

§ 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 Repealed.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), 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), 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), 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 collected pursuant to a provision of law referred to in subsection (d), in any manner or for any purpose prohibited in section¹ (a), shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.

(d) Specific provisions for collection of information

For purposes of this section, a provision of law referred to in this subsection means—

(1) the first section of the Act entitled “An Act authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to collect and publish statistics of the grade

and staple length of cotton”, approved March 3, 1927 (7 U.S.C. 471) (commonly referred to as the “Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act”);

(2) the first section of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the collection and publication of statistics of tobacco by the Department of Agriculture”, approved January 14, 1929 (7 U.S.C. 501);

(3) the first section of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the collection and publication of statistics of peanuts by the Department of Agriculture”, approved June 24, 1936 (7 U.S.C. 951);

(4) section 203(g) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1622(g));

(5) section 526(a) of the Revised Statutes (7 U.S.C. 2204(a));

(6) the Act entitled “An Act providing for the publication of statistics relating to spirits of turpentine and resin”, approved August 15, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 2248);

(7) section 42 of title 13;

(8) section 4 of the Act entitled “An Act to establish the Department of Commerce and Labor”, approved February 14, 1903 (15 U.S.C. 1516);

(9) section 2 of the joint resolution entitled “Joint resolution relating to the publication of economic and social statistics for Americans of Spanish origin or descent”, approved June 16, 1976 (15 U.S.C. 1516a);

(10) section 3(e) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1642(e));

(11) section 2204g of this title; or

(12) section 302 of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 1010a) regarding the authority to collect data for the National Resources Inventory.

(e) Information provided to Secretary of Commerce

This section shall not prohibit the release of information under section 2204g(f)(2) of this title.

(Pub. L. 99-198, title XVII, § 1770, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1657; Pub. L. 105-113, § 4(a)(2), (b), Nov. 21, 1997, 111 Stat. 2276; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, § 1000(a)(3) [title III, § 348], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1535, 1501A-207; Pub. L. 107-171, title II, § 2004(b), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 236.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 107-171, § 2004(b)(1), added par. (3).

Subsec. (d)(12). Pub. L. 107-171, § 2004(b)(2), added par. (12).

1999—Subsec. (d)(10), (11). Pub. L. 106-113 added par. (10) and redesignated former par. (10) as (11).

1997—Subsec. (d)(10). Pub. L. 105-113, § 4(a)(2), added par. (10).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 105-113, § 4(b), added subsec. (e).

§ 2277. Contracts by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for services to be performed abroad

Funds available to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) under this and subsequent appropriations shall be available for contracting with individuals for services to be performed outside of the United States, as determined by APHIS to be necessary or appro-

¹ So in original. Probably should be “subsection”.

priate for carrying out programs and activities abroad. Such individuals shall not be regarded as officers or employees of the United States under any law administered by the Office of Personnel Management.

(Pub. L. 102-142, title VII, § 737, Oct. 28, 1991, 105 Stat. 915.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

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

Pub. L. 101-506, title VI, § 641, Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1350.

§ 2278. Consistency with international obligations of United States

(a) In general

Prior to the promulgation of, or amendment to, any order or plan under a research and promotion program relating to research and promotion of any agricultural commodity or product, after November 28, 1990, where such order or plan would provide for an assessment on imports, the Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with the United States Trade Representative regarding the consistency of the provisions of the order or plan with the international obligations of the United States.

(b) Compliance with U.S. international obligations

The Secretary of Agriculture shall take all steps necessary and appropriate to ensure that any order or plan or amendment to such order or plan, and the implementation and enforcement of any order or plan or amendment to such order or plan, or program as it relates to imports is nondiscriminatory and in compliance with the international obligations of the United States, as interpreted by the United States Trade Representative.

(c) Construction

Nothing in this section shall be construed as providing for a cause of action under this section.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XIX, § 1999T, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3928.)

§ 2279. Outreach and assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers

(a) Outreach and assistance

(1) Program

The Secretary of Agriculture shall carry out an outreach and technical assistance program to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers or ranchers—

(A) in owning and operating farms and ranches; and

(B) in participating equitably in the full range of agricultural programs offered by the Department.

(2) Requirements

The outreach and technical assistance program under paragraph (1) shall be used exclusively—

(A) to enhance coordination of the outreach, technical assistance, and education

efforts authorized under agriculture programs; and

(B) to assist the Secretary in—

(i) reaching current and prospective socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers and veteran farmers or ranchers in a linguistically appropriate manner; and

(ii) improving the participation of those farmers and ranchers in Department programs, as reported under section 2279-1 of this title.

(3) Grants and contracts

(A) In general

The Secretary may make grants to, and enter into contracts and other agreements with, an eligible entity that has demonstrated an ability to carry out the requirements described in paragraph (2) to provide outreach and technical assistance under this subsection.

(B) Relationship to other law

The authority to carry out this section shall be in addition to any other authority provided in this or any other Act.

(C) Other projects

Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary may make grants to, and enter into contracts and other agreements with, an organization or institution that received funding under this section before January 1, 1996, to carry out a project that is similar to a project for which the organization or institution received such funding.

(D) Report

The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, and make publicly available, an annual report that includes a list of the following:

(i) The recipients of funds made available under the program.

(ii) The activities undertaken and services provided.

(iii) The number of current and prospective socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers served and outcomes of such service.

(iv) The problems and barriers identified by entities in trying to increase participation by current and prospective socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

(4) Funding

(A) Fiscal years 2009 through 2018

Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall make available to carry out this section—

(i) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

(ii) \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2012; and

(iii) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.

(B) Fiscal year 2013

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.