

public notice of, and permit public attendance at meetings considering, issues of concern related to carrying out this chapter.”

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 104-127, §342(b)(2), inserted at end “Each State technical committee shall establish criteria and guidelines for evaluating petitions by agricultural producers regarding new conservation practices and systems not already described in field office technical guides.”

Subsec. (c)(7) to (9). Pub. L. 104-127, §342(b)(3), struck out “and” at end of par. (7), added par. (8), and redesignated former par. (8) as (9).

1994—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 103-354 added subsec. (e).

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Amendment of this section and repeal of Pub. L. 110-234 by Pub. L. 110-246 effective May 22, 2008, the date of enactment of Pub. L. 110-234, see section 4 of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as an Effective Date note under section 8701 of Title 7, Agriculture.

##### PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT FOR REVISIONS TO CERTAIN STATE TECHNICAL GUIDES

Pub. L. 104-127, title III, §343, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1009, provided that: “After the date of enactment of this Act [Apr. 4, 1996], the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide for public notice and comment under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, with regard to any future revisions to those provisions of the Natural Resources Conservation Service State technical guides that are used to carry out subtitles A, B, and C of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq. [3811 et seq., 3821 et seq.]).”

#### SUBCHAPTER VII—AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

### § 3865. Establishment and purposes

#### (a) Establishment

The Secretary shall establish an agricultural conservation easement program for the conservation of eligible land and natural resources through easements or other interests in land.

#### (b) Purposes

The purposes of the program are to—

(1) combine the purposes and coordinate the functions of the wetlands reserve program established under section 3837<sup>1</sup> of this title, the grassland reserve program established under section 3838n<sup>1</sup> of this title, and the farmland protection program established under section 3838i<sup>1</sup> of this title, as such sections were in effect on the day before February 7, 2014;

(2) restore, protect, and enhance wetlands on eligible land;

(3) protect the agricultural use and future viability, and related conservation values, of eligible land by limiting nonagricultural uses of that land that negatively affect the agricultural uses and conservation values; and

(4) protect grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring or conserving eligible land.

(Pub. L. 99-198, title XII, §1265, as added Pub. L. 113-79, title II, §2301(a), Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 731; amended Pub. L. 115-334, title II, §2601, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4585.)

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.

#### Editorial Notes

##### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Sections 3837, 3838n, and 3838i of this title, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), were repealed by Pub. L. 113-79, title II, §§2703(a), 2704(a), 2705(a), Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 767, 768.

##### AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 115-334, §2601(1), inserted “that negatively affect the agricultural uses and conservation values” after “uses of that land”.

Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 115-334, §2601(2), substituted “restoring or conserving” for “restoring and conserving”.

### § 3865a. Definitions

In this subchapter:

#### (1) Agricultural land easement

The term “agricultural land easement” means an easement or other interest in eligible land that—

(A) is conveyed for the purpose of protecting natural resources and the agricultural nature of the land; and

(B) permits the landowner the right to continue agricultural production and related uses.

#### (2) Buy-protect-sell transaction

##### (A) In general

The term “buy-protect-sell transaction” means a legal arrangement—

(i) between an eligible entity and the Secretary relating to land that an eligible entity owns or is going to purchase prior to acquisition of an agricultural land easement;

(ii) under which the eligible entity certifies to the Secretary that the eligible entity shall—

(I)(aa) hold an agricultural land easement on that land, but transfer ownership of the land to a farmer or rancher that is not an eligible entity prior to or on acquisition of the agricultural land easement; or

(bb) hold an agricultural land easement on that land, but transfer ownership of the land to a farmer or rancher that is not an eligible entity in a timely manner and, subject to subparagraph (B), not later than 3 years after the date of acquisition of the agricultural land easement; and

(II) make an initial sale of the land subject to the agricultural land easement to a farmer or rancher at not more than agricultural value, plus any reasonable holding and transaction costs incurred by the eligible entity, as determined by the Secretary; and

(iii) under which the Secretary shall be reimbursed for the entirety of the Federal share of the cost of the agricultural land easement by the eligible entity if the eligible entity fails to transfer ownership under item (aa) or (bb), as applicable, of clause (ii)(I).

##### (B) Time extension

Under subparagraph (A)(ii)(I)(bb), an eligible entity may transfer land later than 3