

§ 2701. Congressional findings and declaration of policy

Eggs constitute one of the basic, natural foods in the diet. They are produced by many individual egg producers throughout the United States. Egg products, spent fowl, and products of spent fowl are derivatives of egg production. These products move in interstate and foreign commerce and those which do not move in such channels of commerce directly burden or affect interstate commerce of these products. The maintenance and expansion of existing markets and the development of new or improved markets and uses are vital to the welfare of egg producers and those concerned with marketing, using, and processing eggs as well as the general economy of the Nation. The production and marketing of these products by numerous individual egg producers have prevented the development and carrying out of adequate and coordinated programs of research and promotion necessary for the maintenance of markets and the development of new products of, and markets for, eggs, egg products, spent fowl, and products of spent fowl. Without an effective and coordinated method of assuring cooperative and collective action in providing for and financing such programs, individual egg producers are unable to provide, obtain, or carry out the research, consumer and producer information, and promotion necessary to maintain and improve markets for any or all of these products.

It has long been recognized that it is in the public interest to provide an adequate, steady supply of fresh eggs readily available to the consumers of the Nation. Maintenance of markets and the development of new markets, both domestic and foreign, are essential to the egg industry if the consumers of eggs, egg products, spent fowl, or products of spent fowl are to be assured of an adequate, steady supply of such products.

It is therefore declared to be the policy of the Congress and the purpose of this chapter that it is essential and in the public interest, through the exercise of the powers provided herein, to authorize and enable the establishment of an orderly procedure for the development and the financing through an adequate assessment, an effective and continuous coordinated program of research, consumer and producer education, and promotion designed to strengthen the egg industry's position in the marketplace, and maintain and expand domestic and foreign markets and uses for eggs, egg products, spent fowl, and products of spent fowl of the United States. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to mean, or provide for, control of production or otherwise limit the right of individual egg producers to produce commercial eggs.

(Pub. L. 93-428, §2, Oct. 1, 1974, 88 Stat. 1171.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 93-428, §21, Oct. 1, 1974, 88 Stat. 1179, provided that: "This Act [enacting this chapter and provisions set out as notes under this section] shall take effect upon enactment [Oct. 1, 1974]."

SHORT TITLE OF 1993 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 103-188, §1, Dec. 14, 1993, 107 Stat. 2256, provided that: "This Act [amending sections 2707, 2708, and

2711 of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 2703 of this title] may be cited as the 'Egg Research and Consumer Information Act Amendments of 1993'."

SHORT TITLE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 100-575, §1, Oct. 31, 1988, 102 Stat. 2895, provided that: "This Act [amending sections 2707 and 2712 of this title] may be cited as the 'Egg Research and Consumer Information Act Amendments of 1988'."

SHORT TITLE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 96-276, §1, June 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 541, provided: "That this Act [amending sections 2707, 2708, and 2714 of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 4a of this title] may be cited as the 'Egg Research and Consumer Information Act Amendments of 1980'."

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 93-428, §1, Oct. 1, 1974, 88 Stat. 1171, provided: "That this Act [enacting this chapter and provisions set out as notes under this section] shall be known as the 'Egg Research and Consumer Information Act'."

SEPARABILITY

Pub. L. 93-428, §19, Oct. 1, 1974, 88 Stat. 1179, provided that: "If any provision of this Act [enacting this chapter and provisions set out as notes under this section] or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of the Act and of the application of such provision to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby."

§ 2702. Definitions

As used in this chapter—

(a) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture or any other officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture to whom there has heretofore been delegated, or to whom there may hereafter be delegated, the authority to act in his stead.

(b) The term "person" means any individual, group of individuals, partnership, corporation, association, cooperative, or any other entity.

(c) The term "commercial eggs" or "eggs" means eggs from domesticated chickens which are sold for human consumption either in shell egg form or for further processing into egg products.

(d) The term "hen" or "laying hen" means a domesticated female chicken twenty weeks of age or over, raised primarily for the production of commercial eggs.

(e) The term "egg producer" means the person owning laying hens engaged in the production of commercial eggs.

(f) The term "case" means a standard shipping package containing thirty dozen eggs.

(g) The term "hatching eggs" means eggs intended for use by hatcheries for the production of baby chicks.

(h) The term "United States" means the forty-eight contiguous States of the United States of America and the District of Columbia.

(i) The term "promotion" means any action, including paid advertising, to advance the image or desirability of eggs, egg products, spent fowl, or products of spent fowl.

(j) The term "research" means any type of research to advance the image, desirability, marketability, production, or quality of eggs, egg products, spent fowl, or products of spent fowl.