

**(d) Land grant universities**

The Secretary, in consultation with State foresters or equivalent State officials, may provide assistance directly to other State and local natural resource management agencies and land grant universities in implementing this chapter in cases in which the State foresters or equivalent State officials are not able to make fund transfers to other State and local agencies.

(Pub. L. 95-313, §20, as added Pub. L. 101-624, title XII, §1223, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3542.)

**CHAPTER 42—EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

Sec.	
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**§ 2201. Payments to agricultural producers for carrying out wind erosion control or rehabilitation measures; criteria**

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to make payments to agricultural producers who carry out emergency measures to control wind erosion on farmlands or to rehabilitate farmlands damaged by wind erosion, floods, hurricanes, or other natural disasters when, as a result of the foregoing, new conservation problems have been created that (1) if not treated, will impair or endanger the land, (2) materially affect the productive capacity of the land, (3) represent damage that is unusual in character and, except for wind erosion, is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area, and (4) will be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use.

(Pub. L. 95-334, title IV, §401, Aug. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 433.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 95-334, title IV, §406, Aug. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 434, provided that: "The provisions of this title [enacting this chapter] shall become effective October 1, 1978."

**§ 2202. Payments to agricultural producers for carrying out water conservation or water enhancing measures; criteria**

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to make payments to agricultural producers who carry out emergency water conservation or water enhancing measures (including measures carried out to assist confined livestock) during periods of severe drought as determined by the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 95-334, title IV, §402, Aug. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 434; Pub. L. 101-82, title V, §502, Aug. 14, 1989, 103 Stat. 586.)

AMENDMENTS

1989—Pub. L. 101-82, §502(1), inserted "(including measures carried out to assist confined livestock)".

Pub. L. 101-82, §502(2), temporarily substituted "any fiscal year in which there is a period of severe drought" for "periods of severe drought". See Effective and Termination Dates of 1989 Amendment note below.

EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 101-82, title V, §502(2), Aug. 14, 1989, 103 Stat. 586, provided in part that amendment by section 502(2) of Pub. L. 101-82 is effective only for fiscal year 1989.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 1978, see section 406 of Pub. L. 95-334, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

**§ 2203. Emergency measures**

**(a) In general**

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to undertake emergency measures, including the purchase of floodplain easements, for runoff retardation and soil-erosion prevention, in cooperation with landowners and land users, as the Secretary deems necessary to safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed whenever fire, flood, or any other natural occurrence is causing or has caused a sudden impairment of that watershed.

**(b) Floodplain easements**

**(1) Modification and termination**

The Secretary may modify or terminate a floodplain easement administered by the Secretary under this section if—

(A) the current owner agrees to the modification or termination; and

(B) the Secretary determines that the modification or termination—

(i) will address a compelling public need for which there is no practicable alternative; and

(ii) is in the public interest.

**(2) Consideration**

**(A) Termination**

As consideration for termination of an easement and associated agreements under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall enter into compensatory arrangements as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

**(B) Modification**

In the case of a modification under paragraph (1)—

(i) as a condition of the modification, the current owner shall enter into a compensatory arrangement (as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary) to incur the costs of modification; and

(ii) the Secretary shall ensure that—

(I) the modification will not adversely affect the floodplain functions and values for which the easement was acquired;

(II) any adverse impacts will be mitigated by enrollment and restoration of other land that provides greater floodplain functions and values at no additional cost to the Federal Government; and

(III) the modification will result in equal or greater environmental and economic values to the United States.