

representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate information on administrative expenses on programs established under commodity promotion laws.

(e) Exemption of certified organic products from assessments

(1) In general

Notwithstanding any provision of a commodity promotion law, a person that produces and markets solely 100 percent organic products, and that does not produce any conventional or nonorganic products, shall be exempt from the payment of an assessment under a commodity promotion law with respect to any agricultural commodity that is produced on a certified organic farm (as defined in section 6502 of this title).

(2) Regulations

Not later than 1 year after May 13, 2002, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations concerning eligibility and compliance for an exemption under paragraph (1).

(Pub. L. 104-127, title V, §501, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1029; Pub. L. 107-171, title X, §10607, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 514.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Public Law 89-502, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), is Pub. L. 89-502, July 13, 1966, 80 Stat. 279, as amended, known as the Cotton Research and Promotion Act, which is classified generally to chapter 53 (§2101 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2101 of this title and Tables.

Public Law 91-670, referred to in subsec. (a)(3), is Pub. L. 91-670, Jan. 11, 1971, 84 Stat. 2040, as amended. Title III of Pub. L. 91-670, known as the Potato Research and Promotion Act, is classified generally to chapter 58 (§2611 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of title III to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2611 of this title and Tables.

Public Law 93-428, referred to in subsec. (a)(4), is Pub. L. 93-428, Oct. 1, 1974, 88 Stat. 1171, as amended, known as the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act, which is classified generally to chapter 60 (§2701 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2701 of this title and Tables.

Public Law 94-294, referred to in subsec. (a)(5), is Pub. L. 94-294, May 28, 1976, 90 Stat. 529, as amended, known as the Beef Research and Information Act, which is classified generally to chapter 62 (§2901 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2901 of this title and Tables.

Public Law 98-180, referred to in subsec. (a)(6), is Pub. L. 98-180, Nov. 29, 1983, 97 Stat. 1128, as amended. Title I of Pub. L. 98-180 is known as the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983. Subtitle B of title I is classified generally to subchapter I (§4501 et seq.) of chapter 76 of this title. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4501 of this title and Tables.

Public Law 98-590, referred to in subsec. (a)(7), is Pub. L. 98-590, Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 3115, as amended, known as the Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act, which is classified generally to chapter 77 (§4601 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4601 of this title and Tables.

Public Law 99-198, referred to in subsec. (a)(8), (9), is Pub. L. 99-198, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1354, as amended, known as the Food Security Act of 1985. Subtitle B of title XVI of Pub. L. 99-198, known as the Pork Pro-

motion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1985, is classified generally to chapter 79 (§4801 et seq.) of this title. Subtitle C of title XVI of Pub. L. 99-198, known as the Watermelon Research and Promotion Act, is classified generally to chapter 80 (§4901 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of subtitles B and C to the Code, see Short Title notes set out under sections 4801 and 4901, respectively, of this title and Tables.

Public Law 101-624, referred to in subsec. (a)(10), (11), (12), is Pub. L. 101-624, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3359, as amended, known as the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990. Subtitle B of title XIX of Pub. L. 101-624, known as the Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990, is classified generally to chapter 90 (§6101 et seq.) of this title. Subtitle E of title XIX of Pub. L. 101-624, known as the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act, is classified generally to chapter 92 (§6301 et seq.) of this title. Subtitle H of title XIX of Pub. L. 101-624, known as the Fluid Milk Promotion Act of 1990, is classified generally to chapter 93 (§6401 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of subtitles B, E, and H to the Code, see Short Title notes set out under sections 6101, 6301, and 6401, respectively, of this title and Tables.

Public Law 103-190, referred to in subsec. (a)(13), is Pub. L. 103-190, Dec. 14, 1993, 107 Stat. 2266, known as the Fresh Cut Flowers and Fresh Cut Greens Promotion and Information Act of 1993, which is classified generally to chapter 97 (§6801 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 6801 of this title and Tables.

Public Law 103-407, referred to in subsec. (a)(14), is Pub. L. 103-407, Oct. 22, 1994, 108 Stat. 4210, known as the Sheep Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1994, which is classified generally to chapter 99 (§7101 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 7101 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (a)(19). Pub. L. 107-171, §10607(b), added par. (19).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 107-171, §10607(a), added subsec. (e).

SHORT TITLE

Section 511 of title V of Pub. L. 104-127 provided that: “This subtitle [subtitle B (§§511-526) of title V of Pub. L. 104-127, enacting subchapter II of this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996.’”

Section 531 of title V of Pub. L. 104-127 provided that: “This subtitle [subtitle C (§§531-543) of title V of Pub. L. 104-127, enacting subchapter III of this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Canola and Rapeseed Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act.’”

Section 551 of title V of Pub. L. 104-127 provided that: “This subtitle [subtitle D (§§551-564) of title V of Pub. L. 104-127, enacting subchapter IV of this chapter] may be cited as the ‘National Kiwifruit Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act.’”

Section 571 of title V of Pub. L. 104-127 provided that: “This subtitle [subtitle E (§§571-582) of title V of Pub. L. 104-127, enacting subchapter V of this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Popcorn Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act.’”

SUBCHAPTER II—ISSUANCE OF ORDERS FOR PROMOTION, RESEARCH, AND INFORMATION ACTIVITIES REGARDING AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

§ 7411. Findings and purpose

(a) Findings

Congress finds the following:

(1) The production of agricultural commodities plays a significant role in the economy of the United States. Thousands of producers in the United States are involved in the production of agricultural commodities, and such commodities are consumed by millions of people throughout the United States and foreign countries.

(2) Agricultural commodities must be of high quality, readily available, handled properly, and marketed efficiently to ensure that consumers have an adequate supply.

(3) The maintenance and expansion of existing markets and the development of new markets for agricultural commodities through generic commodity promotion, research, and information programs are vital to the welfare of persons engaged in the production, marketing, and consumption of such commodities, as well as to the general economy of the United States.

(4) Generic promotion, research, and information activities for agricultural commodities play a unique role in advancing the demand for such commodities, since such activities increase the total market for a product to the benefit of consumers and all producers. These generic activities complement branded advertising initiatives, which are aimed at increasing the market share of individual competitors, and are of particular benefit to small producers who lack the resources or market power to advertise on their own. These generic activities do not impede the branded advertising efforts of individual firms, but instead increase general market demand for an agricultural commodity using methods that individual companies do not have the incentive to employ.

(5) Generic promotion, research, and information activities for agricultural commodities, paid by the producers and others in the industry who reap the benefits of such activities, provide a unique opportunity for producers to inform consumers about a particular agricultural commodity.

(6) It is important to ensure that generic promotion, research, and information activities for agricultural commodities be carried out in an effective and coordinated manner designed to strengthen the position of the commodities in the marketplace and to maintain and expand their markets and uses. Independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the generic promotion activities of these programs will assist the Secretary of Agriculture and Congress in ensuring that these objectives are met.

(7) The cooperative development, financing, and implementation of a coordinated national program of research, promotion, and information regarding agricultural commodities are necessary to maintain and expand existing markets and to develop new markets for these commodities.

(8) Agricultural commodities move in interstate and foreign commerce, and agricultural commodities and their products that do not move in such channels of commerce directly burden or affect interstate commerce in agricultural commodities and their products.

(9) Commodity promotion programs have the ability to provide significant conservation benefits to producers and the public.

(b) Purpose

The purpose of this subchapter is to authorize the establishment, through the exercise by the Secretary of Agriculture of the authority provided in this subchapter, of an orderly program for developing, financing, and carrying out an effective, continuous, and coordinated program of generic promotion, research, and information regarding agricultural commodities designed to—

(1) strengthen the position of agricultural commodity industries in the marketplace;

(2) maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and uses for agricultural commodities;

(3) develop new markets and uses for agricultural commodities; or

(4) assist producers in meeting their conservation objectives.

(c) Rule of construction

Nothing in this subchapter provides for the control of production or otherwise limits the right of any person to produce, handle, or import an agricultural commodity.

(Pub. L. 104-127, title V, §512, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1032.)

§ 7412. Definitions

In this subchapter (unless the context otherwise requires):

(1) Agricultural commodity

The term “agricultural commodity” means—

(A) agricultural, horticultural, viticultural, and dairy products;

(B) livestock and the products of livestock;

(C) the products of poultry and bee raising;

(D) the products of forestry;

(E) other commodities raised or produced on farms, as determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

(F) products processed or manufactured from products specified in the preceding subparagraphs, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(2) Board

The term “board” means a board established under an order issued under section 7413 of this title.

(3) Conflict of interest

The term “conflict of interest” means a situation in which a member or employee of a board has a direct or indirect financial interest in a person that performs a service for, or enters into a contract with, a board for anything of economic value.

(4) Department

The term “Department” means the Department of Agriculture.

(5) First handler

The term “first handler” means the first person who buys or takes possession of an agricultural commodity from a producer for