

son has acted in good faith and without intent to violate this subchapter.

(2) Eligible reviewers

A determination of the Secretary, or a designee of the Secretary, under paragraph (1) shall be reviewed by the applicable—

(A) State Executive Director, with the technical concurrence of the State Conservationist; or

(B) district director, with the technical concurrence of the area conservationist.

(3) Period for compliance

The Secretary shall provide a person who the Secretary determines has acted in good faith and without intent to violate this subchapter with a reasonable period, but not to exceed 1 year, during which to implement the measures and practices necessary to be considered to be actively restoring the subject wetland.

(i) Restoration

Any person who is determined to be ineligible for program benefits under section 3821 of this title for any crop year shall not be ineligible for such program benefits under such section for any subsequent crop year if, prior to the beginning of such subsequent crop year, the person has fully restored the characteristics of the converted wetland to its prior wetland state or has otherwise mitigated for the loss of wetland values, as determined by the Secretary, through the restoration, enhancement, or creation of wetland values in the same general area of the local watershed as the converted wetland.

(j) Determinations; restoration and mitigation plans; monitoring activities

Technical determinations, the development of restoration and mitigation plans, and monitoring activities under this section shall be made by the National² Resources Conservation Service.

(k) Mitigation banking program

Using authorities available to the Secretary, the Secretary may operate a pilot program for mitigation banking of wetlands to assist persons to increase the efficiency of agricultural operations while protecting wetland functions and values. Subsection (f)(2)(C) of this section shall not apply to this subsection.

(Pub. L. 99-198, title XII, §1222, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1508; Pub. L. 101-624, title XIV, §1422, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3573; Pub. L. 104-127, title III, §322, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 987; Pub. L. 110-234, title II, §2003, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1028; Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title II, §2003, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1756.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 3843 of this title, referred to in subsec. (g), was omitted and a new section 3843 was added in the general amendment of subchapter V of this chapter by Pub. L. 104-127, title III, §341, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1008. The new section 3843 does not relate to appeal procedures.

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. (h)(2), (3). Pub. L. 110-246, §2003, added par. (2), redesignated former par. (2) as (3), and inserted “be” before “actively”.

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-127, §322(a), added subsec. (a) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (a). Text consisted of pars. (1) to (4) relating to delineation of wetlands.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-127, §322(b), added subsec. (b) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (b). Text consisted of pars. (1)(A) to (D) and (2)(A) and (B) relating to exemptions.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 104-127, §322(c), added subsec. (d) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (d). Text read as follows: “Section 3821 of this title shall not apply to a loan described in section 3821 of this title made before December 23, 1985.”

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 104-127, §322(d), added subsec. (f) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (f). Text consisted of pars. (1) to (3) relating to minimal effect and mitigation exemptions.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 104-127, §322(e), which directed substitution of “person” for “producer”, was executed by making the substitution in two places.

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 104-127, §322(f), added subsec. (h) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (h). Text consisted of pars. (1) to (3) relating to good faith exemptions to ineligibility under section 3821 of this title and graduated sanctions.

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 104-127, §322(g), inserted before period at end “or has otherwise mitigated for the loss of wetland values, as determined by the Secretary, through the restoration, enhancement, or creation of wetland values in the same general area of the local watershed as the converted wetland”.

Subsec. (j). Pub. L. 104-127, §322(h), added subsec. (j) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (j). Text provided that technical determinations and the development of restoration and mitigation plans be made through agreement of local representative of Soil Conservation Service and representative of the Fish and Wildlife Service and required reporting of determinations and monitoring.

Subsec. (k). Pub. L. 104-127, §322(i), added subsec. (k). 1990—Pub. L. 101-624 amended section generally, substituting present provisions for provisions relating to eligibility for program benefits in connection with production of crops on certain wetlands, making program ineligibility inapplicable to pre-Dec. 23, 1985, section 3821 loans, and providing for personal exemptions from program ineligibility for actions associated with production of commodities having minimal wetland effect.

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 Title 7, Agriculture.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-127 effective 90 days after Apr. 4, 1996, see section 326 of Pub. L. 104-127, set out as a note under section 3821 of this title.

§ 3823. Affiliated persons

If a person is affected by a reduction in benefits under section 3821 of this title and the affected person is affiliated with other persons for the purpose of receiving the benefits, the benefits of each affiliated person shall be reduced under section 3821 of this title in proportion to the interest held by the affiliated person.

(Pub. L. 99-198, title XII, §1223, as added Pub. L. 104-127, title III, §324, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 992.)

²So in original. Probably should be “Natural”.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 3823, Pub. L. 99-198, title XII, §1223, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1508; Pub. L. 101-624, title XIV, §1423, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3576; Pub. L. 102-237, title II, §204(4), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1855, related to consultation with Secretary of the Interior, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 104-127, title III, §§323, 326, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 992, effective 90 days after Apr. 4, 1996.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 90 days after Apr. 4, 1996, see section 326 of Pub. L. 104-127, set out as an Effective Date of 1996 Amendment note under section 3821 of this title.

§ 3824. Fairness of compliance

If the actions of an unrelated person or public entity, outside the control of, and without the prior approval of, the landowner or tenant result in a change in the characteristics of cropland that would cause the land to be determined to be a wetland, the affected land shall not be considered to be wetland for purposes of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 99-198, title XII, §1224, as added Pub. L. 101-624, title XIV, §1424, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3576.)

SUBCHAPTER IV—AGRICULTURAL
RESOURCES CONSERVATION PROGRAMPART I—COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

SUBPART A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 3830. Comprehensive conservation enhance-
ment program

(a) Establishment

(1) In general

During the 1996 through 2002 calendar years, the Secretary shall establish a comprehensive conservation enhancement program (referred to in this section as “CCEP”) to be implemented through contracts and the acquisition of easements to assist owners and operators of farms and ranches to conserve and enhance soil, water, and related natural resources, including grazing land, wetland, and wildlife habitat.

(2) Means

The Secretary shall carry out the CCEP by—

- (A) providing for the long-term protection of environmentally sensitive land; and
- (B) providing technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers to—
 - (i) improve the management and operation of the farms and ranches; and
 - (ii) reconcile productivity and profitability with protection and enhancement of the environment.

(3) Programs

The CCEP shall consist of—

- (A) the conservation reserve program established under subpart B;
- (B) the wetlands reserve program established under subpart C; and
- (C) the environmental quality incentives program established under part IV of this subchapter.

(b) Administration

(1) In general

In carrying out the CCEP, the Secretary shall enter into contracts with owners and operators and acquire interests in land through easements from owners, as provided in this part and part IV of this subchapter.

(2) Prior enrollments

Acreage enrolled in the conservation reserve or wetlands reserve program prior to April 4, 1996, shall be considered to be placed into the CCEP.

(Pub. L. 99-198, title XII, §1230, as added Pub. L. 101-624, title XIV, §1431(2), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3576; amended Pub. L. 103-66, title I, §1402(a), Aug. 10, 1993, 107 Stat. 332; Pub. L. 104-127, title III, §331, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 992; Pub. L. 107-171, title II, §2006(b), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 237.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Pub. L. 107-171, §2006(b)(1), substituted “Comprehensive conservation enhancement program” for “Environmental conservation acreage reserve program” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 107-171, §2006(b)(2), (4), substituted “a comprehensive conservation enhancement program” for “an environmental conservation acreage reserve program” and “CCEP” for “ECARP”.

Subsecs. (a)(2), (3), (b). Pub. L. 107-171, §2006(b)(4), substituted “CCEP” for “ECARP” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 107-171, §2006(b)(3), struck out heading and text of subsec. (c). Text read as follows:

“(1) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary may designate watersheds, multistate areas, or regions of special environmental sensitivity as conservation priority areas that are eligible for enhanced assistance under this part and part IV of this subchapter.

“(2) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may designate areas as conservation priority areas to assist, to the maximum extent practicable, agricultural producers within the conservation priority areas to comply with nonpoint source pollution requirements under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) and other Federal and State environmental laws and to meet other conservation needs.

“(3) PRODUCERS.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance, cost-share payments, and incentive payments to producers in a conservation priority area under this part and part IV of this subchapter based on—

“(A) the significance of the soil, water, wildlife habitat, and related natural resource problems in a watershed, multistate area, or region; and

“(B) the structural practices or land management practices that best address the problems, and that maximize environmental benefits for each dollar expended, as determined by the Secretary.”

1996—Pub. L. 104-127 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section consisted of subsecs. (a) to (c) requiring Secretary to establish and implement an Environmental Conservation Acreage Reserve Program during 1991 through 1995 calendar years.

1993—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-66 struck out before period at end “to place in the Environmental Conservation Acreage Reserve Program during the 1986 through 1995 calendar years a total of not less than 40,000,000 nor more than 45,000,000 acres”.

CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE

Pub. L. 106-224, title II, §211, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 406, as amended by Pub. L. 107-171, title II, §2503(b)(1)(B), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 269, provided that:

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall use \$40,000,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corpora-