

**§ 2270a. Office of Inspector General; transfer of forfeiture funds for law enforcement activities**

For fiscal year 1999 and thereafter, funds transferred to the Office of the Inspector General through forfeiture proceedings or from the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund or the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund, as a participating agency, as an equitable share from the forfeiture of property in investigations in which the Office of the Inspector General participates, or through the granting of a Petition for Remission or Mitigation, shall be deposited to the credit of this account for law enforcement activities authorized under the Inspector General Act of 1978, to remain available until expended.

(Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(a) [title I], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681, 2681-3.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Inspector General Act of 1978, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 95-452, Oct. 12, 1978, 92 Stat. 1101, as amended, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

Pub. L. 105-86, title I, Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 2082.

Pub. L. 104-180, title I, Aug. 6, 1996, 110 Stat. 1572.

Pub. L. 104-37, title I, Oct. 21, 1995, 109 Stat. 302.

**§ 2270b. Department of Agriculture Inspector General investigation of Forest Service firefighter deaths**

In the case of each fatality of an officer or employee of the Forest Service that occurs due to wildfire entrapment or burnover, the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture shall conduct an investigation of the fatality. The investigation shall not rely on, and shall be completely independent of, any investigation of the fatality that is conducted by the Forest Service.

(Pub. L. 107-203, §1, July 24, 2002, 116 Stat. 744.)

**§ 2270c. Submission of results**

As soon as possible after completing an investigation under section 2270b of this title, the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture shall submit to Congress and the Secretary of Agriculture a report containing the results of the investigation.

(Pub. L. 107-203, §2, July 24, 2002, 116 Stat. 744.)

**§ 2271. Marketing education programs for small and medium size family farm operations**

In carrying out marketing research and education programs, the Secretary of Agriculture shall take such steps as may be necessary to increase the efforts of the Department of Agriculture in providing marketing education programs for persons engaged in small and medium size family farm operations.

(Pub. L. 97-98, title XIV, §1445, Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1327.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Dec. 22, 1981, see section 1801 of Pub. L. 97-98, set out as a note under section 4301 of this title.

**§ 2271a. Advanced marketing training for farmers and ranchers**

The Secretary of Agriculture may establish a program to train farmers and ranchers in advanced techniques for the marketing of agricultural commodities, livestock, and aquacultural products produced by such farmers and ranchers, including (where appropriate as determined by the Secretary) training in the use of futures and options markets.

(Pub. L. 99-641, title II, §206(b), Nov. 10, 1986, 100 Stat. 3564.)

STUDY AND REPORT OF MARKETING PRACTICES OF APPLICANTS AND BORROWERS OF FARM LOANS

Pub. L. 99-641, title II, §206(a), Nov. 10, 1986, 100 Stat. 3563, provided that:

“(1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of marketing practices used by applicants for and borrowers of farm loans made, insured, or guaranteed under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.). The study shall include an examination of the methods used by the applicants and borrowers in marketing agricultural commodities, livestock, and aquacultural products and the extent to which the applicants and borrowers use advanced marketing techniques for such sales.

“(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 10, 1986], the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1), together with any appropriate recommendations.”

**§ 2272. Volunteers for Department of Agriculture programs**

**(a) Establishment of program**

The Secretary of Agriculture (hereafter referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) may establish a program to use volunteers in carrying out the programs of the Department of Agriculture.

**(b) Acceptance of personnel**

The Secretary may accept, subject to regulations issued by the Office of Personnel Management, voluntary service for the Department of Agriculture for such purpose if the service:

- (1) is to be without compensation; and
- (2) will not be used to displace any employee of the Department of Agriculture including the local, county, and State committees established under section 590h(b) of title 16.

**(c) Federal employee status**

Any individual who provides voluntary service under this section shall not be considered a Federal employee, except for purposes of chapter 81 of title 5 (relating to compensation for injury), and sections 2671 through 2680 of title 28 (relating to tort claims).

(Pub. L. 97-98, title XV, §1526, Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1337.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Dec. 22, 1981, see section 1801 of Pub. L. 97-98, set out as a note under section 4301 of this title.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Pub. L. 97-98, title XV, §1527, Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1337, provided that: “There are authorized to be appro-

priated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this subtitle [subtitle G (§§ 1526, 1527) of title XV of Pub. L. 97-98, enacting this section and this note], such sums to remain available until expended.”

**§ 2272a. Funds for incidental expenses and promotional items relating to volunteers**

On and after August 6, 1996, funds appropriated to the Department of Agriculture may be used for incidental expenses such as transportation, uniforms, lodging, and subsistence for volunteers serving under the authority of section 2272 of this title, when such volunteers are engaged in the work of the United States Department of Agriculture; and for promotional items of nominal value relating to the United States Department of Agriculture Volunteer Programs.

(Pub. L. 104-180, title VII, § 729, Aug. 6, 1996, 110 Stat. 1600.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 2272a, Pub. L. 102-142, title VII, § 739, Oct. 28, 1991, 105 Stat. 915, authorized use of funds for incidental expenses and promotional items relating to volunteers on and after Oct. 28, 1991, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 104-127, title III, § 336(f)(2), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1007.

**§ 2273. Local search and rescue operations**

The Secretary of Agriculture may assist, through the use of Soil Conservation Service personnel, vehicles, communication equipment, and other equipment or materials available to the Secretary, in local search and rescue operations when requested by responsible local public authorities. Such assistance may be provided in emergencies caused by tornadoes, fires, floods, snowstorms, earthquakes, and similar disasters.

(Pub. L. 97-98, title XV, § 1550, Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1344.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Dec. 22, 1981, see section 1801 of Pub. L. 97-98, set out as a note under section 4301 of this title.

**§ 2274. Firearm authority of employees engaged in animal quarantine enforcement**

Any employee of the United States Department of Agriculture designated by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Attorney General of the United States may carry a firearm and use a firearm when necessary for self-protection, in accordance with rules and regulations issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Attorney General of the United States, while such employee is engaged in the performance of the employee's official duties to (1) carry out any law or regulation related to the control, eradication, or prevention of the introduction or dissemination of communicable disease of livestock or poultry into the United States or (2) perform any duty related to such disease control, eradication, or prevention, subject to the direction of the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 97-312, § 1, Oct. 14, 1982, 96 Stat. 1461.)

**§ 2274a. Firearm authority of employees conducting field work in remote locations**

On and after December 8, 2004, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to permit employees

of the United States Department of Agriculture to carry and use firearms for personal protection while conducting field work in remote locations in the performance of their official duties.

(Pub. L. 108-447, div. A, title VII, § 742, Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 2844.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

Pub.L. 108-199, div. A, title VII, § 745, Jan. 23, 2004, 118 Stat. 37.

Pub.L. 108-7, div. A, title VII, § 753, Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 45.

**§ 2275. Repealed. Pub. L. 101-624, title XV, § 1572(3), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3702**

Section, Pub. L. 99-198, title XI, § 1151, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1497, provided for trade consultation between the Foreign Agricultural Service and other Federal agencies. See section 5674 of this title.

**§ 2276. Confidentiality of information**

**(a) Authorized disclosure**

In the case of information furnished under a provision of law referred to in subsection (d) of this section, neither the Secretary of Agriculture, any other officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture or agency thereof, nor any other person may—

(1) use such information for a purpose other than the development or reporting of aggregate data in a manner such that the identity of the person who supplied such information is not discernible and is not material to the intended uses of such information;

(2) disclose such information to the public, unless such information has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form that does not allow the identification of the person who supplied particular information; or

(3) in the case of information collected under the authority described in subsection (d)(12) of this section, disclose the information to any person or any Federal, State, local, or tribal agency outside the Department of Agriculture, unless the information has been converted into a statistical or aggregate form that does not allow the identification of the person that supplied particular information.

**(b) Duty of Secretary; immunity from disclosure; necessary consent**

(1) In carrying out a provision of law referred to in subsection (d) of this section, no department, agency, officer, or employee of the Federal Government, other than the Secretary of Agriculture, shall require a person to furnish a copy of statistical information provided to the Department of Agriculture.

(2) A copy of such information—

(A) shall be immune from mandatory disclosure of any type, including legal process; and

(B) shall not, without the consent of such person, be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose in any action, suit, or other judicial or administrative proceeding.

**(c) Violations; penalties**

Any person who shall publish, cause to be published, or otherwise publicly release information