

“(A) subsections (a) and (b) of section 1602 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9092)—

“(i) shall not be applicable to the 2025 crops of covered commodities (as defined in section 1111 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 9011)), cotton, and sugar; and

“(ii) shall not be applicable to milk through December 31, 2025; and

“(B) section 1602(c) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 9092(c)) shall not be applicable to the crops of wheat planted for harvest in calendar year 2025.”

Pub. L. 118–22, div. B, title I, §102(c)(4), Nov. 17, 2023, 137 Stat. 116, provided that: “The provisions of law specified in—

“(A) subsections (a) and (b) of section 1602 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9092)—

“(i) shall not be applicable to the 2024 crops of covered commodities (as defined in section 1111 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 9011)), cotton, and sugar; and

“(ii) shall not be applicable to milk through December 31, 2024; and

“(B) section 1602(c) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 9092(c)) shall not be applicable to the crops of wheat planted for harvest in calendar year 2024.”

§ 9093. Prevention of deceased individuals receiving payments under farm commodity programs

(a) Reconciliation

At least twice each year, the Secretary shall reconcile Social Security numbers of all individuals who receive payments under this chapter, whether directly or indirectly, with the Commissioner of Social Security to determine if the individuals are alive.

(b) Preclusion

The Secretary shall preclude the issuance of payments to, and on behalf of, deceased individuals that were not eligible for payments.

(Pub. L. 113–79, title I, §1608, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 708.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (a), was in the original “this title”, meaning title I of Pub. L. 113–79, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 658, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Tables.

§ 9094. Assignment of payments

(a) In general

The provisions of section 590h(g) of title 16, relating to assignment of payments, shall apply to payments made under this chapter.

(b) Notice

The producer making the assignment, or the assignee, shall provide the Secretary with notice, in such manner as the Secretary may require, of any assignment made under this section.

(Pub. L. 113–79, title I, §1611, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 710.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (a), was in the original “this title”, meaning title I of Pub. L. 113–79, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 649, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Tables.

§ 9095. Tracking of benefits

As soon as practicable after February 7, 2014, the Secretary may track the benefits provided, directly or indirectly, to individuals and entities under titles I and II and the amendments made by those titles.

(Pub. L. 113–79, title I, §1612, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 710.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Titles I and II, referred to in text, are titles I and II of Pub. L. 113–79, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 658, 713. Title I of the Act is classified principally to this chapter. Title II of the Act enacted, amended, and repealed numerous sections and provisions set out as notes in Title 16, Conservation, and Title 43, Public Lands. For complete classification of titles I and II to the Code, see Tables.

§ 9096. Signature authority

(a) In general

In carrying out this title and title II and amendments made by those titles, if the Secretary approves a document, the Secretary shall not subsequently determine the document is inadequate or invalid because of the lack of authority of any person signing the document on behalf of the applicant or any other individual, entity, general partnership, or joint venture, or the documents relied upon were determined inadequate or invalid, unless the person signing the program document knowingly and willfully falsified the evidence of signature authority or a signature.

(b) Affirmation

(1) In general

Nothing in this section prohibits the Secretary from asking a proper party to affirm any document that otherwise would be considered approved under subsection (a).

(2) No retroactive effect

A denial of benefits based on a lack of affirmation under paragraph (1) shall not be retroactive with respect to third-party producers who were not the subject of the erroneous representation of authority, if the third-party producers—

(A) relied on the prior approval by the Secretary of the documents in good faith; and

(B) substantively complied with all program requirements.

(Pub. L. 113–79, title I, §1613, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 710.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This title and title II, referred to in subsec. (a), are titles I and II of Pub. L. 113–79, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 658, 713. Title I of the Act is classified principally to this chapter. Title II of the Act enacted, amended, and repealed numerous sections and provisions set out as notes in Title 16, Conservation, and Title 43, Public Lands. For complete classification of titles I and II to the Code, see Tables.

§ 9097. Implementation**(a) Maintenance of base acres and payment yields**

The Secretary shall maintain, for each covered commodity and upland cotton, base acres and payment yields on a farm established under sections 8702 and 8751 of this title, as adjusted pursuant to sections 8711, 8712, 8718, and 8752 of this title, as in effect on September 30, 2013, and as adjusted pursuant to sections 9012 and 9013 of this title.

(b) Streamlining

In implementing this chapter and the amendments made by this title,¹ the Secretary shall—

(1) continue to reduce administrative burdens and costs to producers by streamlining and reducing paperwork, forms, and other administrative requirements, to ensure that—

(A) a producer (or an agent of a producer) may report information, electronically (including geospatial data) or conventionally, to the Department of Agriculture, subject to the Secretary—

(i) establishing reasonable levels of tolerance that reflect the differences in accuracy between measures of common land units and geospatial data; and

(ii) ensuring that discrepancies that occur within the levels of tolerance established under clause (i) shall not be used to penalize a producer (or an agent of a producer) under any program administered by the Department of Agriculture;

(B) on the request of a producer (or an agent of a producer), the Department of Agriculture electronically shares with the producer (or agent) in real time and without cost to the producer (or agent) the common land unit data, related farm level data, conservation practices, and other information of the producer through a single Department of Agriculture-wide login;

(C) not later than September 30, 2020, the Administrator of the Risk Management Agency and the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency shall implement a consistent method for determining crop acreage, acreage yields, farm acreage, property descriptions, and other common informational requirements, including measures of common land units;

(D) except in the case of misrepresentation, fraud, or scheme and device, no crop insurance agent, approved insurance provider, or employee or contractor of a crop insurance agency or approved insurance provider bears responsibility or liability under the Acreage Crop Reporting and Streamlining Initiative (or any successor or similar initiative) for the eligibility of a producer for a program administered by the Department of Agriculture, not including a policy or plan of insurance offered under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.); and

(E) on request of a crop insurance agent or approved insurance provider required to deliver policies and plans of insurance under

the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) the crop insurance agent or approved insurance provider receives, in a timely manner, any information held by the Farm Service Agency that is necessary to ensure effective crop insurance coverage for farmer customers;

(2) continue to improve coordination, information sharing, and administrative work among the Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other agencies, as determined by the Secretary;

(3) continue to take advantage of new technologies to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of Department of Agriculture programs to producers, including by developing and making publicly available data standards and security procedures to allow third-party providers to develop applications that use or feed data (including geospatial and precision agriculture data) into the datasets and analyses of the Department of Agriculture; and

(4) reduce administrative burdens on producers participating in price loss coverage or agriculture risk coverage by offering—

(A) those producers an option to remotely and electronically sign annual contracts for that coverage; and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, an option to sign a multiyear contract for that coverage.

(c) Implementation**(1) In general**

The Secretary shall make available to the Farm Service Agency to carry out this chapter \$100,000,000.

(2) Additional funds**(A) Initial determination**

If, by September 30, 2014, the Secretary notifies the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate that the Farm Service Agency has made substantial progress toward implementing the requirements of subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall make available to the Farm Service Agency to carry out this chapter \$10,000,000 on October 1, 2014. The amount made available under this subparagraph is in addition to the amount made available under paragraph (1).

(B) Subsequent determination

If, by September 30, 2015, the Secretary notifies the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate that the requirements of subsection (b)(1) have been fully implemented and those Committees provide written concurrence to the Secretary, the Secretary shall make available to the Farm Service Agency to carry out this chapter \$10,000,000 on the date the written concurrence is provided or October 1, 2015, whichever is later. The amount made available under this subparagraph is in addition to the amount made

¹ See References in Text note below.