

(A) take into account any residue incorporated into the top 2 inches of soil, as well as the growing crop, in the measurement;

(B) provide technical guidelines for acceptable residue measurement methods;

(C) provide a certification system for third parties to perform residue measurements; and

(D) provide for the acceptance and use of information and data voluntarily provided by the producer regarding the field.

**(2) Acceptance of producer measurements**

Annual residue measurements supplied by a producer (including measurements performed by a certified third party) shall be used by the Secretary if the Secretary determines that the measurements indicate that the residue level for the field meets the level required under the conservation plan.

**(d) Certification of compliance**

**(1) In general**

For the purpose of determining the eligibility of a person for program benefits specified in section 3811 of this title at the time application is made for the benefits, the Secretary shall permit the person to certify that the person is complying with the person's conservation plan.

**(2) Status reviews**

If a person makes a certification under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall not be required to carry out a review of the status of compliance of the person with the conservation plan under which the conservation system is being applied.

**(3) Revisions and modifications**

The Secretary shall permit a person who makes a certification under paragraph (1) with respect to a conservation plan to revise the conservation plan in any manner, if the same level of conservation treatment provided for by the conservation system under the person's conservation plan is maintained. The Secretary may not revise the person's conservation plan without the concurrence of the person.

**(e) Technical assistance**

The Secretary shall, using available resources and consistent with the Secretary's other conservation responsibilities and objectives, provide technical assistance to a person throughout the development, revision, and application of the conservation plan and any conservation system of the person. At the request of the person, the Secretary may provide technical assistance regarding conservation measures and management practices for other lands of the person that do not contain highly erodible cropland.

**(f) Encouragement of on-farm research**

To encourage on-farm conservation research, the Secretary may allow a person to include in the person's conservation plan or a conservation system under the plan, on a field trial basis, practices that are not currently approved but that the Secretary considers have a reasonable likelihood of success.

(Pub. L. 99-198, title XII, § 1213, as added Pub. L. 104-127, title III, § 315(a)(2), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 984.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1213 of Pub. L. 99-198 was renumbered section 1214 and is classified to section 3813 of this title.

**§ 3813. Soil surveys**

The Secretary shall, as soon as is practicable after December 23, 1985, complete soil surveys on those private lands that do not have a soil survey suitable for use in determining the land capability class for purposes of this subchapter. In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall, insofar as possible, concentrate on those localities where significant amounts of highly erodible land are being converted to the production of agricultural commodities.

(Pub. L. 99-198, title XII, § 1214, formerly § 1213, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1507; renumbered § 1214, Pub. L. 104-127, title III, § 315(a)(1), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 983.)

**§ 3814. Notice and investigation of possible compliance deficiencies**

**(a) In general**

An employee of the Department of Agriculture who observes a possible compliance deficiency or other potential violation of a conservation plan or this subchapter while providing on-site technical assistance shall provide to the responsible persons, not later than 45 days after observing the possible violation, information regarding actions needed to comply with the plan and this subchapter. The employee shall provide the information in lieu of reporting the observation as a compliance violation.

**(b) Corrective action**

The responsible persons shall attempt to correct the deficiencies as soon as practicable after receiving the information.

**(c) Review**

If the corrective action is not fully implemented not later than 1 year after the responsible persons receive the information, the Secretary may conduct a review of the status of compliance of the persons with the conservation plan and this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 99-198, title XII, § 1215, as added Pub. L. 104-127, title III, § 316, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 985.)

SUBCHAPTER III—WETLAND  
CONSERVATION

**§ 3821. Program ineligibility**

**(a) Production on converted wetland**

Except as provided in this subchapter and notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person who in any crop year produces an agricultural commodity on converted wetland, as determined by the Secretary, shall be—

(1) in violation of this section; and

(2) ineligible for loans or payments in an amount determined by the Secretary to be proportionate to the severity of the violation.

**(b) Ineligibility for certain loans and payments**

If a person is determined to have committed a violation under subsection (a) of this section during a crop year, the Secretary shall determine which of, and the amount of, the following

loans and payments for which the person shall be ineligible:

(1) Contract payments under a production flexibility contract, marketing assistance loans, and any type of price support or payment made available under the Agricultural Market Transition Act [7 U.S.C. 7201 et seq.], the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714 et seq.), or any other Act.

(2) A loan made or guaranteed under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.) or any other provision of law administered by the Consolidated Farm Service Agency, if the Secretary determines that the proceeds of the loan will be used for a purpose that will contribute to conversion of a wetland (other than as provided in this subchapter) to produce an agricultural commodity.

(3) During the crop year:

(A) A payment made pursuant to a contract entered into under the environmental quality incentives program under part IV of subchapter IV of this chapter.

(B) A payment under any other provision of subchapter IV of this chapter.

(C) A payment under section 2201 or 2202 of this title.

(D) A payment, loan, or other assistance under section 1003 or 1006a of this title.

#### (c) Wetland conversion

Except as provided in section 3822 of this title and notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person who in any crop year beginning after November 28, 1990, converts a wetland by draining, dredging, filling, leveling, or any other means for the purpose, or to have the effect, of making the production of an agricultural commodity possible on such converted wetland shall be ineligible for those payments, loans, or programs specified in subsection (b) of this section for that crop year and all subsequent crop years.

#### (d) Prior loans

This section shall not apply to a loan described in subsection (b) of this section made before December 23, 1985.

#### (e) Wetland

The Secretary shall have, and shall not delegate to any private person or entity, authority to determine whether a person has complied with this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 99-198, title XII, §1221, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1507; Pub. L. 101-624, title XIV, §1421(b), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3572; Pub. L. 102-237, title II, §204(3), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1855; Pub. L. 102-552, title III, §308(a), Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 4116; Pub. L. 104-127, title III, §321, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 986; Pub. L. 107-171, title II, §2002(b), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 233.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Agricultural Market Transition Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), is title I of Pub. L. 104-127, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 896, which is classified principally to chapter 100 (§7201 et seq.) of Title 7, Agriculture. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 7201 of Title 7 and Tables.

The Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), is act June 29, 1948, ch. 704,

62 Stat. 1070, as amended, which is classified generally to subchapter II (§714 et seq.) of chapter 15 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 714 of Title 15 and Tables.

The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(2), is title III of Pub. L. 87-128, Aug. 8, 1961, 75 Stat. 307, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 50 (§1921 et seq.) of Title 7, Agriculture. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1921 of Title 7 and Tables.

#### AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 107-171 added subsec. (e).

1996—Pub. L. 104-127, §321(a)(2), reenacted section catchline without change.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-127, §321(a)(2), added subsec. (a) and struck out former subsec. (a) which related to ineligibility of persons producing an agricultural commodity on converted wetland to receive certain Federal payments, loans, insurance benefits, and other benefits.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-127, §321(a)(2), added subsec. (b). Former subsec. (b) redesignated (c).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 104-127, §321(b)(1), inserted heading and substituted "beginning after November 28, 1990," for "subsequent to November 28, 1990," and "subsection (b)" for "subsections (a)(1) through (3)".

Pub. L. 104-127, §321(a)(1), redesignated subsec. (b) as (c).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 104-127, §321(b)(2), added subsec. (d).

1992—Subsec. (a)(1)(D). Pub. L. 102-552 made technical correction to directory language of Pub. L. 102-237. See 1991 Amendment note below.

1991—Subsec. (a)(1)(D). Pub. L. 102-237, as amended by Pub. L. 102-552, substituted "(7 U.S.C. 1421 note)" for "(16 U.S.C. 1421 note)".

1990—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-624, §1421(b)(1), designated existing provisions as subsec. (a).

Subsec. (a)(1)(D). Pub. L. 101-624, §1421(b)(2), inserted reference to section 132 of the Disaster Assistance Act of 1989 and similar provisions enacted after Aug. 14, 1989.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 101-624, §1421(b)(3)-(5), added par. (3).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 101-624, §1421(b)(6), added subsec. (b).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 104-127, title III, §326, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 992, provided that: "This subtitle [subtitle C (§§ 321-326) of title III of Pub. L. 104-127, enacting section 3823 of this title, amending this section and section 3822 of this title, and repealing former section 3823 of this title] and the amendments made by this subtitle shall become effective 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Apr. 4, 1996]."

### § 3822. Delineation of wetlands; exemptions

#### (a) Delineation by Secretary

##### (1) In general

Subject to subsection (b) of this section and paragraph (6), the Secretary shall delineate, determine, and certify all wetlands located on subject land on a farm.

##### (2) Wetland delineation maps

The Secretary shall delineate wetlands on wetland delineation maps. On the request of a person, the Secretary shall make a reasonable effort to make an on-site wetland determination prior to delineation.

##### (3) Certification

On providing notice to affected persons, the Secretary shall—