems of agriculture in its broadest aspects under the Hatch Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 361a-361i).

(5) Administer an agricultural research facilities proposal review process for submission to Congress (7 U.S.C. 390, 390a(a)-(d)).

(6) Carry out a program (IR-4 Program) for the collection of residue and efficacy data in support of registration or reregistration of pesticides for minor agricultural use and for use on specialty crops, and to determine toler-

ances for minor use chemical residues in or on agricultural commodities (7 U.S.C. 450i(e)).

(7) Administer the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative for competitive grants for fundamental and applied research, extension, and education to address food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)).

(8) Administer a program of making special grants for research, extension, or education activities (7 U.S.C. 450i(c)).

(9) Administer a next generation agriculture technology challenge competition to incentivize mobile technology that removes marketplace entry barriers for beginning farmers and ranchers (7 U.S.C. 3158).

(10) Administer, in cooperation with land-grant colleges and universities where applicable, a rural development research and extension program, a small farm research and extension program, and a rural health and safety education program under the Rural Development Act of 1972, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2661-2667).

(11) Provide national leadership and support for cooperative research and extension programs and other cooperative activities in the food and agricultural sciences to meet major needs and challenges in food and agricultural system productivity; development of new food, fiber, and energy sources; agricultural energy use and production; natural resources; promotion of the health and welfare of people; human nutrition; and international food and agriculture pursuant to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*).

(12) Conduct a program of grants to States to expand, renovate, or improve schools of veterinary medicine (7 U.S.C. 3151).

(13) Promote and strengthen higher education in the food and agricultural sciences; administer grants to colleges and universities; maintain a national food and agricultural education information system; conduct programs regarding the evaluation of teaching programs and continuing education; administer the National Food and Agricultural Sciences Teaching, Extension,

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and Research Awards Program to recognize and promote excellence in teaching, extension, and research in the food and agricultural sciences; administer programs relating to secondary education and 2-year postsecondary education, including grants to public secondary schools, institutions of higher education that award an associate's degree, other institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations; and report to Congress on the distribution of funds to carry out such teaching programs (7 U.S.C. 3152).

(14) Administer a program to make competitive grants to assist in the construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, or remodeling of agricultural research facilities (7 U.S.C. 390b).

(15) Promote cooperation and coordination between 1862, 1890, 1994, and NLGCA Institutions, HSACUs, and cooperating forestry schools and international partner institutions in developing countries by exercising the Secretary's authority in 7 U.S.C. 3292, including coordinating with the Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service to place interns from covered institutions in, or in service to benefit, developing countries.

(16) [Reserved]

(17) Administer and direct an Animal Health and Disease Research Program under the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3191-3201).

(18) Support continuing agricultural and forestry extension and research, at 1890 land-grant institutions, including Tuskegee University (7 U.S.C. 3221, 3222, 3222d).

(19) Administer grants to 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University, through Federal-grant funds to help finance and upgrade agricultural and food science facilities which are used for research, extension, and resident instruction (7 U.S.C. 3222b).

(20) Provide policy direction and coordinate the Department's work with national and international institutions and other persons throughout the world in the performance of agricultural research, extension, teaching, and development activities; administer

a program of competitive grants for collaborative projects involving Federal scientists or scientists from colleges and universities working with scientists at international agricultural research centers in other nations focusing either on new technologies and programs for increasing the production of food and fiber or training scientists and a program of competitive grants to colleges and universities to strengthen United States economic competitiveness and to promote international market development; and establish a program in coordination with the Foreign Agricultural Service to place interns from United States colleges and universities at Foreign Agricultural Service field offices overseas (7 U.S.C. 3291, 3292b).

(21) Administer grants to 1890 Institutions, including Tuskegee University, for purposes of awarding scholarships to individuals pursuing careers in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3222a).

(22) Conduct program evaluations to improve the administration and efficacy of the cooperative research grants and extension programs involving State agricultural experiment stations, cooperative extension services, and colleges and universities (7 U.S.C. 3317).

(23) Enter into contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements to further research, extension or teaching activities in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3318).

(24) Enter into cost-reimbursable agreements with State cooperative institutions or other colleges and universities for the acquisition of goods or services in support of research, extension, or teaching activities in the food and agricultural sciences, including the furtherance of library and related information programs (7 U.S.C. 3319a).

(25) Conduct research and develop and implement a program for the development of supplemental and alternative crops (7 U.S.C. 3319d).

(26) Administer an Aquaculture Assistance Program, involving centers, by making grants to eligible institutions for research and extension to facilitate or expand production and marketing of aquacultural food species and products; making grants to States to formulate aquaculture development

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plans for the production and marketing of aquacultural species and products; conducting a program of research, extension and demonstration at aquacultural demonstration centers (7 U.S.C. 3321–3322).

(27) Make competitive grants to land-grant colleges and universities, including 1994 Institutions, to provide identifiable support specifically targeted for Tribal students (7 U.S.C. 3222e).

(28) Administer a cooperative range-land research program (7 U.S.C. 3331–3336).

(29) Administer grants for basic research on cancer in animals and birds (7 U.S.C. 3902).

(30) Administer programs and conduct projects in cooperation with other agencies for research and education on sustainable agriculture (7 U.S.C. 5811–5813).

(31) Administer a cooperative research and extension program to optimize crop and livestock production potential in integrated resource management and integrated crop management systems (7 U.S.C. 5821).

(32) Establish an Agricultural Weather Office and administer a national agricultural weather information system, including competitive grants program for research in atmospheric sciences and climatology (7 U.S.C. 5852–5853).

(33) Administer a cooperative extension program on agricultural weather forecasts and climate information for agricultural producers and administer a grant program to States to administer programs for State agricultural weather information systems (7 U.S.C. 5854).

(34) Administer competitive grants for the acquisition of special purpose scientific research equipment for use in the food and agricultural sciences programs of eligible institutions (7 U.S.C. 3310a).

(35) Establish a National Plant Diagnostic Network to monitor and surveil through diagnostics threats to plant health from diseases or pests of concern in the United States and establish cooperative agreements with land-grant colleges and universities (7 U.S.C. 8914(c)).

(36) [Reserved]

(37) Administer a grant program for risk assessment research to address

concerns about the environmental effects of biotechnology (7 U.S.C. 5921).

(38)–(39) [Reserved]

(40) Conduct a research initiative known as the Agricultural Genome Initiative; and make grants or enter cooperative agreements on a competitive basis with individuals and organizations to carry out the Initiative (7 U.S.C. 5924).

(41) [Reserved]

(42) Administer a competitive high priority research and extension grants program in specified subject areas (7 U.S.C. 5925), including pollinator activities (7 U.S.C. 5925(g)) not otherwise delegated to the Administrator, Agricultural Research Service in §2.65(a)(113) and the Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in §2.80(a)(47).

(43) In consultation with the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee, administer competitive grants to support research, education, and extension activities for the purposes of facilitating the development of urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production, harvesting, transportation, aggregation, packaging, distribution, and markets (7 U.S.C. 5925g).

(44) Administer competitive grants to support research, education, and extension activities regarding organically grown and processed agricultural commodities (7 U.S.C. 5925b).

(45)–(49) [Reserved]

(50) Administer the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982 for USDA (15 U.S.C. 638(e)–(k)).

(51) Administer a cooperative forestry program in accordance with the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act, and administer a competitive forestry, natural resources, and environmental grant program (16 U.S.C. 582a–582a–8).

(52) Establish and administer the Forestry Student Grant Program to provide competitive grants to assist the expansion of the professional education of forestry, natural resources, and environmental scientists (16 U.S.C. 1649).

(53) Provide staff support to the Secretary of Agriculture in his or her role as permanent Chair for the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture established

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by the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 and coordinate aquacultural responsibilities within the Department (16 U.S.C. 2805).

(54) Administer extension education programs in aquaculture and administer grants related to research and development in aquaculture (16 U.S.C. 2806).

(55) Coordinate research by cooperating State research institutions and administer education and information activities assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*).

(56) Prepare an annual report to Congress on disbursements of funds for agricultural research and extension at 1890 and 1862 Institutions for programs under the following authorities: 7 U.S.C. 3221; 7 U.S.C. 3222; 7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c); and 7 U.S.C. 361a *et seq.* (7 U.S.C.).

(57) Represent the Department on the Federal Interagency Committee on Education.

(58)–(60) [Reserved]

(61) Administer a cooperative agricultural extension program in accordance with the Smith-Lever Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 341–349).

(62) Administer a cooperative agricultural extension program relating to agriculture, uses of solar energy with respect to agriculture, home economics, and rural energy in the District of Columbia (DC Code 38-1202.09).

(63) Conduct educational and demonstration work related to the distribution and marketing of agricultural products under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627).

(64)–(71) [Reserved]

(72) Administer a cooperative extension program under the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976 (7 U.S.C. 3004).

(73) [Reserved]

(74) Administer a National Food and Human Nutrition Research and Extension Program (7 U.S.C. 3171–3173, 3175)

(75) [Reserved]

(76) Design educational programs, implement, and distribute materials in cooperation with the cooperative ex-

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tension services of the States emphasizing the importance of productive farmland pursuant to section 1544(a) of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. 4205(a)).

(77) Recognize centers of excellence, led by 1890 Institutions, focused on student success and workforce development; nutrition, health, wellness, and quality of life; farming systems, rural prosperity, and economic sustainability; global food security and defense, natural resources, energy, and environment; and emerging technologies, and submit an annual report to Congress on the resources invested in and work being done by such centers (7 U.S.C. 5926).

(78) Develop and make available handbooks, technical guides, and other educational materials emphasizing sustainable agriculture production systems and practices; carry out activities related to a national training program for sustainable agriculture (7 U.S.C. 5831, 5832).

(79) Administer grants to consortia of land-grant colleges and universities to enhance the ability of the consortia to carry out multi-State research projects aimed at understanding and combating diseases of wheat, triticale, and barley caused by *Fusarium graminearum* and related fungi or *Tilletia indica* and related fungi (7 U.S.C. 7628).

(80)–(81) [Reserved]

(82) Administer education programs on Indian reservations and tribal jurisdictions (7 U.S.C. 5930).

(83) Conduct education and extension programs related to nutrition education (7 U.S.C. 2027(a)).

(84) Administer a demonstration grants program for support of an assistive technology program for farmers with disabilities (7 U.S.C. 5933).

(85) Conduct educational and demonstration work in cooperative farm forestry programs (16 U.S.C. 568).

(86) Provide for an expanded and comprehensive extension program for forest and rangeland renewable resources (16 U.S.C. 1671–1676).

(87) [Reserved]

(88) Provide technical, financial, and educational assistance to State foresters and State extension directors on rural forestry assistance (16 U.S.C. 2102).

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(89) Provide educational assistance to State foresters under the Forest Stewardship Program (16 U.S.C. 2103a).

(90) Implement and conduct an educational program to assist the development of urban and community forestry programs (16 U.S.C. 2105).

(91) Administer an experienced services program to obtain technical, professional, and administrative services to support the research, education, and economics mission area of the Department (16 U.S.C. 3851).

(92) Authorize the use of the 4-H Club name and emblem (18 U.S.C. 707).

(93) Conduct demonstrational and promotional activities related to farm dwellings and other buildings for the purposes of reducing costs and adapting and developing fixtures and appurtenances for more efficient and economical farm use (42 U.S.C. 1476(b)).

(94) [Reserved]

(95) Exercise the responsibilities of the Secretary under regulations dealing with Equal Employment Opportunity (part 18 of this title).

(96) [Reserved]

(97) Provide educational and technical assistance in implementing and administering the conservation reserve program authorized in sections 1231–1244 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (Pub. L. No. 99-198, 99 Stat. 1509, 16 U.S.C. 3831-3844).

(98) Establish and administer a 1994 Institutions Endowment Fund and to enter into agreements necessary to do this (Section 533(b)(c) of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994, 7 U.S.C. 301 note).

(99) Make grants in equal amounts to 1994 Land-Grant Institutions to be used in the same manner as is prescribed for colleges under the Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 417, chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 *et seq.*) (commonly known as the Second Morrill Act), and subject to the requirements of such Act (Sections 533 and 534 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Act of 1994, 7 U.S.C. 301 note).

(100) Make competitive Institutional Capacity Building Grants to assist 1994 Institutions with constructing, acquiring, and remodeling buildings, laboratories, and other capital facilities (including fixtures and equipment) necessary to conduct instructional activi-

ties more effectively in agriculture and sciences (Section 535 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994, 7 U.S.C. 301 note).

(101) Make competitive grants to 1994 Land-Grant Institutions to conduct agricultural research that addresses high priority concerns of tribal, national, or multistate significance (Section 536 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994, 7 U.S.C. 301 note).

(102) Implement and administer the Community Food Projects Program under section 25 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2034).

(103) In consultation with the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, administer pilot projects to encourage the use of public-private partnerships committed to addressing food insecurity (7 U.S.C. 2036d).

(104) 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. Conduct a comprehensive review of state-of-the-art information technology systems for use in developing the system (7 U.S.C. 3129).

(105) [Reserved]

(106) Administer grants to 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University, through Federal-grant funds to help finance research facilities and equipment including agricultural libraries (7 U.S.C. 3223).

(107) Establish and administer competitive grants 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 (7 U.S.C. 3241).

(108)–(109) [Reserved]

(110) Coordinate the development and carrying out by Department agencies of all matters and functions pertaining to agricultural research conducted or funded by the Department involving biotechnology, including the development and implementation of guidelines for oversight of research activities, acting as liaison on all matters and

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functions pertaining to agricultural research in biotechnology between agencies within the Department and between the Department and other governmental, educational, or private organizations and carrying out any other activities authorized by (7 U.S.C. 3121).

(111)–(112) [Reserved]

(113) Provide technical and educational assistance to conserve and enhance private grazing land resources (16 U.S.C. 2005b).

(114) Provide technical assistance to farmers and ranchers under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (16 U.S.C. 3830 *et seq.*).

(115)–(116) [Reserved]

(117) Represent the Department in international organizational activities and on international technical committees concerned with agricultural science, education, and development activities, including library and information science activities.

(118) [Reserved]

(119) Ensure that agricultural research, extension, or education activities administered, on a competitive basis, by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture address a concern that is a priority and has national, multistate, or regional significance (7 U.S.C. 7611).

(120) Solicit and consider input and recommendations from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, extension, or education; ensure that Federally supported and conducted agricultural research, extension, and education activities are accomplished in accord with identified management principles; and promulgate regulations concerning implementation of a process for obtaining stakeholder input at 1862, 1890, and 1994 Institutions and Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities (7 U.S.C. 7612(b), (c), and (d)).

(121) Establish procedures that provide for scientific peer review of each agricultural research grant administered on a competitive basis, and for relevancy and merit review of each agricultural research, extension, or education grant administered on a competitive basis, by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (7 U.S.C. 7613(a)).

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(122) Consider the results of the annual review performed by the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board regarding the relevance to priorities of the funding of all agricultural research, extension, or education activities conducted or funded by the Department and the adequacy of funding, when formulating each request for proposals, and evaluating proposals, involving an agricultural research, extension, or education activity funded, on a competitive basis, by the Department; and solicit and consider input from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, extension, or education regarding the prior year's request for proposals for each activity funded on a competitive basis (7 U.S.C. 7613(c)).

(123) Require a procedure to be established by each 1862, 1890, and 1994 Institution and Hispanic-serving agricultural college and university, for merit review of each agricultural research and extension activity funded and review of the activity in accordance with the procedure (7 U.S.C. 7613(e)).

(124)–(127) [Reserved]

(128) Administer competitive grants for integrated, multifunctional agricultural research, education, and extension activities (7 U.S.C. 7626).

(129) Operate and administer the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database through contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements with appropriate colleges or universities (7 U.S.C. 7642).

(130) Develop a national program of safe food handling education for adults and young people to reduce the risk of food-borne illness (7 U.S.C. 7655).

(131) Cooperate with other Federal agencies (including the National Science Foundation) in issuing joint requests for proposals, awarding grants, and administering grants under any competitive agricultural research, education, or extension grant program (7 U.S.C. 3319b).

(132) Administer a program of competitive grants, establish education teams, and establish an online clearinghouse of curricula and training materials and programs, all for training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for the benefit of

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beginning farmers and ranchers (7 U.S.C. 2279(d)).

(133) Administer agricultural research, education, and extension activities (including through competitive grants), using any authority available to the Secretary, to reduce the vulnerability of the United States food and agricultural system to chemical or biological attack, to continue partnerships with institutions of higher education and other institutions to help form stable, long-term programs to enhance the biosecurity of the United States, to make competitive grants to universities and qualified research institutions for research on counterbioterrorism, and to counter or otherwise respond to chemical or biological attack (7 U.S.C. 3351).

(134) Administer a program of competitive grants to colleges and universities for expansion and security upgrades to enhance the security of agriculture against bioterrorism (7 U.S.C. 3352).

(135) Administer programs for distance education grants and resident instruction grants to eligible institutions in insular areas that have demonstrable capacity to carry out teaching and extension programs in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3361-3363).

(136) Administer a program of cooperative research (including through competitive award of grants and cooperative agreements to colleges and universities) and extension projects on carbon cycling in soils and plants, the exchange of other greenhouse gases from agriculture, and the carbon sequestration benefits of conservation practices (7 U.S.C. 6711).

(137) In consultation with the Secretary of Energy, administer competitive grants to provide education about carbon utilization and biogas (7 U.S.C. 8115).

(138) Administer a program of grants to the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, the Boy Scouts of America, the National 4-H Council, and the National FFA Organization to establish pilot projects to expand the programs carried out by the organizations in rural areas and small towns (7 U.S.C. 7630).

(139) Oversee implementation of the termination of Federal schedule A civil service appointments of State agricultural extension employees at land-grant colleges and universities (section 7220 of Pub. L. 107-171).

(140) Administer and direct a program of grants to the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (section 10805 of Pub. L. 107-171).

(141) Formulate and carry out the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Act program authorized by the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (7 U.S.C. 3151a).

(142) Administer grants to assist the land-grant university in the District of Columbia to acquire, alter, or repair facilities or relevant equipment necessary for conducting agricultural research (7 U.S.C. 3222b-1).

(143) Administer grants to assist the land-grant colleges and universities in insular areas to acquire, alter, or repair facilities or relevant equipment necessary for conducting agricultural research; and to support tropical and subtropical agricultural research, including pest and disease research (7 U.S.C. 3222b-2).

(144) Enter into agreements necessary to administer an Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities Fund; enter into agreements necessary to administer a program of making annual payments to Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities; administer an institutional capacity-building grants program for Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities; administer a competitive grants program to fund fundamental and applied research and extension at Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities and to award competitive grants to Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities to provide for training in the food and agricultural sciences of Hispanic agricultural workers and Hispanic youth working in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3243).

(145) Administer the New Era Rural Technology Program to make grants for technology development, applied research, and training to aid in the development of an agriculture-based renewable energy workforce (7 U.S.C. 3319e).

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(146) Administer a competitive grants program to assist NLGCA Institutions in maintaining and expanding capacity to conduct education, research, and outreach activities relating to agriculture, renewable resources, and other similar disciplines (7 U.S.C. 3319i).

(147) [Reserved]

(148) Administer a competitive research and extension grants program to improve the farm management knowledge and skills of agricultural producers and establish and maintain a national, publicly available farm financial management database to support improved farm management (7 U.S.C. 5925f).

(149) Administer the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (7 U.S.C. 7632).

(150) Administer a competitive research and education grants program relating to antibiotics and antibiotic-resistant bacteria (7 U.S.C. 3202).

(151) Administer a competitive grants program to establish and maintain a Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (7 U.S.C. 5936).

(152) Administer a competitive grant program to support the development and expansion of advanced training programs in agricultural biosecurity planning and response for food science professionals and veterinarians (7 U.S.C. 8913).

(153) Administer a Sun Grants Program (7 U.S.C. 8114).

(154)–(155) [Reserved]

(156) Administer the Biomass Research and Development Initiative (7 U.S.C. 8108(e)); consult and coordinate, as appropriate, with the Under Secretary for Rural Development and other mission areas of the Department as deemed necessary in carrying out the authorities delegated herein.

(157) Administer a competitive grants program to encourage basic and applied research and the development of qualified agricultural countermeasures (7 U.S.C. 8921).

(158) Administer a competitive grants program to promote the development of teaching programs in agriculture, veterinary medicine, and disciplines closely allied to the food and agriculture system to increase the number of trained individuals with an expertise in agricultural biosecurity (7 U.S.C. 8922).

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(159) Administer a program of providing grants to Alaska Native serving institutions and Native Hawaiian serving institutions for the purpose of promoting and strengthening the ability of those institutions to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs (7 U.S.C. 3156).

(160) Administer a competitive grant program for national food safety training, education, extension, outreach, and technical assistance (7 U.S.C. 7625).

(161) Enter into agreements with and receive funds from any State, other political subdivision, organization, or individual for the purpose of conducting cooperative research projects (7 U.S.C. 450a).

(162) Administer a food insecurity nutrition incentive program (7 U.S.C. 7517).

(163) Administer a food and agriculture service learning grant program (7 U.S.C. 7633).

(164) Administer a veterinary services grant program (7 U.S.C. 3151b).

(165) Administer a forestry and forestry products research and extension initiative (7 U.S.C. 7655b).

(b) [Reserved]

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 62 FR 65595, Dec. 15, 1997; 65 FR 5417, Feb. 4, 2000; 68 FR 27445, May 20, 2003; 72 FR 12701, Mar. 19, 2007; 74 FR 3409, Jan. 21, 2009; 75 FR 43381, July 23, 2010; 76 FR 4803, Jan. 27, 2011; 76 FR 52852, Aug. 24, 2011; 77 FR 40249, July 9, 2012; 79 FR 44115, July 30, 2014; 83 FR 61314, Nov. 29, 2018; 85 FR 65520, Oct. 15, 2020]

§ 2.67 Administrator, Economic Research Service.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.21 (a)(3), (a)(8) and (a)(9), subject to reservations in § 2.21(b)(2), the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics to the Administrator, Economic Research Service:

(1) Conduct economic research on matters of importance to cooperatives as authorized by the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627).

(2) Conduct economic and social science research and analyses relating to:

(i) Food and agriculture situation and outlook;

(ii) The production, marketing, and distribution of food and fiber products

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(excluding forest and forest products), including studies of the performance of the food and agricultural sector of the economy in meeting needs and wants of consumers;

(iii) Basic and long-range, worldwide, economic analyses and research on supply, demand, and trade in food and fiber products and the effects on the U.S. food and agriculture system, including general economic analyses of the international financial and monetary aspects of agricultural affairs;

(iv) Natural resources, including studies of the use and management of land and water resources, the quality of these resources, resource institutions, and watershed and river basin development problems; and

(v) Rural people and communities, as authorized by title II of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), and the Act of June 29, 1935, as amended (7 U.S.C. 427).

(3) Administer an experienced services program to obtain technical, professional, and administrative services to support the research, education, and economics mission area of the Department (16 U.S.C. 3851).

(4) Investigate and make findings as to the effect upon the production of food and upon the agricultural economy of any proposed action pending before the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for presentation in the public interest, before said Administrator, other agencies, or before the courts.

(5) Review economic data and analyses used in speeches by Department personnel and in materials prepared for release through the press, radio and television.

(6) Cooperate and work with national and international institutions and other persons throughout the world in the performance of agricultural research and extension activities to promote and support the development of a viable and sustainable global agricultural system. Such work may be carried out by:

(i) Exchanging research materials and results with the institutions or persons;

(ii) Engaging in joint or coordinated research;

(iii) Entering into cooperative arrangements with Departments and Ministries of Agriculture in other nations to conduct research, extension; and education activities (limited to arrangements either involving no exchange of funds or involving disbursements by the agency to the institutions of other nations), and then reporting these arrangements to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics;

(iv) Stationing representatives at such institutions or organizations in foreign countries; or

(v) Entering into agreements with land-grant colleges and universities, other organizations, institutions, or individuals with comparable goals, and with the concurrence of the Office of International Cooperation and Development, USDA, international organizations (limited to agreements either involving no exchange of funds or involving disbursements by the agency to the cooperator), and then reporting these agreements to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (7 U.S.C. 3291(a)).

(7) [Reserved]

(8) Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), concerning estimates of supplies of agricultural commodities and evaluation of requirements therefor; food and agricultural aspects of economic stabilization and economic research; and coordination of energy programs.

(9) Enter into contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements to further research programs in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3318).

(10) Enter into cost-reimbursable agreements relating to agricultural research (7 U.S.C. 3319a).

(11) Represent the Department in international organizational activities and on international technical committees concerned with agricultural science, education, and development activities, including library and information science activities.

(12) Facilitate access by research and extension professionals, farmers, and

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other interested persons in the United States to, and the use by those persons of, organic research conducted outside the United States (7 U.S.C. 5925d).

(13)–(14) [Reserved]

(15) Solicit and consider input and recommendations from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, extension, or education (7 U.S.C. 7612(b)).

(16) Consider the results of the annual review performed by the Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board regarding the relevance to priorities of the funding of all agricultural research, extension, or education activities conducted or funded by the Department and the adequacy of funding, when formulating each request for proposals, and evaluating proposals, involving an agricultural research, extension, or education activity funded, on a competitive basis, by the Department; and solicit and consider input from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, extension, or education regarding the prior year's request for proposals for each activity funded on a competitive basis (7 U.S.C. 7613(c)).

(17) Establish procedures that ensure scientific peer review of all research activities conducted by the Economic Research Service (7 U.S.C. 7613(d)).

(18) Include in each issuance of projections of net farm income an estimate of the net farm income earned by commercial producers in the United States that will in addition show the estimate of net farm income attributable to commercial producers of livestock, loan commodities, and agricultural commodities other than loan commodities (7 U.S.C. 7998).

(19) Conduct surveys and analysis and publish reports relating to organic production, handling, distribution, retail, and trend studies (including consumer purchasing patterns) (7 U.S.C. 5925c).

(20) Ensure that studies carried out by the Economic Research Service document the number, location, and economic contributions of socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers in agricultural production (7 U.S.C. 2279(h)).

(21) Enter into agreements with and receive funds from any State, other political subdivision, organization, or individual for the purpose of conducting

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cooperative research projects (7 U.S.C. 450a).

(22) Coordinate implementation of section 10016 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 regarding locally or regionally produced agricultural food products (7 U.S.C. 2204h).

(b) *Reservation.* The following authority is reserved to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics: Review all proposed decisions having substantial economic policy implications.

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 62 FR 65596, Dec. 15, 1997; 64 FR 40736, July 28, 1999; 65 FR 5418, Feb. 4, 2000; 68 FR 27446, May 20, 2003; 74 FR 3410, Jan. 21, 2009; 79 FR 44116, July 30, 2014; 87 FR 44270, July 26, 2022]

§ 2.68 Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.21 (a)(3) and (a)(8), subject to reservations in § 2.21(b)(2), the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics to the Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service:

(1) Prepare crop and livestock estimates and administer reporting programs, including estimates of production, supply, price, and other aspects of the U.S. agricultural economy, collection of statistics, conduct of enumerative and objective measurement surveys, construction and maintenance of sampling frames, and related activities. Prepare reports of the Agricultural Statistics Board of the Department of Agriculture covering official state and national estimates (7 U.S.C. 476, 951, and 2204).

(2) Take such security precautions as are necessary to prevent disclosure of crop or livestock report information prior to the scheduled issuance time approved in advance by the Secretary of Agriculture and take such actions as are necessary to avoid disclosure of confidential data or information supplied by any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or association (18 U.S.C. 1902, 1905, and 2072).

(3) Improve statistics in the Department; maintain liaison with OMB and other Federal agencies for coordination of statistical methods and techniques.

(4) Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense

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Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), concerning coordination of damage assessment; and food and agricultural aspects of agricultural statistics.

(5) Enter into contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements to further research and statistical reporting programs in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3318).

(6) Enter cost-reimbursable agreements relating to agricultural research and statistical reporting (7 U.S.C. 3319a).

(7) Cooperate and work with national and international institutions and other persons throughout the world in the performance of agricultural research and extension activities to promote and support the development of a viable and sustainable global agricultural system. Such work may be carried out by:

(i) Exchanging research materials and results with the institutions or persons;

(ii) Engaging in joint or coordinated research;

(iii) Entering into cooperative arrangements with Departments and Ministries of Agriculture in other nations to conduct research, extension, and education activities (limited to arrangements either involving no exchange of funds or involving disbursements by the agency to the institutions of other nations), and then reporting these arrangements to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics;

(iv) Stationing representatives at such institutions or organizations in foreign countries; or

(v) entering into agreements with land-grant colleges and universities, other organizations, institutions, or individuals with comparable goals, and, with the concurrence of the Foreign Agricultural Service, international organizations (limited to agreements either involving no exchange of funds or involving disbursements by the agency to the cooperator), and then reporting these agreements to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (7 U.S.C. 3291(a)).

(8) Represent the Department in international organizational activities and on international technical committees concerned with agricultural science, education, and development activities, including library and information science activities.

(9) Take a census of agriculture in 1998 and every fifth year thereafter pursuant to the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997, Public Law 105-113 (7 U.S.C. 2204g); ensure that the census of agriculture documents the number, location, and economic contributions of socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers in agricultural production (7 U.S.C. 2279(h)).

(10) Develop surveys and report statistical analysis on organically produced agricultural products (7 U.S.C. 5925c).

(11) Assist the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service with respect to Dairy Product Mandatory Reporting (7 U.S.C. 1637-1637b).

(12) Enter into agreements with and receive funds from any State, other political subdivision, organization, or individual for the purpose of conducting cooperative research projects, including agricultural statistical survey activities (7 U.S.C. 450a).

(13) Assist the Administrator, Economic Research Service with implementing section 10016 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 regarding locally or regionally produced agricultural food products (7 U.S.C. 2204h).

(14) Collect and, not less frequently than once every 3 years report, data and analysis on farmland ownership, tenure, transition, and entry of beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (7 U.S.C. 2204i).

(15) Administer an experienced services program to obtain technical, professional, and administrative services to support the research, education, and economics mission area of the Department (16 U.S.C. 3851).

(b) *Reservation.* The following authority is reserved to the Under Secretary

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for Research, Education, and Economics: Review all proposed decisions having substantial economic policy implications.

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 62 FR 65596, Dec. 15, 1997; 65 FR 5418, Feb. 4, 2000; 68 FR 27446, May 20, 2003; 74 FR 3410, Jan. 21, 2009; 77 FR 40250, July 9, 2012; 79 FR 44116, July 30, 2014; 85 FR 65521, Oct. 15, 2020; 87 FR 44270, July 26, 2022]

§ 2.69 Director, Office of the Chief Scientist.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.21(a)(11) and (a)(12), the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics to the Director, Office of the Chief Scientist.

(1) Provide to the Under Secretary (Chief Scientist of the Department) information on topics that can benefit from scientific input to ensure informed decision-making at the highest levels of Government.

(2) Assist the Chief Scientist with facilitating the coordination and collaboration within the Department on high priority science issues that will benefit from intra-Departmental collaboration, including coordinating the assessment of the relevance, quality, performance, and impact of the Department's efforts in science.

(3) Assist the Chief Scientist with building partnerships within the scientific community and with the Chief Scientist's role as point of contact for interactions with other agencies of science, universities, and other external members of the scientific community for the purpose of leveraging and promoting relationships to explore common scientific interests and shared goals.

(4) Assist the Chief Scientist with developing mechanisms to address scientific integrity within the Department.

(5) [Reserved]

(6) Assist the Chief Scientist in carrying out sections 251(c)(2) and 251(d)(2) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971(c)(2), (d)(2)) by exercising the duties set forth in section 251(e)(3)(E) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 6971(e)(3)(E)) through a series of divisions organized by the following focus areas:

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(i) Renewable energy, natural resources, and environment;

(ii) Food safety, nutrition, and health;

(iii) Plant health and production and plant products;

(iv) Animal health and production and animal products;

(v) Agricultural systems and technology; and

(vi) Agricultural economics and rural communities.

(b) The divisions will be headed by Division Chiefs/Senior Advisors (or a similar title), and will be known collectively as the Office of the Chief Scientist.

[76 FR 10756, Feb. 28, 2011, as amended at 85 FR 65521, Oct. 15, 2020]

Subpart L—Delegations of Authority by the Chief Economist

§ 2.70 Deputy Chief Economist.

Pursuant to § 2.29, the following delegation of authority is made by the Chief Economist to the Deputy Chief Economist, to be exercised only during the absence or unavailability of the Chief Economist: Perform all the duties and exercise all the powers which are now or which may hereafter be delegated to the Chief Economist.

§ 2.71 Director, Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.29(a)(2), the following delegations of authority are by the Chief Economist to the Director, Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis:

(1) Responsible for assessing the risks to human health, human safety, or the environment, and for preparing cost-benefit analyses, with respect to proposed major regulations, and for publishing such assessments and analyses in the FEDERAL REGISTER as required by section 304 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 2204e)

(2) Provide direction to Department agencies in the appropriate methods of risk assessment and cost-benefit analyses and coordinate and review all risk assessments and cost-benefit analyses prepared by any agency of the Department.

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(b) *Reservation.* The following authority is reserved to the Chief Economist: Review all proposed decisions having substantial economic policy implications.

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 63 FR 66979, Dec. 4, 1998; 78 FR 40938, July 9, 2013]

§2.72 Chairman, World Agricultural Outlook Board.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to §2.29(a)(3) through (a)(7), the following delegations of authority are made by the Chief Economist to the Chairman, World Agricultural Outlook Board:

(1) *Related to food and agriculture outlook and situation.* (i) Coordinate and review all crop and commodity data used to develop outlook and situation material within the Department.

(ii) Oversee and clear for consistency analytical assumptions and results of all estimates and analyses which significantly relate to international and domestic commodity supply and demand, including such estimates and analyses prepared for public distribution by the Foreign Agricultural Service, the Economic Research Service, or by any other agency or office of the Department.

(2) *Related to weather and climate.* (i) Advise the Secretary on climate and weather activities, and coordinate the development of policy options on weather and climate.

(ii) Coordinate all weather and climate information and monitoring activities within the Department and provide a focal point in the Department for weather and climate information and impact assessment.

(iii) Arrange for appropriate representation to attend all meetings, hearings, and task forces held outside the Department which require such representation.

(iv) Designate the Executive Secretary of the USDA Weather and Climate Program Coordinating Committee.

(v) Coordinate with the Director of the National Drought Mitigation Center and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to enhance the collection of data to improve the accuracy of the

United States Drought Monitor (7 U.S.C. 5856).

(3) *Related to interagency commodity estimates committees.* (i) Establish Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees for Commodity Credit Corporation price-supported commodities, for major products thereof, and for commodities where a need for such a committee has been identified, in order to bring together estimates and supporting analyses from participating agencies, and to develop official estimates of supply, utilization, and prices for commodities, including the effects of new program proposals on acreage, yield, production, imports, domestic utilization, price, income, support programs, carryover, exports, and availabilities for export.

(ii) Designate the Chairman, who shall also act as Secretary, for all Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees.

(iii) Assure that all committee members have the basic assumptions, background data and other relevant data regarding the overall economy and market prospects for specific commodities.

(iv) Review for consistency of analytical assumptions and results all proposed decisions made by Commodity Estimates Committees prior to any release outside the Department.

(4) [Reserved]

(5) *Related to long-range commodity and agricultural-sector projections.* Establish committees of the agencies of the Department to coordinate the development of a set of analytical assumptions and long-range agricultural-sector projections (2 years and beyond) based on commodity projections consistent with these assumptions and coordinated through the Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees.

(b) *Reservation.* The following authority is reserved to the Chief Economist: Review all proposed decisions having substantial economic policy implications.

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 77 FR 14952, Mar. 14, 2012; 78 FR 40938, July 9, 2013; 85 FR 65521, Oct. 15, 2020]

§2.73 Director, Office of Energy and Environmental Policy.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to §2.29(a)(11) through (13) the following delegations of authority are made by

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the Chief Economist to the Director, Office of Energy and Environmental Policy.

(1) Providing Department leadership in:

(i) Analyzing and evaluating existing and proposed energy policies and strategies, including those regarding the allocation of scarce resources;

(ii) Developing energy policies and strategies, including those regarding the allocation of scarce resources;

(iii) Reviewing and evaluating Departmental energy and energy-related programs and program progress;

(iv) Developing agricultural and rural components of national energy policy plans;

(v) Preparing reports on energy and energy-related policies and programs required under Act of Congress and Executive Orders, including those involving testimony and reports on legislative proposals.

(2) Providing Departmental oversight and coordination with respect to resources available for energy and energy-related activities, including funds transferred to USDA from departments and agencies of the Federal government pursuant to interagency agreements.

(3) Representing the Chief Economist at conferences, meetings, and other contacts where energy matters are discussed, including liaison with the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other governmental departments and agencies.

(4) Providing the Chief Economist with such assistance as requested to perform the duties delegated to the Director concerning energy and new uses.

(5) Working with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations to maintain Congressional and public contacts in energy matters, including development of legislative proposals, preparation of reports on legislation pending in congress, appearances before Congressional committees, and related activities.

(6) These delegations exclude the energy management actions related to the internal operations of the Department as delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

(7) Conduct a program on the economic feasibility of new uses of agricultural products. Assist agricultural researchers by evaluating the economic and market potential of new agricultural products in the initial phase of development and contributing to prioritization of the Departmental research agenda.

(8) Administer a competitive biodiesel fuel education grants program (7 U.S.C. 8106).

(9) Implement a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Energy regarding cooperation in the application of hydrogen and fuel cell technology programs for rural communities and agricultural producers.

(10) *Related to global climate change.* (i) Coordinate policy analysis, long-range planning, research, and response strategies relating to climate change issues.

(ii) Provide liaison with other Federal agencies, through the Office of Science and Technology Policy, regarding climate change issues.

(iii) Inform the Department of scientific developments and policy issues relating to the effects of climate change on agriculture and forestry, including broader issues that affect the impact of climate change on the farms and forests of the United States.

(iv) Recommend to the Chief Economist alternative courses of action with which to respond to such scientific developments and policy issues.

(v) Ensure that recognition of the potential for climate change is fully integrated into the research, planning, and decisionmaking processes of the Department.

(vi) Coordinate global climate change studies.

(vii) Coordinate the participation of the Department in interagency climate-related activities.

(viii) Consult with the National Academy of Sciences and private, academic, State, and local groups with respect to climate research and related activities.

(ix) Represent the Department to the Office of Science and Technology Policy on issues related to climate change.

(x) Represent the Department on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

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(xi) Review all Department budget items relating to climate change issues, including specifically the research budget to be submitted by the Secretary to the Office of Management and Budget.

(11) *Related to environmental markets.* Coordinate implementation of section 1245 of the Food Security Act of 1985 regarding environmental services markets (16 U.S.C. 3845).

(b) [Reserved]

[64 FR 40736, July 28, 1999, as amended at 68 FR 27446, May 20, 2003; 74 FR 3410, Jan. 21, 2009; 79 FR 44116, July 30, 2014; 83 FR 61314, Nov. 29, 2018]

§2.74 [Reserved]**§2.75 Director, Office of Pest Management Policy.**

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to §2.29(a)(16), the following delegations of authority are made by the Chief Economist to the Director, Office of Pest Management Policy:

(1) Coordinate USDA policy relative to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136, *et seq.*) and coordinate the Department's Integrated Pest Management Programs and the Pesticide Assessment Program (7 U.S.C. 136–136y) (7 U.S.C. 7653).

(2) Conduct a multiple crop and pesticide use survey as authorized by section 10109 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018.

(b) [Reserved]

[83 FR 61314, Nov. 29, 2018, as amended at 85 FR 65521, Oct. 15, 2020]

Subpart M [Reserved]**Subpart N—Delegations of Authority by the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs****§2.77 Deputy Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.**

Pursuant to §2.22(a), subject to reservations in §2.22(b), and subject to policy guidance and direction by the Under Secretary, the following delegation of authority is made by the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regu-

latory Programs to the Deputy Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, to be exercised only during the absence or unavailability of the Under Secretary: Perform all the duties and exercise all the powers which are now or which may hereafter be delegated to the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs: Provided, that this authority shall be exercised by the respective Deputy Under Secretary in the order in which he or she has taken office as a Deputy Under Secretary.

[75 FR 79950, Dec. 21, 2010]

§2.79 Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to §2.22(a)(1), (a)(5) and (a)(8), subject to reservations in §2.22(b)(1), the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs to the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service:

(1) Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture contained in the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*), including payments to State Departments of Agriculture in connection with cooperative marketing service projects under section 204(b) (7 U.S.C. 1623(b)), but excepting matters otherwise assigned.

(2) Conduct marketing efficiency research and development activities directly applicable to the conduct of the Wholesale Market Development Program, specifically:

(i) Studies of facilities and methods used in physical distribution of food and other farm products;

(ii) Studies designed to improve handling of all agricultural products as they are moved from farms to consumers; and

(iii) Application of presently available scientific knowledge to the solution of practical problems encountered in the marketing of agricultural products (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627b).

(3) Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture relating to the transportation activities contained in section 203(j) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1622(j)) as amended, but excepting matters otherwise assigned.

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(4) Administer transportation activities under section 201 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1291).

(5) Apply results of economic research and operations analysis to evaluate transportation issues and to recommend revisions of current procedures.

(6) Serve as the focal point for all Department transportation matters including development of policies and strategies.

(7) Cooperate with other Departmental agencies in the development and recommendation of policies and programs for inland transportation of USDA and CCC-owned commodities in connection with USDA programs.

(8) Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture contained in the following legislation:

(i) U.S. Cotton Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 51–65);

(ii) Cotton futures provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. 4854, 4862–4865, 4876, and 7263);

(iii) Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 471–476), except as otherwise assigned;

(iv) [Reserved]

(v) Naval Stores Act (7 U.S.C. 91–99);

(vi) Tobacco Inspection Act (7 U.S.C. 511–511q);

(vii) Wool Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 415–415d);

(viii) Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601, 602, 608a–608e, 610, 612, 614, 624, 671–674);

(ix) Cotton Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 2101–2118), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24);

(x) Export Apple and Pear Act (7 U.S.C. 581–590);

(xi) Export Grape and Plum Act (7 U.S.C. 591–599);

(xii) Titles I, II, IV, and V of the Federal Seed Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1551–1575, 1591–1611);

(xiii) Perishable Agricultural Commodity Act (7 U.S.C. 499a–499s);

(xiv) Produce Agency Act (7 U.S.C. 491–497);

(xv) Tobacco Seed and Plant Exportation Act (7 U.S.C. 516–517);

(xvi) [Reserved]

(xvii) Tobacco Statistics Act (7 U.S.C. 501–508);

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(xviii)–(xxi) [Reserved]

(xxii) Section 401(a) of the Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 415e);

(xxiii) Agricultural Fair Practices Act (7 U.S.C. 2301–2306);

(xxiv) Wheat Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 1292 note), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24);

(xxv) Plant Variety Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 2321–2331, 2351–2357, 2371–2372, 2401–2404, 2421–2427, 2441–2443, 2461–2463, 2481–2486, 2501–2504, 2531–2532, 2541–2545, 2561–2569, 2581–2583), except as delegated to the Judicial Officer;

(xxvi) Subtitle B of title I and section 301(4) of the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 4501–4513, 4514(4)), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24);

(xxvii) Potato Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 2611–2627), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24);

(xxviii)–(xxx) [Reserved]

(xxxi) Egg Research and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 2701–2718), except as delegated in § 2.43(a)(24);

(xxxii) Beef Research and Information Act, as amended, (7 U.S.C. 2901–2918), except as delegated in §§ 2.42(a)(29) and 2.43(a)(24);

(xxxiii) Wheat and Wheat Foods Research and Nutrition Education Act (7 U.S.C. 3401–3417), except as delegated in § 2.43(a)(24);

(xxxiv) Egg Products Inspection Act relating to the shell egg surveillance program, voluntary laboratory analyses of egg products, and the voluntary egg grading program (21 U.S.C. 1031–1056);

(xxxv) Section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), as supplemented by the Act of June 28, 1937 (15 U.S.C. 713c), and related legislation, except functions which are otherwise assigned relating to the domestic distribution and donation of agricultural commodities and products thereof following the procurement thereof;

(xxxvi) Procurement of agricultural commodities and other foods under section 6 of the National School Lunch Act of 1946, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1755);

(xxxvii) [Reserved]

(xxxviii) Act of May 23, 1908, regarding inspection of dairy products for export (21 U.S.C. 693);

(xxxix) The Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act

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of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 4801–4819), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24);

(xl) The Watermelon Research and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 4901–4616), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24);

(xli) The Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 4601–4612), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24);

(xlii) Subtitles B and C of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983, as amended (7 U.S.C. 4501–4513, 4531–4538);

(xliii) The Floral Research and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 4301–4319), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24);

(xliv) Section 213 of the Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983, as amended (7 U.S.C. 511r);

(xlv) National Laboratory Accreditation Program (7 U.S.C. 138–138i) with respect to laboratories accredited for pesticide residue analysis in fruits and vegetables and other agricultural commodities, except those laboratories analyzing only meat and poultry products;

(xlvi) Pecan Promotion and Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6001–6013), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24);

(xlvii) Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6101–6112), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24);

(xlviii) Lime Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6201–6212), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24);

(xlix) Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 6301–6311), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24);

(l) Fluid Milk Promotion Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6401–6417), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24);

(li) Producer Research and Promotion Board Accountability (104 Stat. 3927);

(lii) Consistency with International Obligations of the United States (7 U.S.C. 2278);

(liii) Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501–6522) provided that the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, will enter into agreements, as necessary, with the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, to provide inspection services;

(liv) Pesticide Recordkeeping (7 U.S.C. 136i–1) with the provision that the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, will enter into agreements, as necessary, with other Federal agencies;

(lv) The International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs Act (7 U.S.C. 4401–4406);

(lvi) The Sheep Promotion, Research, and Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7101–7111), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24); and

(lvii) The Fresh Cut Flowers and Fresh Cut Greens Promotion and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 6801–6814), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24).

(lviii) Commodity Promotion and Evaluation (7 U.S.C. 7401);

(lix) Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7411–7425), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24);

(lx) The Canola and Rapeseed Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7441–7452), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24);

(lxi) The National Kiwifruit Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7461–7473), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24); and

(lxii) The Popcorn Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7481–7491), except as specified in § 2.43(a)(24).

(lxiii) Local Agriculture Market Program (7 U.S.C. 1627c), in coordination with the Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

(lxiv) [Reserved]

(lxv) Exemption of Certified Organic Products from Assessment (7 U.S.C. 7401).

(lxvi) Country of Origin Labeling (7 U.S.C. 1638–1638(d)).

(lxvii) Hass Avocado Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 7801–7813).

(lxviii) Section 7407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5925c), with respect to the collection and distribution of comprehensive reporting of prices relating to organically produced agricultural products.

(lxix) Livestock Mandatory Reporting (7 U.S.C. 1635–1636i).

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(lxx) Section 375 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008j).

(lxxi) Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note).

(lxxii) Section 1502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8772).

(lxxiii) Section 12108 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 1622 note).

(lxxiv) Section 10105 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7655a).

(lxxv) Section 10107 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1622b).

(lxxvi) Section 4206 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7518).

(lxxvii) Section 4213(c) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 1755b(c)).

(lxxviii) Section 12306 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 1632c).

(lxxix) Section 506 of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 7101 note).

(lxxx) Section 12513 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 1632d).

(9) Furnish, on request, copies of programs, pamphlets, reports, or other publications for missions or programs as may otherwise be delegated or assigned to the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service and charge user fees therefore, as authorized by section 1121 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, as amended by section 1769 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2242a.

(10) [Reserved]

(11) With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, exercise the functions delegated to the Secretary by Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, under the following provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 ("the Act"), as amended:

(i) Sections 104 (a), (b), and (c)(4) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604 (a), (b), and (c)(4)), with respect to removal and remedial actions in the event of release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant into the environment;

(ii) Sections 104(e)–(h) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(e)–(h)), with respect to information gathering and access requests and orders; compliance with Federal health and safety standards and wage and labor standards applicable to covered work; and emergency procurement powers;

(iii) Section 104(i)(11) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(11)), with respect to the reduction of exposure to significant risk to human health;

(iv) Section 104(j) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(j)), with respect to the acquisition of real property and interests in real property required to conduct a remedial action;

(v) The first two sentences of section 105(d) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(d)), with respect to petitions for preliminary assessment of a release or threatened release;

(vi) Section 105(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(f)), with respect to consideration of the availability of qualified minority firms in awarding contracts, but excluding that portion of section 105(f) pertaining to the annual report to Congress;

(vii) Section 109 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9609), with respect to the assessment of civil penalties for violations of section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), and the granting of awards to individuals providing information;

(viii) Section 111(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9611(f)), with respect to the designation of officials who may obligate money in the Hazardous Substances Superfund;

(ix) Section 113(k) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9613(k)), with respect to establishing an administrative record upon which to base the selection of a response action and identifying and notifying potentially responsible parties;

(x) Section 116(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9616(a)), with respect to preliminary assessment and site inspection of facilities;

(xi) Sections 117(a) and (c) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9617 (a) and (c)), with respect to public participation in the preparation of any plan for remedial action and explanation of variances from the final remedial action plan for any remedial action or enforcement action, including any settlement or consent decree entered into;

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(xii) Section 119 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9119), with respect to indemnifying response action contractors;

(xiii) Section 121 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9621), with respect to cleanup standards; and

(xiv) Section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), with respect to settlements, but excluding section 122(b)(1) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622(b)(1)), related to mixed funding agreements.

(12) With respect to facilities and activities under his or her authority, to exercise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to section 1-102 related to compliance with applicable pollution control standards and section 1-601 of Executive Order 12088, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243, to enter into an inter-agency agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an administrative consent order or a consent judgment in an appropriate State, interstate, or local agency, containing a plan and schedule to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable pollution control standards established pursuant to the following:

(i) Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as further amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, and the Federal Facility Compliance Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*);

(ii) Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*);

(iii) Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*);

(iv) Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*);

(v) Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4901 *et seq.*);

(vi) Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*);

(vii) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*); and

(viii) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*).

(13) Administer a program for Dairy Product Mandatory Reporting (7 U.S.C. 1637-1637b), with the assistance of the Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

(14) Assist the Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service with implementing section 3205 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 7112 note) regarding the Consultative Group to Eliminate the Use of Child Labor and Forced Labor in Imported Agricultural Products.

(15) Assist the Administrator, Economic Research Service with implementing section 10016 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 regarding locally or regionally produced agricultural food products (7 U.S.C. 2204h).

(16) Administer the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71-87h).

(17) Administer the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, as amended and supplemented.

(18) Enforce provisions of the Consumer Credit Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1601-1665, 1681-1681t), with respect to any activities subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, as amended and supplemented.

(19) Exercise the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture contained in section 1324 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1631).

(20) Administer responsibilities and functions assigned to the Secretary in section 11006 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 228 note), with respect to the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921.

(21) Administer the U. S. Warehouse Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 241-273), and perform compliance examinations for Agricultural Marketing Services programs.

(22) Administer commodity procurement and supply, transportation (other than from point of export, except for movement to trust territories or possessions), handling, payment, and related services in connection with programs under titles II and III of Public Law 480 (7 U.S.C. 1691, 1701, *et seq.*) and section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1), and payment and related services with respect to export programs and barter operations.

(23) Administer the Economic Adjustment Assistance for Textile Mills program (7 U.S.C. 9037(c)).

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(24) In coordination with Administrator, Farm Service Agency, administer payments under the Special Competitive Provisions for Extra Long Staple Cotton (7 U.S.C. 9038).

(b) [Reserved]

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 61 FR 25776, May 23, 1996; 62 FR 37485, July 14, 1997; 62 FR 40255, July 28, 1997; 68 FR 27446, May 20, 2003; 74 FR 3411, Jan. 21, 2009; 79 FR 44116, July 30, 2014; 83 FR 22188, May 14, 2018; 83 FR 61314, Nov. 29, 2018; 85 FR 65521, Oct. 15, 2020]

§ 2.80 Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.22(a)(2) and (a)(6) through (a)(9), and subject to reservations in § 2.22(b)(2), the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs to the Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: Exercise functions of the Secretary of Agriculture under the following authorities:

(1) Administer the Foreign Service personnel system for employees of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 3922, except that this delegation does not include the authority to approve joint regulations issued by the Department of State relating to administration of the Foreign Service, nor an authority to represent the Department of Agriculture in interagency consultations and negotiations with the other foreign affairs agencies with respect to joint regulations.

(2) The Terminal Inspection Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 166).

(3) The Honeybee Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 281–286).

(4) Section 18 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act, as amended, as it pertains to the issuance of certificates of condition of live animals intended and offered for export (21 U.S.C. 618).

(5) The responsibilities of the United States under the International Plant Protection Convention.

(6) (Laboratory) Animal Welfare Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2131–2159).

(7) Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1821–1831).

(8) 28 Hour Law, as amended (49 U.S.C. 80502).

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(9) Export Animal Accommodation Act, as amended (46 U.S.C. 3901–3902).

(10) Purebred animal duty-free-entry provision of Tariff Act of June 17, 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1202, part 1, Item 100.01).

(11) Virus-Serum-Toxin Act (21 U.S.C. 151–159).

(12) Conduct diagnostic and related activities necessary to prevent, detect, control or eradicate foot-and-mouth disease and other foreign animal diseases (21 U.S.C. 113a).

(13) The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, section 203, 205, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1622, 1624), with respect to voluntary inspection and certification of animal products; inspection, testing, treatment, and certification of animals; and a program to investigate and develop solutions to the problems resulting from the use of sulfonamides in swine.

(14) Talmadge-Aiken Act (7 U.S.C. 1633) with respect to cooperation with States in control and eradication of plant and animal diseases and pests.

(15) Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), relating to protection of livestock, poultry and crops and products thereof from biological and chemical warfare; and utilization or disposal of livestock and poultry exposed to radiation.

(16) The Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2801 note; 2814).

(17) The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531–1544).

(18) Executive Order 11987, 3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 116.

(19) Section 101(d), Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 398).

(20) The Swine Health Protection Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3801–3813).

(21) Lacey Act Amendments of 1981, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3371–3378).

(22) Title III (and title IV to the extent that it relates to activities under title III) of the Federal Seed Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1581–1610).

(23) Authority to prescribe the amounts of commuted traveltime allowances and the circumstances under which such allowances may be paid to

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employees covered by the Act of August 28, 1950 (7 U.S.C. 2260).

(24) Provide management support services for the Agricultural Marketing Service, as agreed upon by the agencies, with authority to take actions required by law or regulation. As used herein, the term management support services includes information technology, budget, finance, personnel, procurement, property management, communications, paperwork management, and related administrative services.

(25) Coordinate the development and carrying out by Department agencies of all matters and functions pertaining to the Department's regulation of biotechnology, and act as liaison on all matters and functions pertaining to the regulation of biotechnology between agencies within the Department and between the Department and other governmental and private organizations.

(26) The Act of March 2, 1931 (7 U.S.C. 8351–8352).

(27) The Act of December 22, 1987 (7 U.S.C. 8353).

(28) Authority to work with developed and transitional countries on agricultural and related research and extension, with respect to animal and plant health, including providing technical assistance, training, and advice to persons from such countries engaged in such activities and the stationing of scientists at national and international institutions in such countries (7 U.S.C. 3291(a)(3)).

(29) With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, exercise the functions delegated to the Secretary by Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, under the following provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 ("the Act"), as amended:

(i) Sections 104 (a), (b), and (c)(4) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604 (a), (b), and (c)(4)), with respect to removal and remedial actions in the event of release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant into the environment;

(ii) Sections 104(e)–(h) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(e)–(h)), with respect to information gathering and access re-

quests and orders; compliance with Federal health and safety standards and wage and labor standards applicable to covered work; and emergency procurement powers;

(iii) Section 104(i)(11) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(11)), with respect to the reduction of exposure to significant risk to human health;

(iv) Section 104(j) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(j)), with respect to the acquisition of real property and interests in real property required to conduct a remedial action;

(v) The first two sentences of section 105(d) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(d)), with respect to petitions for preliminary assessment of a release or threatened release;

(vi) Section 105(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9605(f)), with respect to consideration of the availability of qualified minority firms in awarding contracts, but excluding that portion of section 105(f) pertaining to the annual report to Congress;

(vii) Section 109 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9609), with respect to the assessment of civil penalties for violations of section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), and the granting of awards to individuals providing information;

(viii) Section 111(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9611(f)), with respect to the designation of officials who may obligate money in the Hazardous Substances Superfund;

(ix) Section 113(k) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9613(k)), with respect to establishing an administrative record upon which to base the selection of a response action and identifying and notifying potentially responsible parties;

(x) Section 116(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9616(a)), with respect to preliminary assessment and site inspection of facilities;

(xi) Sections 117 (a) and (c) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9617 (a) and (c)), with respect to public participation in the preparation of any plan for remedial action and explanation of variances from the final remedial action plan for any remedial action or enforcement action, including any settlement or consent decree entered into;

(xii) Section 119 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9119), with respect to indemnifying response action contractors;

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(xiii) Section 121 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9621), with respect to cleanup standards; and

(xiv) Section 122 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622), with respect to settlements, but excluding section 122(b)(1) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9622(b)(1)), related to mixed funding agreements.

(30) With respect to facilities and activities under his or her authority, to exercise the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to section 1–102 related to compliance with applicable pollution control standards and section 1–601 of Executive Order 12088, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243, to enter into an inter-agency agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an administrative consent order or a consent judgment in an appropriate State, interstate, or local agency, containing a plan and schedule to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable pollution control standards established pursuant to the following:

(i) Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as further amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, and the Federal Facility Compliance Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*);

(ii) Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*);

(iii) Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*);

(iv) Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*);

(v) Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4901 *et seq.*);

(vi) Toxic Substances Control Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*);

(vii) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*); and

(viii) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*).

(31) Authority to prescribe and collect fees under the Act of August 31, 1951, as amended (31 U.S.C. 9701), and sections 2508 and 2509 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (21 U.S.C. 136, 136a), as amended.

(32) The provisions of 35 U.S.C. 156.

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(33) Enter into cooperative research and development agreements with industry, universities, and others; institute a cash award program to reward scientific, engineering, and technical personnel; award royalties to inventors; and retain and use royalty income (15 U.S.C. 3710a–3710c).

(34) The Alien Species Prevention and Enforcement Act of 1992 (39 U.S.C. 3015 note).

(35) Sections 901–905 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 1901 note).

(36) Plant Protection Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 7701–7786).

(37) Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301–8317).

(38) Section 10504 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8318).

(39) Title V of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 2279e and 2279f).

(40) The responsibilities of the United States related to activities of the Office International des Epizooties.

(41) Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (Title II, Subtitles B and C; of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness Response Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8401 note, 8401, 8411)).

(42) Implement the information disclosure authorities of section 1619(b)(3)(A) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8791(b)(3)(A)).

(43) Section 7524 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (21 U.S.C. 118a note), except for the suspension, revocation, or other impairment of a permit issued under that section.

(44) Section 10202 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7761).

(45) Section 10204 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7701 note).

(46) Section 14216 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110–246).

(47) Section 1672(g)(3) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(g)(3)) regarding honey bee pest, pathogen, health, and population status surveillance.

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(48) Section 12309 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 regarding produce represented as grown in the United States (19 U.S.C. 1304a).

(49) Section 11013 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8322).

(50) In coordination with the Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Section 2408 relating to the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program (7 U.S.C. 8351 note).

(51) Section 12203(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 relating to diseases and pests of concern (7 U.S.C. 8914(b)).

(52) Section 12601 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 relating to baiting of migratory game birds (16 U.S.C. 704 note).

(b) *Reservation.* The following authority is reserved to the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs: The authority to make determinations under 35 U.S.C. 156 as to whether an applicant acted with due diligence.

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 61 FR 68541, Dec. 30, 1996; 65 FR 49471, Aug. 14, 2000; 68 FR 27446, May 20, 2003; 70 FR 55706, Sept. 23, 2005; 74 FR 3411, Jan. 21, 2009; 76 FR 4803, Jan. 27, 2011; 79 FR 44116, July 30, 2014; 83 FR 61314, Nov. 29, 2018; 85 FR 65521, Oct. 15, 2020]

§ 2.81 [Reserved]**Subpart O—Delegations of Authority by the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations****§ 2.83 Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations.**

Pursuant to §2.23, and subject to policy guidance and direction by the Assistant Secretary, the following delegation of authority is made by the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, to be exercised only during the absence or unavailability of the Assistant Secretary: Perform all duties and exercise all powers which are now or which may hereafter be delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations.

§ 2.85 Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to §2.23, the following delegations of authority are made by the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations to the Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs:

(1) Coordinate all programs involving intergovernmental affairs including State and local government relations and liaison with:

(i) National Association of State Departments of Agriculture;

(ii) Office of Intergovernmental Relations (Office of Vice President);

(iii) Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations;

(iv) Council of State Governments;

(v) National Governors Conference;

(vi) National Association of Counties;

(vii) National League of Cities;

(viii) International City Managers Association;

(ix) U.S. Conference of Mayors; and

(x) Such other State and Federal agencies, departments, and organizations as are necessary in carrying out the responsibilities of this office.

(2) Maintain oversight of the activities of USDA representatives to the 10 Federal Regional councils.

(3) Serve as the USDA contact with the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations for implementation of OMB Circular A-85 to provide advance notification to State and local governments of proposed changes in Department programs that affect such governments.

(4) Act as the Department representative for Federal executive board matters.

(b) [Reserved]

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 68 FR 27447, May 20, 2003; 69 FR 34254, June 21, 2004; 79 FR 44117, July 30, 2014]

Subpart P—Delegations of Authority by the Assistant Secretary for Administration

SOURCE: 75 FR 43381, July 23, 2010, unless otherwise noted.

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§ 2.87 Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration.

Pursuant to § 2.24(a), and subject to reservations in § 2.24(b), the following delegation of authority is made by the Assistant Secretary for Administration to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, to be exercised only during the absence or unavailability of the Assistant Secretary: Perform all the duties and exercise all the powers which are now or which may hereafter be delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Administration: Provided, that this authority shall be exercised first by a respective non-career Deputy Assistant Secretary in the order in which he or she has taken office as Deputy Assistant Secretary, and second by a career Deputy Assistant Secretary.

§ 2.89 [Reserved]

§ 2.90 Director, Office of Property and Environmental Management.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.24(a)(6) of this chapter, and with due deference for delegations to other Departmental Administration officials, the following delegations of authority are made by the Assistant Secretary for Administration to the Director, Office of Property and Environmental Management:

(1) Promulgate policies, standards, techniques, and procedures, and represent the Department, in the following:

(i) Utilization, value analysis, construction, maintenance, and disposition of real and personal property, including control of space assignments.

(ii) Motor vehicle and aircraft fleet and other vehicular transportation.

(iii) Transportation of things (traffic management).

(iv) Prevention, control, and abatement of pollution with respect to Federal facilities and activities under the control of the Department (Executive Order 12088, "Federal Compliance With Pollution Control Standards," 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243).

(v) Development and implementation of sustainable operations actions including establishing and achieving greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, reducing energy intensity, increasing renewable energy use, increasing water efficiency, reducing petro-

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leum use and increasing alternative fuel use, increasing recycling and waste diversion, preventing pollution, reducing use of toxic chemicals, procuring sustainable products and services, achieving sustainable principles for new and existing buildings, promoting electronic stewardship, and continuing environmental management system use. Maintain liaison with the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Department of Energy, and other Government agencies in these matters.

(2) Exercise the following special authorities:

(i) Maintain custody and permit appropriate use of the official seal of the Department.

(ii) Establish policy for the use of the official flags of the Secretary and the Department.

(iii) Coordinate collection and disposition of personal property of historical significance.

(iv) Make information returns to the Internal Revenue Service as prescribed by 26 U.S.C. 6050M and by 26 CFR 1.6050M-1 and such other Treasury regulations, guidelines or procedures as may be issued by the Internal Revenue Service in accordance with 26 U.S.C. 6050M. This includes making such verifications or certifications as may be required by 26 CFR 1.6050M-1 and making the election allowed by 26 CFR 1.6050M-1(d)(5)(1).

(v) Represent the Department in working with the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the General Services Administration, OMB, and other organizations or agencies on matters related to assigned responsibilities.

(vi) Redelegate, as appropriate, the authority in paragraphs (a)(4) and (a)(6) of this section to agency Property Officials or other qualified agency officials with no power of further redelegation.

(3) Transfer excess research equipment to eligible educational institutions or certain non-profit organizations for the conduct of technical and scientific education and research activities under section 11(i) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation

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Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710(i)) (7 CFR part 2812).

(4) Promulgate policy and obtain and furnish Federal excess personal property in accordance with section 923 of Public Law 104-127 (7 U.S.C. 2206a), to support research, educational, technical and scientific activities or for related programs, to:

(i) Any 1994 Institutions (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note)).

(ii) Any Institutions eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321, *et seq.*) including Tuskegee University.

(iii) Any Hispanic-serving Institutions (as defined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)).

(5) Make available to organizations excess or surplus computers or other technical equipment of the Department for the purpose of distribution to cities, towns, or local government entities in rural areas (7 U.S.C. 2206b).

(6) Issue regulations and directives to implement or supplement the Federal Property Management Regulations (41 CFR chapter 101) and the Federal Management Regulation (41 CFR chapter 102).

(7) Related to compliance with environmental laws and sustainable operating requirements.

(i) Serve as Departmental Administration Member and Executive Secretary of the USDA Sustainable Operations Council.

(ii) Represent USDA in consulting or working with the EPA, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Domestic Policy Council, and others to develop policies relating to hazardous materials management and Federal facilities compliance with applicable pollution control laws.

(iii) Monitor, review, evaluate, and oversee hazardous materials management program activities and compliance Department-wide.

(iv) Monitor, review, evaluate, and oversee USDA agency expenditures for hazardous materials management program accomplishments.

(v) Represent USDA on the National Response Team and exercise responsibility for USDA response efforts for

hazardous substance releases and oil spills pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601, *et seq.*); the Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251, *et seq.*); Oil Pollution Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 2701, *et seq.*); Executive Order 12580, "Superfund Implementation," 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193; Executive Order 12777, "Implementation of section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of October 18, 1972, as amended, and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990," 3 CFR, 1991 Comp., p. 351, and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan, 40 CFR part 300. When a spill of national significance is declared under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, responsibility for USDA response efforts will transfer to the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Coordination, as determined by the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

(vi) Approve disbursements from the New World Mine Response and Restoration Account, approve the New World Mine Response and Restoration Plan, and make quarterly reports to Congress under Sections 502(d) and (f) of Title V of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1998, Public Law 105-83.

(vii) Ensure that the Hazardous Materials Management Program Department-wide is accomplished with regard to, and in compliance with, Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," 3 CFR, 1994 Comp., p. 859.

(viii) Take such action as may be necessary, with the affected agency head and with the concurrence of the General Counsel, including issuance of administrative orders and agreements with any person to perform any response action under sections 106(a) and 122 (except subsection (b)(1)) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9606(a), 9622), pursuant to sections 4(c)(3) and 4(d)(3) of Executive Order 12580, "Superfund Implementation," 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, as amended by Executive Order 13016, "Amendment to

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Executive Order No. 12580," 3 CFR, 1996 Comp., p. 214.

(ix) Represent USDA on the EPA Brownfields Federal Partnership and coordinate USDA support for Brownfields redevelopment and establish policy and guidance for the implementation of the June 2003 amendment to Executive Order 12580, "Superfund Implementation," 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193 (Executive Order 13308, "Further Amendment to Executive Order 12580, As Amended, Superfund Implementation," 3 CFR, 2003 Comp., p. 239).

(8) Exercise responsibility for USDA response efforts when a spill of national significance is declared under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, as determined by the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

(b) [Reserved]

[83 FR 61315, Nov. 29, 2018, as amended at 85 FR 65521, Oct. 15, 2020]

§2.91 Director, Office of Human Resources Management.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to §2.24(a)(4), with due deference for delegations to other Departmental Administration officials, and subject to the reservations in §2.24(b), the following delegations of authority are made by the Assistant Secretary for Administration to the Director, Office of Human Resources Management:

(1) Formulate and issue Department policy, standards, rules and regulations relating to human resources management.

(2) Provide human resources management procedural guidance and operational instructions.

(3) Set standards for human resources data systems.

(4) Inspect and evaluate human resources management operations and issue instructions or take direct action to insure conformity with appropriate laws, Executive Orders, Office of Personnel Management (OPM) rules and regulations, and other appropriate rules and regulations.

(5) Exercise final authority in all human resources matters, including individual cases, that involve the jurisdiction of more than one General Officer, or agency head, or otherwise as deemed appropriate.

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(6) Receive, review, and recommend action on all requests for the Secretary's or Assistant Secretary for Administration's approval in human resources matters.

(7) Authorize and make final decisions on adverse actions except in those cases where the Assistant Secretary for Administration or the Director, Office of Human Resources Management, has participated.

(8) Represent the Department in human resources matters in all contacts outside the Department.

(9) Exercise specific authorities in the following operational matters:

(i) Waive repayment of training expenses where an employee fails to fulfill service agreement.

(ii) Establish or change standards and plans for awards to private citizens.

(iii) Execute, change, extend, or renew:

(A) Labor-Management Agreements.

(B) Certifications of supervisory/managerial and non-labor union employee and professional organizations and associations.

(iv) Represent the Department in all contacts with the national offices of labor organizations in fulfilling the Department's national consultation obligations under 5 U.S.C. 7113.

(v) Change a position (with no material change in duties) from one pay system to another.

(vi) Grant restoration rights, and release employees with administrative reemployment rights.

(vii) Authorize any mass dismissals of employees in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

(viii) Approve "normal line of promotion" cases in the excepted service where not in accordance with time-in grade criteria.

(ix) Make the final decision on all classification appeals filed with the Department of Agriculture.

(x) Authorize all employment actions (except nondisciplinary separations and LWOP) and classification actions for senior level and equivalent positions including Senior Executive Service positions and special authority professional and scientific positions responsible for carrying out research and development functions.

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- (xi) Authorize all employment actions (except LWOP) for the following positions:
 - (A) Schedule C.
 - (B) Non-career Senior Executive Service or equivalent.
 - (C) Administrative Law Judge.
- (xii) Authorize and make final decisions on adverse actions for positions in GS-1-15 or equivalent.
- (xiii) Authorize and make final decisions on adverse actions for positions in the career Senior Executive Service or equivalent.
- (xiv) Approve the details of Department employees to the White House.
- (xv) Authorize adverse actions based in whole or in part on an allegation of violation of 5 U.S.C. chapter 73, subchapter III, for employees in the excepted service.
- (xvi) Authorize long-term training in programs which require Department-wide competition.
- (xvii) Initiate and take adverse action in cases involving a violation of the merit system.
- (xviii) Any other human resources operational matter.
- (10) As used in this section, the term human resources includes:
 - (i) Position management.
 - (ii) Position classification.
 - (iii) Employment.
 - (iv) Pay administration.
 - (v) Automated human resources data and systems.
 - (vi) Hours of duty.
 - (vii) Performance management.
 - (viii) Promotions.
 - (ix) Employee development.
 - (x) Incentive programs.
 - (xi) Leave.
 - (xii) Retirement.
 - (xiii) Human resources program management accountability and evaluation.
 - (xiv) Social security.
 - (xv) Life insurance.
 - (xvi) Health benefits.
 - (xvii) Unemployment compensation.
 - (xviii) Labor management relations.
 - (xix) Intramanagement consultation.
 - (xx) [Reserved]
 - (xxi) Discipline.
 - (xxii) Appeals.
 - (xxiii) Drug Testing Program.
 - (xxiv) Worklife Program.
 - (xxv) Transit Subsidy Program.
- (11) Maintain, review, and update Departmental delegations of authority.
- (12) Recommend authorization of organizational changes.
- (13) Formulate and promulgate Departmental policies regarding reorganizations.
- (14) [Reserved]
- (15) Provide for diversity and inclusion, as follows:
 - (i) Establish, direct, and provide policy and oversight for a Department-wide Special Emphasis Program (SEP) including: Women, African Americans, Hispanics, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, Disabled, and Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender.
 - (ii) Provide oversight and support for Departmental SEP recognition programs.
 - (iii) Direct and oversee the Department-wide SEPM Council.
 - (iv) Administer Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program.
- (16) Oversee and manage the Department's administrative grievance program.
- (17) Make final decisions in those cases where an agency head has appealed the recommended decision of a grievance examiner.
- (18) Administer the administrative appeals process related to the inclusion of positions in the testing designated position listing in the Department's Drug-Free Workplace Program and designate the final appeal officer for that Program.
- (19) Formulate and issue Department policy, standards, rules, and regulations relating to the Senior Scientific Research Service (7 U.S.C. 7657).
- (20) Provide human resources operational services for the following:
 - (i) The Secretary of Agriculture.
 - (ii) The general officers of the Department.
 - (iii) The offices and agencies reporting to the Assistant Secretary for Administration.
 - (iv) The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.
 - (v) Any other offices or agencies of the Department as may be agreed.
- (21) Related to occupational safety and health:
 - (i) Establish Departmentwide safety and health policy and provide leadership in the development, coordination,

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and implementation of related standards, techniques, and procedures, and represent the Department in complying with laws, Executive Orders and other policy and procedural issuances and related to occupational safety and health and workers' compensation programs within the Department.

(ii) Represent the Department in all rulemaking, advisory, or legislative capacities on any groups, committees, or Governmentwide activities that affect the USDA Occupational Safety and Health Management Program.

(iii) Determine and provide Departmentwide technical services and regional staff support for the safety and health programs.

(iv) Administer the computerized management information systems for the collection, processing, and dissemination of data related to the Department's occupational safety and health programs.

(v) Administer the Department's Occupational Health and Preventive Medicine Program, as well as design and operate employee assistance and workers' compensation activities.

(vi) Provide education and training on a Departmentwide basis for safety and health-related issues and develop resource and operational manuals.

(22) Redelegate, as appropriate, any authority delegated under paragraphs (a)(1) through (21) of this section to general officers of the Department and heads of Departmental agencies, provided that the Director, Office of Human Resources Management retains the authority to make final decisions in any human resources matter so redelegated.

(b) *Reservations.* The following authorities are reserved to the Assistant Secretary for Administration:

(1) Authorize organizational changes occurring in a Department agency or staff office which affect the overall structure of that service or office; *i.e.*, require a change to that service or office's overall organization chart.

(2) Approve coverage and waiver of individual law enforcement and firefighter positions under the special retirement provisions of the Civil Service

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Retirement System and the Federal Employees Retirement System.

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 77 FR 14954, Mar. 14, 2012; 78 FR 40939, July 9, 2013; 79 FR 44117, July 30, 2014; 83 FR 61316, Nov. 29, 2018]

§ 2.93 Director, Office of Contracting and Procurement.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.24(a)(6) of this chapter, and with due deference for delegations to other Departmental Administration officials, the following delegations of authority are made by the Assistant Secretary for Administration to the Director, Office of Contracting and Procurement:

(1) Exercise full Departmentwide contracting and procurement authority.

(2) Promulgate policies, standards, techniques, and procedures, and represent the Department, in the following:

(i) Acquisition, including, but not limited to, the procurement of supplies, services, equipment, and construction.

(ii) Socioeconomic programs relating to contracting.

(iii) Selection, standardization, and simplification of program delivery processes utilizing contracts.

(iv) Acquisition and leasing of real and personal property.

(v) Implementation of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4601, *et seq.*).

(vi) Implementation of the policies and procedures set forth in OMB Circular No. A-76, Performance of Commercial Activities.

(3) Exercise the following special authorities:

(i) The Director, Office of Contracting and Procurement, is designated as the Departmental Debarring Officer and authorized to perform the functions of 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4 related to procurement activities, except for commodity acquisitions on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (7 CFR part 1407), with authority to redelegate suspension and debarment authority for contracts awarded under the School Lunch and Surplus Removal Programs (42 U.S.C. 1755 and 7 U.S.C. 612c).

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(ii) Promulgate regulations for the management of contracting and procurement for information technology and telecommunication equipment, software, services, maintenance and related supplies.

(iii) Represent the Department in working with the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the General Services Administration, OMB, and other organizations or agencies on matters related to assigned responsibilities.

(iv) Conduct liaison with the Office of Federal Register (1 CFR part 16) including the making of required certifications pursuant to 1 CFR part 18.

(4) Exercise authority under the Department's Chief Acquisition Officer (the Assistant Secretary for Administration) to integrate and unify the management process for the Department's major system acquisitions and to monitor implementation of the policies and practices set forth in OMB Circular No. A-109, Major Systems Acquisitions, with the exception that major system acquisitions for information technology shall be under the cognizance of the Chief Information Officer. This delegation includes the authority to:

(i) Ensure that OMB Circular No. A-109 is effectively implemented in the Department and that the management objectives of the Circular are realized.

(ii) Review the program management of each major system acquisition, excluding information technology.

(iii) Designate the program manager for each major system acquisition, excluding information technology.

(iv) Designate any Departmental acquisition, excluding information technology, as a major system acquisition under OMB Circular No. A-109.

(5) Pursuant to Executive Order 12931, "Federal Procurement Reform," and 41 U.S.C. 1702(c), serve as the Senior Procurement Executive for the Department with responsibility for the following:

(i) Prescribing and publishing Departmental acquisition policies, advisories, regulations, and procedures.

(ii) Taking any necessary actions consistent with policies, regulations, and procedures, with respect to purchases, contracts, leases, agreements, and other transactions.

(iii) Appointing contracting officers.

(iv) Establishing clear lines and limitations of contracting authority through written delegations of authority.

(v) Approving any Departmental and component agency procurement systems and processes.

(vi) Managing and enhancing career development of the Department's acquisition workforce.

(vii) Participating in the development of Governmentwide procurement policies, regulations and standards, and determining specific areas where Governmentwide performance standards should be established and applied.

(viii) Developing unique Departmental standards as required.

(ix) Overseeing the development of procurement goals, guidelines, and innovation.

(x) Measuring and evaluating procurement office performance against stated goals.

(xi) Advising the Assistant Secretary for Administration whether procurement goals are being achieved.

(xii) Prescribing standards for agency Senior Contracting Officials.

(xiii) Redelegating, suspending, or revoking, as appropriate, the authority in paragraph (a)(5)(i) of this section to agency Senior Contracting Officials or other qualified agency officials with no power of further redelegation.

(xiv) Redelegating, suspending, or revoking, as appropriate, the authorities in paragraphs (a)(5)(ii), (iii), (iv), (vi), and (vii) of this section to agency Senior Contracting Officials or other qualified agency officials with the power of further redelegation.

(6) Represent the Department in establishing standards for acquisition transactions within the electronic data interchange environment.

(7) Designate the Departmental Task Order Ombudsman pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 253j.

(8) Serve as Departmental Remedy Coordination Official pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 255 to determine whether payment to any contractor should be reduced or suspended based on substantial evidence that the request of the

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contractor for advance, partial, or progress payment is based on fraud.

(9) Review and approve exemptions for USDA contracts, subcontracts, grants, agreements, and loans from the requirements of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401, *et seq.*), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251, *et seq.*), and Executive Order 11738, "Providing for Administration of the Clean Air Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act With Respect to Federal Contracts, Grants, or Loans," 3 CFR, 1971-1975 Comp., p. 799, when he or she determines that the paramount interest of the United States so requires as provided in these acts and Executive Order and the regulations of the EPA (2 CFR 1532.1140).

(10) Issue regulations and directives to implement or supplement the Federal Acquisition Regulations (48 CFR chapter 1 and 4).

(12) Pursuant to the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (Act), as amended (41 U.S.C. 401, *et seq.*), designate the Department's Advocate for Competition with the responsibility for section 20 of the Act (41 U.S.C. 418), including:

(i) Reviewing the procurement activities of the Department.

(ii) Developing new initiatives to increase full and open competition.

(iii) Developing goals and plans and recommending actions to increase competition.

(iv) Challenging conditions unnecessarily restricting competition in the acquisition of supplies and services.

(v) Promoting the acquisition of commercial items.

(vi) Designating an Advocate for Competition for each procuring activity within the Department.

(13) In coordination with the Chief Financial Officer, implement the debarment authorities in section 14211 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2209j), in connection with procurement activities.

(14) Provide services, including procurement of supplies, services, and equipment, with authority to take actions required by law or regulation to perform such services for:

(i) The Secretary of Agriculture.

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(ii) The general officers of the Department, except the Inspector General.

(iii) Any other offices or agencies of the Department as may be agreed, including as a Working Capital Fund activity.

(b) [Reserved]

[83 FR 61316, Nov. 29, 2018]

§ 2.94 Chief Security Director, Office of Safety, Security, and Protection.

(a) Delegations from the Assistant Secretary for Administration. Pursuant to § 2.24(a)(11), and with due deference for delegations to other Departmental Administration officials, the following delegations of authority are made by the Assistant Secretary for Administration to the Chief Security Director:

(1) Promulgate Departmental policies, standards, techniques, and procedures; and represent the Department in maintaining the security of physical facilities and providing security guidance to the Food and Agricultural Sector nationwide. This includes the following activities:

(i) Lead and coordinate the development and maintenance of a mission critical facility inventory with agency involvement to ensure proper security countermeasures are implemented in the Department's most critical infrastructure.

(ii) Provide guidance to USDA agencies in matters of physical security through use of physical security assessments and development of mitigation strategies.

(iii) Conduct physical security investigations and compliance reviews Department-wide.

(iv) Review and provide coordinated technical physical security assessments for all new construction of laboratories, data centers, germplasm repositories, and other mission critical infrastructure during the design phase, and all leased facilities prior to contract award.

(v) Oversee and manage physical security aspects of the Common Identification Card (LincPass) Program to ensure National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and General

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Services Administration (GSA) compliancy within the National Capital Region and the physical access to USDA facilities.

(vi) Provide enterprise connectivity to agency physical access control systems that provide cost leveraging and provisioning/de-provisioning nationwide.

(2) Promulgate Departmental regulations, standards, techniques, and procedures and represent the Department in managing and maintaining a comprehensive physical and technical security program including access control, management of special police officer and guard services, executive driving, parking, ID badging in accordance with HSPD-12, occupant emergency and warden services at the USDA Headquarters Complex, George Washington Carver Center and, in coordination with GSA, USDA leased facilities in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, as well as at emergency relocation sites and certain critical facilities specified by the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

(3) Carry out protection operations for the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and other individuals as specified in Section 12520 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, including by authorizing law enforcement officers or special agents to carry firearms; conduct criminal investigations into potential threats to the security of individuals protected under Section 12520; make arrests without a warrant for any offense against the United States committed in the presence of the law enforcement officer or special agent; perform protective intelligence work, including identifying and mitigating potential threats and conducting advance work to review security matters relating to sites and events; and coordinate with local law enforcement authorities (7 U.S.C. 2279k).

(b) [Reserved]

[85 FR 65521, Oct. 15, 2020, as amended at 87 FR 44270, July 26, 2022]

§2.95 Executive Director, Office of Homeland Security.

(a) Delegations from the Secretary. Pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 6922, Executive Order (E.O.) 10450, "Security Requirements for Government Employment,"

18 FR 2489, 3 CFR, 1953 Comp., p. 72, as amended; E.O. 12968, "Access to Classified Information," 60 FR 40245, 3 CFR, 1995 Comp., p. 391; E.O. 13526, "Classified National Security Information," 75 FR 707, 3 CFR, 2010 Comp., p. 298; E.O. 13587, "Structural Reforms to Improve the Security of Classified Networks and Responsible Sharing and Safeguarding of Classified Information," 76 FR 63811, 3 CFR, 2012 Comp., p. 276, and 5 CFR part 732, and with due deference for delegations to other Departmental Administration officials, the following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary to the Executive Director, Office of Homeland Security, pursuant to the Executive Director's responsibilities as the Departmental National Security Programs Officer and Senior Official for Insider Threat, as designated by the Secretary:

(1) Manage the personnel security functions of the Department for making eligibility determinations for individuals who require initial or continued eligibility (SEAD 6, Continuous Evaluation, or its successor) for access to classified information or eligibility to hold a sensitive position in accordance with Security Executive Agent Directive (SEAD) 4, National Security Adjudicative Guidelines, or its successor; sponsoring access to Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI); and suspending, denying, or revoking access to national security information (E.O. 12968 "Access to Classified Information", as amended), notwithstanding the Secretary's authority to remove an employee for national security reasons as outlined in 5 U.S.C. 7532.

(2) Manage the personnel security functions of the Department's suitability program for individuals holding Public Trust positions (positions designated as Moderate or High Risk) established pursuant to 5 CFR part 731 and E.O. 13488, "Granting Reciprocity on Excepted Service and Federal Contractor Employee Fitness and Reinvestigating Individuals in Positions of Public Trust" (74 FR 4111, 3 CFR, 2010 Comp., p. 189), as amended, to make initial or continued suitability determinations.

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(3) Manage, coordinate, develop, and promulgate policies and training regarding personnel security, and serve as USDA's personnel security liaison to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), who serves as the Suitability Executive Agent (SuitEA) and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), who serves as the Security Executive Agent (SecEA).

(4) Review and develop recommendations on classifying, declassifying, and safeguarding national security information for which the Secretary is responsible as Original Classification Authority.

(5) Establish, direct, and maintain an Insider Threat program to deter, detect, and mitigate insider threats in accordance with the National Insider Threat Policy and Minimum Standards for Executive Branch Insider Threat Programs, November 21, 2012, and subsequent guidance from the National Insider Threat Task Force (NITTF).

(b) Delegations from the Assistant Secretary for Administration. Pursuant to § 2.24(a)(8), and with due deference for delegations to other Departmental Administration officials, the following delegations of authority are made by the Assistant Secretary for Administration to the Executive Director, Office of Homeland Security:

(1) Serve as the principal advisor to the Secretary on national security, including emergency management, agriculture and food defense, and foreign investments in U.S. agriculture.

(2) Coordinate activities of the Department, including policies, processes, budget needs, and oversight relating to national security, including emergency management, biodefense, agriculture and food defense, and foreign investments in U.S. agriculture.

(3) Act as the primary liaison on behalf of the Department with other Federal departments and agencies in activities relating to national security, including emergency management, integrated laboratory networks, agriculture and food defense, foreign investments in U.S. agriculture, national intelligence collection priorities, and interagency coordination and data sharing.

(4) Coordinate in the Department the gathering of information relevant to

early warning and awareness of threats and risks to the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector; and share that information with, and provide assistance with interpretation and risk characterization of that information to, the intelligence community (as defined in 5 U.S.C. 3003), law enforcement agencies, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and State fusion centers (as defined in section 210A(j) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h(j)).

(5) Establish and maintain an effective defensive Counterintelligence Program to counter Foreign Intelligence Entity (FIE) threats to Departmental sensitive information and assets that includes identification and risk assessment to sensitive assets, development and implementation of mitigation strategies, integration of counter-FIE efforts across the Department, sharing of threat information and warnings, and promotion of counterintelligence training awareness.

(6) Liaise with the Intelligence Community to assist in the development of periodic assessments and intelligence estimates, or other intelligence products, that support the defense of the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector and risks associated with foreign investments in U.S. agriculture.

(7) Coordinate the conduct, evaluation, and improvement of exercises to identify and eliminate gaps in preparedness and response.

(8) Produce a Department-wide centralized strategic coordination plan to provide a high-level perspective of the operations of the Department relating to homeland and national security, including emergency management and agriculture and food defense.

(9) Establish and carry out an interagency Agriculture and Food Threat Awareness Partnership Program, including by entering into cooperative agreements or contracts with Federal, State, or local authorities (7 U.S.C. 6922).

(10) Administer the Department's Emergency Preparedness Program. This includes:

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(i) Coordinate the delegations and assignments made to the Department under the Defense Production Act of 1950, 50 U.S.C. App. 2061, *et seq.*; the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121, *et seq.*; and by Executive Orders 12148, "Federal Emergency Management" (3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 412), 12656, "Assignment of Emergency Preparedness Responsibilities" (3 CFR, 1988 Comp., p. 585), and 13603, "National Defense Resources Preparedness" (3 CFR, 2012 Comp., p. 225), or any successor to these Executive Orders, to ensure that the Department has sufficient capabilities to respond to any occurrence, including natural disaster, military attack, technological emergency, or any all hazards incident.

(ii) Manage the Department Emergency Operations Center at Headquarters and the Secretary's alternative facilities; provide senior staff with international, national, and regional situational awareness reports; and provide and maintain current information systems technology and National Security Systems to support USDA executive crisis management capability.

(iii) Provide facilities and equipment to facilitate inter-agency coordination during emergencies.

(iv) Activate the USDA incident management system in accordance with the National Response Framework and the National Incident Management System in the event of a major incident; and provide oversight and coordination of the Department's Emergency Support Functions as outlined in the National Response Framework.

(v) Develop and promulgate policies for the Department regarding emergency preparedness and national security, including matters relating to anti-terrorism and agriculture-related emergency preparedness planning, both national and international, and guidance to USDA State and County Emergency Boards.

(vi) [Reserved]

(vii) Provide representation and liaison for the Department in contacts with other Federal entities and organizations, including the National Security Council's functional directorates,

Homeland Security Council, Office of Management and Budget, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Department of State, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Department of Defense concerning matters of a national security, multilateral weapons conventions, natural disasters, other emergencies, and agriculture/food-related international civil emergency planning and related activities.

(viii) Act as the primary USDA representative for anti-terrorism activities and coordinates and oversees USDA's agroterrorism defense activities and programs.

(ix) [Reserved]

(x) Provide guidance and direction regarding radiological emergency preparedness programs and the implementation of the National Response Framework's Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex to Departmental staff offices, mission areas, and agencies.

(xi) Provide program leadership and coordination for USDA's radiological emergency preparedness requirements with respect to Emergency Management and Assistance (44 CFR parts 350 through 352).

(xii) Represent USDA on the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) and Regional Assistance Committees (RACs) and assist them in carrying out their functions.

(xiii) Support USDA in its management of the Department's emergency response program with respect to radiological emergency response activities.

(xiv) [Reserved]

(11) [Reserved]

(12) Serve as the primary point of contact for Government Accountability Office (GAO) and Office of the Inspector General (OIG) audits of USDA homeland and national security activities.

(13) Coordinate interaction between Department agencies and private sector businesses and industries in emergency planning and public education under Department authorities delegated or assigned under the National Response Framework, National Infrastructure Protection Plan, Defense Production Act of 1950, 50 U.S.C. App.

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2061, *et seq.*, and Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121, *et seq.*

(14) Oversee the Department's ability to collect and disseminate information and prepare for an agricultural disease emergency, agroterrorism act, or other threat to agricultural biosecurity, and coordinate such activities among agencies and offices within the Department (7 U.S.C. 8912).

(15) Promulgate Departmental policies, standards, techniques, and procedures and represent the Department in providing security guidance to the Food and Agricultural Sector nationwide. This includes the following duties:

(i) Provide guidance to USDA agencies and the Food and Agricultural Sector in matters of security through use of assessments and development of mitigation strategies.

(ii) Represent and act as liaison for the Department in contacts with other Federal security entities and organizations, including the Interagency Security Committee and the Department of Homeland Security.

(iii) Provide guidance and direction to ensure agriculture/food security are fully integrated in USDA's security preparations, which are reported to and coordinated with the White House.

(iv) Provide assistance to the USDA agencies in preparation for and during a disaster to identify critical assets and possible alternate storage locations.

(16) Provide oversight and coordination of the development and administration of the Department Continuity Program. This includes:

(i) Provide guidance and direction regarding continuity of operations to the Office of the Secretary, Departmental staff offices, mission areas, and agencies.

(ii) Represent and act as liaison for the Department in contacts with other Federal entities and organizations concerning matters of assigned continuity program responsibilities.

(iii) Oversee Department continuity of operations and emergency relocation facility planning, development, equipping, and preparedness to ensure that resources are in a constant state of readiness.

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(17) Establish procedures to prevent unnecessary access to classified national security information (CNSI) including procedures that require that need for access to CNSI is established before initiating security clearance procedures; and ensure that the number of persons granted access CNSI is limited to the minimum consistent with operational and security requirements:

(i) Direct and administer USDA's CNSI program pursuant to E.O. 13526, "Classified National Security Information" (75 FR 707, 3 CFR, 2010 Comp., p. 298), or subsequent orders.

(ii) Establish and maintain Information Security policies and procedures for classifying, declassifying, safeguarding, and disposing of CNSI and materials.

(iii) Investigate or delegate authority to investigate any potential compromises of CNSI and take corrective action for violations or infractions under section 5.5(b), of E.O. 13526 or any subsequent order.

(iv) Develop and maintain oversight of all facilities throughout USDA where CNSI is or will be safeguarded, discussed, or processed including sole authority to liaison with the Central Intelligence Agency concerning guidance, approval, requirements, and oversight of USDA secure facilities.

(18) Control within USDA the acquisition, use, and disposal of material and equipment that can be a source of ionizing radiation.

(i) Promulgate policies and procedures for ensuring the safety of USDA employees, the public, and the environment resulting from USDA's use of ionizing radiation sources.

(ii) Maintain and ensure compliance with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations (Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations) and license(s) issued to USDA for the acquisition, use, and disposal of radioactive materials.

[87 FR 44270, July 26, 2022, as amended at 88 FR 70580, Oct. 12, 2023]

§ 2.96 Director, Office of Operations.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.24(a)(9), and with due deference for delegations to other Departmental Administration officials, the following delegations of authority are made by

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the Assistant Secretary for Administration to the Director, Office of Operations:

(1) Provide services relating to facilities management and daily operational support for agencies and offices occupying USDA's headquarters complex, George Washington Carver Center, and, in coordination with the General Services Administration (GSA), USDA leased facilities in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, as well as at emergency relocation sites and certain critical facilities specified by the Assistant Secretary for Administration in the following areas:

(i) Acquiring, leasing, utilizing, constructing, maintaining, and disposing of real property, including control of space assignments, and architecture and engineering design oversight.

(ii) Sustainable Operations leadership and management in the areas of internal energy efficiency, conservation and recycling in support of Executive Orders 13423, "Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management," 3 CFR, 2007 Comp., p. 193, and 13514, "Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance" (74 FR 52117, Oct. 8, 2009).

(iii) Occupational health, safety, and related functions; and environmental compliance pursuant to Executive Order 12088, "Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards," 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 243, to ensure actions are taken for the prevention, control, and abatement of environmental pollution.

(2) Provide centralized Departmental business services including:

(i) Printing, copy reproducing, offset composing, mail management and delivery, and automated mailing lists.

(ii) USDA Nationwide mail management policy.

(iii) Operation of a disability resource center for all USDA agencies in the Washington, DC metropolitan area and nationwide in the areas of accessible technologies and reasonable accommodations.

(iv) General supplies, shipping and receiving, warehouse and labor services.

(v) Operation of a USDA Consolidated Forms and Publications Distribution Center for storage and nationwide dis-

tribution of USDA program forms and publications.

(vi) Excess personal property operations with disposition responsibility for all USDA agencies in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

(vii) Operation of a GSA authorized Federal excess property Sales Center for USDA property and other government agencies in the Washington, DC metropolitan area via Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

(3) [Reserved]

(4) Provide management and oversight of the Secretary's People's Garden initiative and the USDA Visitor's Center for education and outreach to USDA and the public.

(5) Represent the Department in contacts with other organizations or agencies on matters related to assigned responsibilities.

(6) Provide services, including travel support, conference management, and general administrative support including coordination of office renovations and moves (within USDA Whitten Building), with authority to take actions required by law or regulation to perform such services for:

(i) The Secretary of Agriculture.

(ii) The general officers of the Department, except the Inspector General.

(iii) The offices and agencies reporting to the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

(iv) The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

(v) Any other offices or agencies of the Department as may be agreed.

(7) Prepare responses to requests under the Freedom of Information Act with authority to take actions as required by law or regulation for the office and agencies reporting to the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

(8) Administer the records management program in support of Departmental Administration, and prepare and coordinate responses to management audits by the Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office, with authority to take actions as required by law or regulation for the offices and agencies reporting to the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

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(b) [Reserved]

[75 FR 43381, July 23, 2010, as amended at 78 FR 40939, July 9, 2013; 80 FR 38339, Sept. 29, 2015; 85 FR 65524, Oct. 15, 2020]

§ 2.97 [Reserved]

Subpart Q—Delegations of Authority by the General Counsel

§ 2.200 Principal Deputy General Counsel.

Pursuant to § 2.31, the following delegation of authority is made by the General Counsel to the Principal Deputy General Counsel, to be exercised only during the absence or unavailability of the General Counsel: Perform all duties and exercise all powers that are now or which may hereafter be delegated to the General Counsel.

[78 FR 40940, July 9, 2013]

§ 2.201 Director, Office of Ethics.

Pursuant to the Office of Government Ethics regulations at 5 CFR part 2638, the Director, Office of Ethics, shall be the USDA Designated Agency Ethics Official with the authority to coordinate and manage the Department's ethics program as provided in part 2638.

[78 FR 40940, July 9, 2013]

§ 2.202 Deputy Director, Office of Ethics.

Pursuant to the Office of Government Ethics regulations at 5 CFR part 2638, the Deputy Director, Office of Ethics, shall be the USDA Alternate Agency Ethics Official and shall exercise the authority reserved to the USDA Designated Agency Ethics Official as provided in part 2638 in the absence or unavailability of the USDA Designated Agency Ethics Official.

[78 FR 40940, July 9, 2013]

Subpart R—Delegations of Authority by the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

§ 2.300 Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

Pursuant to § 2.25, the following delegation of authority is made by the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights to

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the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, to be exercised only during the absence or unavailability of the Assistant Secretary: Perform all duties and exercise all powers, which are now or which may hereafter be delegated to the Assistant Secretary.

[77 FR 14954, Mar. 14, 2012]

Subpart S—Delegations of Authority by the Chief Information Officer

§ 2.400 Deputy Chief Information Officer.

Pursuant to § 2.89, the following delegation of authority is made by the Chief Information Officer to the Deputy Chief Information Officer, to be exercised only during the absence or unavailability of the Chief Information Officer: Perform all duties and exercise all powers which are now or which may hereafter be delegated to the Chief Information Officer.

[75 FR 43393, July 23, 2010]

Subpart T—Delegations of Authority by the Chief Financial Officer

SOURCE: 75 FR 43393, July 23, 2010, unless otherwise noted.

§ 2.500 Principal Deputy Chief Financial Officer.

Pursuant to § 2.28, the following delegation of authority is made by the Chief Financial Officer to the Principal Deputy Chief Financial Officer, to be exercised only during the absence or unavailability of the Chief Financial Officer: Perform all the duties and exercise all the powers which are now or which may hereafter be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer.

[79 FR 44117, July 30, 2014, as amended at 85 FR 65524, Oct. 15, 2020]

Subpart U—Delegations of Authority by the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs

SOURCE: 83 FR 22188, May 14, 2018, unless otherwise noted.

Office of the Secretary, USDA**§ 2.601****§ 2.600 Deputy Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.**

Pursuant to § 2.15(a), subject to reservations in § 2.15(b), and subject to policy guidance and direction by the Under Secretary, the following delegation of authority is made to the Deputy Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, if appointed, to be exercised only during the absence or unavailability of the Under Secretary: Perform all the duties and exercise all the powers which are now or which may hereafter be delegated to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs: Provided, that this authority shall be exercised by the respective Deputy Under Secretary in the order in which he or she has taken office as a Deputy Under Secretary.

[87 FR 44272, July 26, 2022]

§ 2.601 Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.15(a)(1) and (3), subject to reservations in § 2.15(b), the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs to the Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service:

(1) Coordinate the carrying out by Department agencies of their functions involving foreign agriculture policies and programs and their operations and activities in foreign areas. Act as liaison on these matters and functions relating to foreign agriculture between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of State, the United States Trade Representative, the Trade Policy Committee, the Agency for International Development and other departments, agencies and committees of the U.S. Government, foreign governments, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of American States, and other public and private United States and international organizations, and the contracting parties to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

(2) Conduct functions of the Department relating to WTO, the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (19 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2101 *et seq.*), the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. 2501 *et seq.*), the Omnibus Trade and Competition Act of 1988 (19 U.S.C. 2901 *et seq.*), and other legislation affecting international agricultural trade including the programs designed to reduce foreign tariffs and other trade barriers.

(3) Conduct studies of worldwide production, trade, marketing, prices, consumption, and other factors affecting exports and imports of U.S. agricultural commodities; obtain information on methods used by other countries to move farm commodities in world trade on a competitive basis for use in the development of programs of this Department; provide information to domestic producers, the agricultural trade, the public and other interests; and promote normal commercial markets abroad. This delegation excludes basic and long-range analyses of world conditions and developments affecting supply, demand, and trade in farm products and general economic analyses of the international financial and monetary aspects of agricultural affairs as assigned to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

(4) Administer Departmental programs concerned with development of foreign markets for agricultural products of the United States except functions relating to export marketing operations under section 32, of the Act of August 23, 1935, as amended (7 U.S.C. 612c), delegated to the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and utilization research delegated to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

(5) Exercise the Department's functions with respect to the International Coffee Agreement or any such future agreement.

(6) Administer functions of the Department relating to import controls including, among others, functions under section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933, as amended (7 U.S.C. 624), the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (19

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U.S.C. 1202), and section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854) but not including those functions reserved to the Secretary under § 2.16(b)(2) and those relating to section 8e of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933, as amended (7 U.S.C. 608e-1), as assigned to the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

(7) Conduct Department activities to carry out the provisions of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C. Chapter 56).

(8) Exercise the Department's responsibilities in connection with international negotiations of the Grains Trade Convention and in the administration of such Convention.

(9) Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), concerning foreign agricultural intelligence and other foreign agricultural matters.

(10) Conduct economic analyses pertaining to the foreign sugar situation.

(11) Exercise the Department's functions with respect to the International Sugar Agreement or any such future agreements.

(12) Exercise the Department's responsibilities with respect to tariff rate quotes for dairy products under chapter 4 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (19 U.S.C. 1202).

(13) Serve as a focal point for handling quality or weight discrepancy inquiries from foreign buyers of U.S. agricultural commodities to insure that they are investigated and receive a timely response and that reports thereof are made to appropriate parties and government officials in order that corrective action may be taken.

(14) Formulate policies and administer programs and activities authorized by the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978, as amended (7 U.S.C. 5601 *et seq.*).

(15) Formulate policies and administer barter programs under which agricultural commodities are exported.

(16) Perform functions of the Department in connection with the development and implementation of agree-

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ments to finance the sale and exportation of agricultural commodities on long-term credit or for foreign currencies under the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691, 1701 *et seq.*).

(17) Coordinate within the Department activities arising under the Food for Peace Act (except as delegated to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics in § 2.21(a)(8)), and represent the Department in its relationships in such matters with the Department of State, any interagency committee on the Food for Peace Act, and other departments, agencies, and committees of the Government.

(18)-(19) [Reserved]

(20) Carry out activities relating to the sale, reduction, or cancellation of debt, as authorized by title VI of the Agricultural Trade and Development Act of 1954, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1738 *et seq.*).

(21) Promote cooperation and coordination between 1862, 1890, 1994, and NLGCA Institutions, HSACUs, and co-operating forestry schools and international partner institutions in developing countries by exercising the Secretary's authority in 7 U.S.C. 3292, including coordinating with the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service to place interns from covered institutions in, or in service to benefit, developing countries.

(22) Allocate the agricultural commodities acquired under price support programs that have been determined by the FSA Administrator to be available for export among the various export programs.

(23) Maintain a worldwide agricultural intelligence and reporting system, including provision for foreign agricultural representation abroad to protect and promote U.S. agricultural interests and to acquire information on demand, competition, marketing, and distribution of U.S. agricultural commodities abroad pursuant to title VI of the Agricultural Act of 1954, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1761-1768).

(24) Plan and carry out programs and activities under the foreign market promotion authority of: The Wheat Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 1292 note); the Cotton Research and

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Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 2101–2118); the Potato Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 2611–2627); the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act of 1974 (7 U.S.C. 2701–2718); the Beef Research and Information Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2901–2911); the Wheat and Wheat Foods Research and Nutrition Education Act (7 U.S.C. 3401–3417); the Floral Research and Consumer Information Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4301–4319); subtitle B of title I of the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 4501–4514); the Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act of 1984, as amended (7 U.S.C. 4601–4613); the Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 4801–4819); the Watermelon Research and Promotion Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 4901–4916); the Pecan Promotion and Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6001–6013); the Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6101–6112); the Lime Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6201–6212); the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6301–6311); the Fluid Milk Promotion Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6401–6417); the Fresh Cut Flowers and Fresh Cut Greens Promotion and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 6801–6814); the Sheep Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7101–7111); the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7411–7425); the Canola and Rapeseed Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7441–7452); the National Kiwifruit Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7461–7473); and, the Popcorn Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7481–7491). This authority includes determining the programs and activities to be undertaken and assuring that they are coordinated with the overall departmental programs to develop foreign markets for U.S. agricultural products.

(25) Establish and administer regulations relating to foreign travel by employees of the Department. Regulations will include, but not be limited to, obtaining and controlling passports, obtaining visas, coordinating Depart-

ment of State medical clearances and imposing requirements for itineraries and contacting the Foreign Agricultural Affairs Officers upon arrival in the Officers' country(ies) of responsibility.

(26) Administer the Foreign Service personnel system for the Department in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 3922, except as otherwise delegated in § 2.80(a)(1), but including authority to represent the Department of Agriculture in all interagency consultations and negotiations with the other foreign affairs agencies with respect to joint regulations and authority to approve joint regulations issued by the Department of State relating to the administration of the Foreign Service.

(27) Establish and maintain U.S. Agricultural Trade Offices to develop, maintain and expand international markets for U.S. agricultural commodities in accordance with title IV of Public Law No. 95–501 (7 U.S.C. 1765a–g).

(28) Administer the programs under section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1431(b)), relating to the foreign donation of CCC stocks of agricultural commodities, except as otherwise delegated in § 2.42(a)(43).

(29)–(30) [Reserved]

(31) Administer programs under the Food for Progress Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1736o), except as otherwise delegated in § 2.42(a)(43).

(32) Serve as Department adviser on policies, organizational arrangements, budgets, and actions to accomplish international scientific and technical cooperation in food and agriculture.

(33) Administer and direct the Department's programs in international development, technical assistance, and training carried out under the Foreign Assistance Act, as amended, as requested under such act (22 U.S.C. 2151 *et seq.*).

(34) Administer and coordinate assigned Departmental programs in international research and scientific and technical cooperation with other governmental agencies, land grant universities, international organizations, international agricultural research

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centers, and other organizations, institutions, or individuals (7 U.S.C. 1624, 3291).

(35) Direct and coordinate the Department's participation in scientific and technical matters and exchange agreements between the United States and other countries.

(36) Direct and coordinate the Department's work with international organizations and interagency committees concerned with food and agricultural development programs (7 U.S.C. 2201 and 2202).

(37) Coordinate policy formulation for USDA international science and technology programs concerning international agricultural research centers, international organizations, and international agricultural research and extension activities (7 U.S.C. 3291).

(38) Disseminate, upon request, information on subjects connected with agriculture which has been acquired by USDA agencies that may be useful to the U.S. private sector in expanding foreign markets and investment opportunities through the operation of a Department information center, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2201.

(39) Enter into contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and cost reimbursable agreements relating to agricultural research, extension, or teaching activities (7 U.S.C. 3318, 3319a).

(40) Determine amounts reimbursable for indirect costs under international agricultural programs and agreements (7 U.S.C. 3319).

(41) Administer the Cochran Fellowship Program (7 U.S.C. 3293).

(42) Determine quantity trigger levels and impose additional duties under the special safeguard measures in accordance with U.S. note 2 to subchapter IV of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (19 U.S.C. 1202).

(43) Implement provisions of the Trade Act of 1974 regarding adjustment assistance for farmers. (19 U.S.C. 2401-2401g).

(44) Implement section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1).

(45) Support remote sensing activities of the Department and research with satellite imagery including:

(i) Providing liaison with U.S. space programs;

(ii) Providing administrative management of the USDA Remote Sensing Archive and the transfer of satellite imagery to all USDA agencies;

(iii) Coordinating all agency satellite imagery data needs; and

(iv) Arranging for acquisition, and preparation of imagery for use to the extent of existing capabilities.

(46) Administer the International Agricultural Education Fellowship Program (7 U.S.C. 3295).

(47) Implement section 3206 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1726c) regarding local and regional food aid procurement projects.

(48) Administer the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship Program (7 U.S.C. 3319j).

(49) Compile and make available information relating to the improvement of international food security, and provide technical assistance for the improvement of international food security to Federal, State, or local agencies; agencies or instrumentalities of the government of foreign country; domestic or international organizations; or intergovernmental organizations (7 U.S.C. 1736dd).

(50) Administer the following provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014, Public Law 113-79:

(i) Section 12314 relating to the Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Fund (7 U.S.C. 2101 note), in coordination with the Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

(ii) Section 12315 relating to the Agriculture Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund (7 U.S.C. 7101 note), in coordination with the Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

(51) In consultation with the Tribal Advisory Committee and the Director of the Office of Tribal Relations, and in coordination with the Secretaries of Commerce, State, Interior, and the heads of any other relevant Federal agencies, implement section 3312 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 5608) to support greater inclusion of Tribal agricultural food products in Federal trade activities.

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(b) [Reserved]

[83 FR 22188, May 14, 2018, as amended at 85 FR 65524, Oct. 15, 2020; 87 FR 44272, July 26, 2022]

§ 2.602 Manager, U.S. Codex Office.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.15(a)(5), subject to reservations in § 2.15(b), the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

(i) Inform the public of the sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (19 U.S.C. 2578; Pres. Proc. 6780).

(ii) Enter into agreements with organizations, institutions or individuals throughout the world to conduct activities related to the sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, including international outreach and education, in order to promote and support the development of a viable and sustainable global agricultural system; antihunger and improved international nutrition efforts; and increased quantity, quality, and availability of food (7 U.S.C. 3291).

(iii) Coordinate with institutions and other persons throughout the world performing agricultural and related research, extension, and teaching activities by exchanging research materials and results with such institutions or persons or by conducting with such institutions or persons joint or coordinated research, extension, or teaching activities that are related to the sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and that address problems of significance to food and agriculture in the United States (7 U.S.C. 3291).

(iv) Work with transitional and more advanced countries in food, agricultural, and related research, development, teaching, and extension activities related to the sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (7 U.S.C. 3291).

(v) Enter into contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and cost reimbursable agreements to carry out the Department's agricultural research, ex-

tension, or teaching activities related to the sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (7 U.S.C. 3318, 3319a).

(vi) Determine amounts reimbursable for indirect costs under international agricultural programs and agreements (7 U.S.C. 3319).

(vii) Coordinate policy formulation for USDA international science and technology programs concerning the sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (7 U.S.C. 3291).

(b) [Reserved]

[83 FR 22188, May 14, 2018, as amended at 87 FR 44272, July 26, 2022]

Subpart V—Delegations of Authority by the Director, Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement

SOURCE: 83 FR 61317, Nov. 29, 2018 unless otherwise noted.

§§ 2.700–2.701 [Reserved]**PART 3—DEBT MANAGEMENT****Subpart A—General**

Sec.

- 3.1 Purpose and scope.
- 3.2 Authority.
- 3.3 Definitions.
- 3.4 Delegations of authority.

Subpart B—Standards for the Administrative Collection and Compromise of Claims

- 3.10 Aggressive agency collection activity.
- 3.11 Demand for payment.
- 3.12 Reporting debts to Credit Reporting Agencies.
- 3.14 Suspension or revocation of eligibility for loans and loan guarantees, licenses, permits, or privileges.
- 3.15 Liquidation of collateral.
- 3.16 Collection in installments.
- 3.17 Interest, penalties, and administrative costs.
- 3.18 Use and disclosure of mailing addresses.
- 3.19 Standards for the compromise of claims and debt settlement.
- 3.20 Standards for suspending or terminating collection activities.
- 3.21 Referrals of debts to Justice.
- 3.22 CCC withholding of payment.