

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

travel expenses including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, when engaged in the performance of Commission duties.

(b) Staff

(1) Appointment

The Commission shall appoint a staff director, who shall be paid at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate of basic pay under section 5376 of title 5, and such professional and clerical personnel as may be reasonable and necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its duties under this subchapter without regard to the provisions of title 5 governing appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title, or any other provision of law, relating to the number, classification, and General Schedule rates.

(2) Limitation on compensation

No employee appointed under this subsection (other than the staff director) may be compensated at a rate to exceed the maximum rate applicable to level GS-15 of the General Schedule.

(c) Detailed personnel

On the request of the chairperson of the Commission, the head of any department or agency of the Federal Government is authorized to detail, without reimbursement, any personnel of the department or agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties under this section. The detail of any individual may not result in the interruption or loss of civil service status or other privilege of the individual.

(Pub. L. 104-127, title I, §187, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 941.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The General Schedule, referred to in subsec. (b), is set out under section 5332 of Title 5.

REFERENCES TO MAXIMUM RATE UNDER 5 U.S.C. 5376

For reference to maximum rate under section 5376 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, see section 2(d)(3) of Pub. L. 110-372, set out as an Effective Date of 2008 Amendment note under section 5376 of Title 5.

§ 7318. Termination of Commission

The Commission shall terminate on submission of the final report required by section 7314 of this title.

(Pub. L. 104-127, title I, §188, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 941.)

SUBCHAPTER VIII—MISCELLANEOUS
COMMODITY PROVISIONS

§ 7331. Options pilot program

(a) Pilot programs authorized

Until December 31, 2002, the Secretary of Agriculture may conduct a pilot program for 1 or more agricultural commodities supported under this chapter to ascertain whether futures and options contracts can provide producers with

reasonable protection from the financial risks of fluctuations in price, yield, and income inherent in the production and marketing of the commodities. The pilot program shall be an alternative to other related programs of the Department of Agriculture.

(b) Distribution of pilot program

For each agricultural commodity included in the pilot program, the Secretary may operate the pilot program in not more than 300 counties, except that not more than 25 of the counties may be located in any 1 State. The pilot program for a commodity shall not be operated in any county for more than 3 of the 1996 through 2002 calendar years.

(c) Eligible participants

In operating the pilot program, the Secretary may enter into contract with a producer who—

(1) is eligible for a production flexibility contract, a marketing assistance loan, or other assistance under this chapter;

(2) volunteers to participate in the pilot program during any calendar year in which a county in which the farm of the producer is located is included in the pilot program;

(3) operates a farm located in a county selected for the pilot program; and

(4) meets such other eligibility requirements as the Secretary may establish.

(d) Notice to producers

The Secretary shall provide notice to each producer participating in the pilot program that—

(1) the participation of the producer is voluntary; and

(2) neither the United States, the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, the Department of Agriculture, nor any other Federal agency is authorized to guarantee that participants in the pilot program will be better or worse off financially as a result of participation in the pilot program than the producer would have been if the producer had not participated in the pilot program.

(e) Contracts

The Secretary shall set forth in each contract under the pilot program the terms and conditions for participation in the pilot program and the notice required by subsection (d).

(f) Eligible markets

Trades for futures and options contracts under the pilot program shall be carried out on commodity futures and options markets designated as contract markets under the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1 et seq.).

(g) Recordkeeping

A producer participating in the pilot program shall compile, maintain, and submit (or authorize the compilation, maintenance, and submission) of such documentation as the regulations governing the pilot program require.

(h) Use of Commodity Credit Corporation

The Secretary shall fund and operate the pilot program through the Commodity Credit Corporation, except that the amount of Commodity