

the economic viability of farming in the United States.

(2) An assessment of economic risks to farms delineated by size of farm operation (such as small, medium, or large farms) and region of production.

(3) An assessment of the food security situation in the United States in the areas of trade, consumer prices, international competitiveness of United States production agriculture, food supplies, and humanitarian relief.

(4) An assessment of the changes in farmland values and agricultural producer incomes since April 4, 1996.

(5) An assessment of the extent to which regulatory relief for agricultural producers has been enacted and implemented, including the application of cost/benefit principles in the issuance of agricultural regulations.

(6) An assessment of the extent to which tax relief for agricultural producers has been enacted in the form of capital gains tax reductions, estate tax exemptions, and mechanisms to average tax loads over high- and low-income years.

(7) An assessment of the effect of any Federal Government interference in agricultural export markets, such as the imposition of trade embargoes, and the degree of implementation and success of international trade agreements and United States export programs.

(8) An assessment of the likely effect of the sale, lease, or transfer of farm poundage quota for peanuts across State lines.

#### **(b) Subsequent review**

The Commission shall conduct a comprehensive review of the future of production agriculture in the United States and the appropriate role of the Federal Government in support of production agriculture. The review shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of changes in the condition of production agriculture in the United States since the initial review conducted under subsection (a).

(2) Identification of the appropriate future relationship of the Federal Government with production agriculture after 2002.

(3) An assessment of the personnel and infrastructure requirements of the Department of Agriculture necessary to support the future relationship of the Federal Government with production agriculture.

(4) An assessment of economic risks to farms delineated by size of farm operation (such as small, medium, or large farms) and region of production.

#### **(c) Recommendations**

In carrying out the subsequent review under subsection (b), the Commission shall develop specific recommendations for legislation to achieve the appropriate future relationship of the Federal Government with production agriculture identified under subsection (a)(2).

(Pub. L. 104-127, title I, §183, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 939.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

For definition of “this chapter”, referred to in subsec. (a), see note set out under section 7201 of this title.

### **§ 7314. Reports**

#### **(a) Report on initial review**

Not later than June 1, 1998, the Commission shall submit to the President, the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report containing the results of the initial review conducted under section 7313(a) of this title.

#### **(b) Report on subsequent review**

Not later than January 1, 2001, the Commission shall submit to the President and the congressional committees specified in subsection (a) a report containing the results of the subsequent review conducted under section 7313(b) of this title.

(Pub. L. 104-127, title I, §184, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 940.)

### **§ 7315. Powers**

#### **(a) Hearings**

The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this subchapter, conduct such hearings, sit and act at such times, take such testimony, and receive such evidence, as the Commission considers appropriate.

#### **(b) Assistance from other agencies**

The Commission may secure directly from any department or agency of the Federal Government such information as may be necessary for the Commission to carry out its duties under this subchapter. On the request of the chairperson of the Commission, the head of the department or agency shall, to the extent permitted by law, furnish such information to the Commission.

#### **(c) Mail**

The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as the departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

#### **(d) Assistance from Secretary**

The Secretary shall provide to the Commission appropriate office space and such reasonable administrative and support services as the Commission may request.

(Pub. L. 104-127, title I, §185, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 940.)

### **§ 7316. Commission procedures**

#### **(a) Meetings**

The Commission shall meet on a regular basis (as determined by the chairperson) and at the call of the chairperson or a majority of its members.

#### **(b) Quorum**

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

(Pub. L. 104-127, title I, §186, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 941.)

### **§ 7317. Personnel matters**

#### **(a) Compensation**

Each member of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be allowed