

1998, 112 Stat. 557; Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(a) [title VII, §753(c)(1)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681, 2681-33, related to Fund for Rural America.

**§ 2204g. Authority of Secretary of Agriculture to conduct census of agriculture**

**(a) Census of agriculture required**

**(1) In general**

In 1998 and every fifth year thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture shall take a census of agriculture.

**(2) Inclusion of specialty crops**

Effective beginning with the census of agriculture required to be conducted in 2008, the Secretary shall conduct as part of each census of agriculture a census of specialty crops (as that term is defined in section 3 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 108-465)).

**(b) Methods**

In connection with the census, the Secretary may conduct any survey or other information collection, and employ any sampling or other statistical method, that the Secretary determines is appropriate.

**(c) Year of information**

The information collected in each census taken under this section shall relate to the year immediately preceding the year in which the census is taken.

**(d) Enforcement**

**(1) Fraud**

A person over 18 years of age who willfully gives an answer that is false to a question, which is authorized by the Secretary to be submitted to the person in connection with a census under this section, shall be fined not more than \$500.

**(2) Refusal or neglect to answer questions**

A person over 18 years of age who refuses or willfully neglects to answer a question, which is authorized by the Secretary to be submitted to the person in connection with a census under this section, shall be fined not more than \$100.

**(3) Social Security number**

The failure or refusal of a person to disclose the person's Social Security number in response to a request made in connection with any census or other activity under this section shall not be a violation under this subsection.

**(4) Religious information**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no person shall be compelled to disclose information relative to the religious beliefs of the person or to membership of the person in a religious body.

**(e) Geographic coverage**

A census under this section shall include—

(1) each of the several States of the United States;

(2) as determined appropriate by the Secretary, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, and Guam; and

(3) with the concurrence of the Secretary and the Secretary of State, any other possession or area over which the United States exercises jurisdiction, control, or sovereignty.

**(f) Cooperation with Secretary of Commerce**

**(1) Information provided to Secretary of Agriculture**

On a written request by the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce may provide to the Secretary of Agriculture any information collected under title 13 that the Secretary of Agriculture considers necessary for the taking of a census or survey under this section.

**(2) Information provided to Secretary of Commerce**

On a written request by the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Agriculture may provide to the Secretary of Commerce any information collected in a census taken under this section that the Secretary of Commerce considers necessary for the taking of a census or survey under title 13.

**(3) Confidentiality**

Information obtained under this subsection may not be used for any purpose other than the statistical purposes for which the information is supplied. For purposes of sections 9 and 214 of title 13, any information provided under paragraph (2) shall be considered information furnished under the provisions of title 13.

**(g) Regulations**

A regulation necessary to carry out this section may be promulgated by—

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture, to the extent that a matter under the jurisdiction of the Secretary is involved; and

(2) the Secretary of Commerce, to the extent that a matter under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Commerce is involved.

(Pub. L. 105-113, §2, Nov. 21, 1997, 111 Stat. 2274; Pub. L. 110-234, title X, §10103, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1336; Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title X, §10103, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 2097.)

**Editorial Notes**

**CODIFICATION**

Pub. L. 110-234 and Pub. L. 110-246 made identical amendments to this section. The amendments by Pub. L. 110-234 were repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 110-246.

**AMENDMENTS**

2008—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 110-246, §10103, designated existing provisions as par. (1), inserted heading, and added par. (2).

**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 this title.

**§ 2204h. Local food production and program evaluation**

**(a) In general**

The Secretary shall—

- (1) collect data on—
  - (A) the production and marketing of locally or regionally produced agricultural food products; and
  - (B) direct and indirect regulatory compliance costs affecting the production and marketing of locally or regionally produced agricultural food products;
- (2) facilitate interagency collaboration and data sharing on programs relating to local and regional food systems;
- (3) monitor—
  - (A) the effectiveness of programs designed to expand or facilitate local food systems; and
  - (B) barriers to local and regional market access due to Federal regulation of small-scale production; and
- (4) evaluate the manner in which local food systems—
  - (A) contribute to improving community food security; and
  - (B) assist populations with limited access to healthy food.

**(b) Requirements**

In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall, at a minimum—

- (1) collect and distribute comprehensive reporting of prices and volume of locally or regionally produced agricultural food products;
- (2) conduct surveys and analysis and publish reports relating to the production, handling, distribution, retail sales, and trend studies (including consumer purchasing patterns) of or on locally or regionally produced agricultural food products;
- (3) evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs in growing local and regional food systems, including—
  - (A) the impact of local food systems on job creation and economic development;
  - (B) the level of participation in the Local Agriculture Market Program established under section 1627c of this title, including the percentage of projects funded in comparison to applicants and the types of eligible entities receiving funds;
  - (C) the ability of participants to leverage private capital and a synopsis of the places from which non-Federal funds are derived; and
  - (D) any additional resources required to aid in the development or expansion of local and regional food systems;
- (4) evaluate the impact that Federal regulation of small commercial producers of agricultural food products intended for local and regional consumption may have on—
  - (A) local job creation and economic development;
  - (B) access to local and regional fruit and vegetable markets, including for new and beginning small commercial producers; and
- (C) participation in—
  - (i) supplier networks;
  - (ii) high volume distribution systems; and
  - (iii) retail sales outlets;
- (5) expand the Agricultural Resource Management Survey of the Department to include

questions on locally or regionally produced agricultural food products; and

- (6) seek to establish or expand private-public partnerships to facilitate, to the maximum extent practicable, the collection of data on locally or regionally produced agricultural food products, including the development of a nationally coordinated and regionally balanced evaluation of the redevelopment of locally or regionally produced food systems.

**(c) Report**

Not later than 1 year after February 7, 2014, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the progress that has been made in implementing this section and identifying any additional needs and barriers related to developing local and regional food systems.

(Pub. L. 113-79, title X, §10016, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 952; Pub. L. 115-334, title X, §10102(c)(3), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4898.)

**Editorial Notes**

**AMENDMENTS**

2018—Subsec. (b)(3)(B). Pub. L. 115-334 substituted “Local Agriculture Market Program established under section 1627c of this title” for “Farmers’ Market and Local Food Promotion Program established under section 3005 of this title”.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

**DEFINITION OF “SECRETARY”**

“Secretary” as meaning the Secretary of Agriculture, see section 9001 of this title.

**§ 2204i. Reports on land access and farmland ownership data collection**

**(a) Land access**

Not later than 1 year after December 20, 2018, the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Chief Economist, shall submit to Congress and make publicly available a report identifying—

- (1) the barriers that prevent or hinder the ability of beginning farmers and ranchers (as defined in section 2279(a) of this title) and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (as defined in such section) to acquire or access farmland;
- (2) the extent to which Federal programs, including agricultural conservation easement programs, land transition programs, and financing programs, are improving—
  - (A) farmland access and tenure for beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers; and
  - (B) farmland transition and succession; and
- (3) the regulatory, operational, or statutory changes that are necessary to improve—
  - (A) the ability of beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to acquire or access farmland;
  - (B) farmland tenure for beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers; and