

(1) Headquarters offices

The term “headquarters offices”, with respect to agencies, offices, or other administrative units of the Department, means the offices, functions, and employee positions that are located or performed—

(A) in Washington, District of Columbia; or

(B) in such other locations as are identified by the Secretary for purposes of this section.

(2) Field structure

The term “field structure” means the offices, functions, and employee positions of all agencies, offices, or other administrative units of the Department, other than the headquarters offices, except that the term does not include State, county, or area committees established under section 590h(b)(5) of title 16. The term includes the physical and geographic locations of such agencies, offices, or other administrative units.

(b) Number of reductions required

The Secretary shall achieve Federal employee reductions of at least 7,500 staff years within the Department by the end of fiscal year 1999. Reductions in the number of full-time equivalent positions within the Department achieved under section 5 of the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-226; 108 Stat. 115; 5 U.S.C. 3101 note) shall be counted toward the employee reductions required under this section.

(c) Emphasis on headquarters offices reductions

In achieving the employee reductions required by subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary shall pursue a goal so that the percentage of the total number of employee staff years reduced in headquarters offices is at least twice the percentage of the total number of employee staff years reduced in the field structure.

(d) Schedule

The personnel reductions in headquarters offices and in the field structure should be accomplished concurrently in a manner determined by the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §213, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3211.)

§ 6914. Consolidation of headquarters offices

Subject to the availability of appropriated funds for this purpose, the Secretary shall develop and carry out a plan to consolidate offices located in Washington, District of Columbia, of agencies, offices, and other administrative units of the Department.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §214, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3211.)

§ 6915. Combination of field offices**(a) Combination of offices required**

Where practicable and to the extent consistent with efficient, effective, and improved service, the Secretary shall combine field offices of agencies within the Department to reduce personnel and duplicative overhead expenses.

(b) Joint use of resources and offices required

When two or more agencies of the Department share a common field office, the Secretary shall

require the agencies to jointly use office space, equipment, office supplies, administrative personnel, and clerical personnel associated with that field office.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §215, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3211.)

§ 6916. Improvement of information sharing

Whenever the Secretary procures or uses computer systems, as may be provided for in advance in appropriations Acts, the Secretary shall do so in a manner that enhances efficiency, productivity, and client services and is consistent with the goal of promoting computer information sharing among agencies of the Department.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §216, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3212.)

§ 6917. Reports by Secretary**(a) In general**

Subject to subsection (b) of this section, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may, but shall not be required to, prepare and submit any report solely to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(b) Limitation

For each fiscal year, the Secretary may not prepare and submit more than 30 reports referred to in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Selection of reports

In consultation with the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, the Secretary shall determine which reports, if any, the Secretary will prepare and submit in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §217, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3212.)

§ 6918. Assistant Secretaries of Agriculture**(a) Authorization**

The Secretary is authorized to establish in the Department the positions of—

- (1) Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Congressional Relations;
- (2) Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration; and
- (3) Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Civil Rights.

(b) Confirmation required

If the Secretary establishes any position of Assistant Secretary authorized under subsection (a) of this section, the Assistant Secretary shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(c) Succession

Any official who is serving as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration or Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Congressional Relations on October 13, 1994, and who was appointed as such Assistant Secretary by