

may be cited as the 'Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996'."

#### SEVERABILITY

Pub. L. 104-127, title IX, §928, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1197, provided that: "If any provision of this Act [see Short Title note above] or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without regard to the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable."

### § 7202. Definitions

In this chapter:

#### (1) Agricultural Act of 1949

Except in section 7301 of this title, the term "Agricultural Act of 1949" means the Agricultural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.), as in effect prior to the suspensions under section 7301(b)(1) of this title.

#### (2) Considered planted

The term "considered planted" means acreage that is considered planted under title V of the Agricultural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1461 et seq.) and such other acreage as the Secretary considers fair and equitable.

#### (3) Contract

The terms "contract" and "production flexibility contract" mean a production flexibility contract entered into under section 7211 of this title.

#### (4) Contract acreage

The term "contract acreage" means 1 or more crop acreage bases established for contract commodities under title V of the Agricultural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1461 et seq.) that would have been in effect for the 1996 crop (but for suspension under section 7301(b)(1) of this title).

#### (5) Contract commodity

The term "contract commodity" means wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, and rice.

#### (6) Contract payment

The term "contract payment" means a payment made under this subchapter<sup>1</sup> pursuant to a contract.

#### (7) Department

The term "Department" means the Department of Agriculture.

#### (8) Extra long staple cotton

The term "extra long staple cotton" means cotton that—

(A) is produced from pure strain varieties of the *Barbadense* species or any hybrid thereof, or other similar types of extra long staple cotton, designated by the Secretary, having characteristics needed for various end uses for which United States upland cotton is not suitable and grown in irrigated cotton-growing regions of the United States designated by the Secretary or other areas designated by the Secretary as suitable for the production of the varieties or types; and

(B) is ginned on a roller-type gin or, if authorized by the Secretary, ginned on another type gin for experimental purposes.

#### (9) Farm program payment yield

The term "farm program payment yield" means the farm program payment yield established for the 1995 crop of a contract commodity under section 505 of the Agricultural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1465). The Secretary shall adjust the farm program payment yield for the 1995 crop of a contract commodity to account for any additional yield payments made with respect to that crop under subsection (b)(2) of the section.

#### (10) Loan commodity

The term "loan commodity" means each contract commodity, extra long staple cotton, and oilseed.

#### (11) Oilseed

The term "oilseed" means a crop of soybeans, sunflower seed, rapeseed, canola, safflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, or, if designated by the Secretary, other oilseeds.

#### (12) Producer

The term "producer" means an owner, operator, landlord, tenant, or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing a crop and who is entitled to share in the crop available for marketing from the farm, or would have shared had the crop been produced. In determining whether a grower of hybrid seed is a producer, the Secretary shall not take into consideration the existence of a hybrid seed contract.

#### (13) Secretary

The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

#### (14) State

The term "State" means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

#### (15) United States

The term "United States", when used in a geographical sense, means all of the States.

(Pub. L. 104-127, title I, §102, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 897.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

For definition of "this chapter", referred to in text, see note set out under section 7201 of this title.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, referred to in pars. (1), (2), and (4), is act Oct. 31, 1949, ch. 792, 63 Stat. 1051, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 35A (§1421 et seq.) of this title. Title V of the Act, which was classified generally to subchapter IV (§1461 et seq.) of chapter 35A of this title, was omitted from the Code. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1421 of this title and Tables.

Section 505 of the Agricultural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1465), referred to in par. (9), was omitted from the Code.

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be "chapter".

SUBCHAPTER II—PRODUCTION  
FLEXIBILITY CONTRACTS

**§ 7211. Authorization for use of production flexibility contracts**

**(a) Offer and terms**

The Secretary shall offer to enter into a production flexibility contract with an eligible owner or producer described in subsection (b) on a farm containing eligible cropland. Under the terms of a contract, the owner or producer shall agree, in exchange for annual contract payments, to—

(1) comply with applicable conservation requirements under subtitle B of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3811 et seq.);

(2) comply with applicable wetland protection requirements under subtitle C of title XII of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3821 et seq.);

(3) comply with the planting flexibility requirements of section 7218 of this title; and

(4) use the land subject to the contract for an agricultural or related activity, but not for a nonagricultural commercial or industrial use, as determined by the Secretary.

**(b) Eligible owners and producers described**

The following producers and owners shall be eligible to enter into a contract:

(1) An owner of eligible cropland who assumes all or a part of the risk of producing a crop.

(2) A producer (other than an owner) on eligible cropland with a share-rent lease of the eligible cropland, regardless of the length of the lease, if the owner enters into the same contract.

(3) A producer (other than an owner) on eligible cropland who cash rents the eligible cropland under a lease expiring on or after September 30, 2002, in which case the owner is not required to enter into the contract.

(4) A producer (other than an owner) on eligible cropland who cash rents the eligible cropland under a lease expiring before September 30, 2002. The owner of the eligible cropland may also enter into the same contract. If the producer elects to enroll less than 100 percent of the eligible cropland in the contract, the consent of the owner is required.

(5) An owner of eligible cropland who cash rents the eligible cropland and the lease term expires before September 30, 2002, if the tenant declines to enter into a contract. In the case of an owner covered by this paragraph, contract payments shall not begin under a contract until the lease held by the tenant ends.

(6) An owner or producer described in any preceding paragraph regardless of whether the owner or producer purchased catastrophic risk protection for a 1996 crop under section 1508(b) of this title.

**(c) Tenants and sharecroppers**

In carrying out this subchapter, the Secretary shall provide adequate safeguards to protect the interests of tenants and sharecroppers.

**(d) Eligible cropland described**

Land shall be considered to be cropland eligible for coverage under a contract only if the

land has contract acreage attributable to the land and—

(1) for at least 1 of the 1991 through 1995 crops, at least a portion of the land was enrolled in the acreage reduction program authorized for a crop of a contract commodity under section 101B, 103B, 105B, or 107B of the Agricultural Act of 1949 or was considered planted;

(2) was subject to a conservation reserve contract under section 1231 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831) whose term expired, or was voluntarily terminated, on or after January 1, 1995; or

(3) is released from coverage under a conservation reserve contract by the Secretary during the period beginning on January 1, 1995, and ending on the date specified in section 7212(a)(2) of this title.

**(e) Quantity of eligible cropland covered by contract**

Subject to subsection (b)(4), an owner or producer may enroll as contract acreage all or a portion of the eligible cropland on the farm.

**(f) Voluntary reduction in contract acreage**

Subject to subsection (b)(4), an owner or producer who enters into a contract may subsequently reduce the quantity of contract acreage covered by the contract.

(Pub. L. 104-127, title I, §111, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 898.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Food Security Act of 1985, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), (2), is Pub. L. 99-198, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1354, as amended. Subtitles B and C of title XII of the Act are classified generally to subchapters II (§3811 et seq.) and III (§3821 et seq.), respectively, of chapter 58 of Title 16, Conservation. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1985 Amendment note set out under section 1281 of this title and Tables.

This subchapter, referred to in subsec. (c), was in the original “this subtitle”, meaning subtitle B (§§111-118) of title I of Pub. L. 104-127, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 898, which enacted this subchapter and amended sections 1308, 1308-1, and 1308-3 of this title. For complete classification of subtitle B to the Code, see Tables.

Sections 101B, 103B, 105B, and 107B of the Agricultural Act of 1949, referred to in subsec. (d)(1), were classified to sections 1441-2, 1444-2, 1444f, and 1445b-3a, respectively, of this title prior to repeal by section 7301(b)(2)(A)-(D) of this title.

VIOLATION OF CONTRACT; DENIAL OF FUNDS FOR  
SALARIES

Pub. L. 104-180, title VII, §726, Aug. 6, 1996, 110 Stat. 1600, provided that: “None of the funds made available in this Act [see Tables for classification] may be used to pay the salaries of employees of the Department of Agriculture who make payments pursuant to a production flexibility contract entered into under section 111 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-127; 7 U.S.C. 7211) when it is made known to the Federal official having authority to obligate or expend such funds that the land covered by that production flexibility contract is not being used for the production of an agricultural commodity or is not devoted to a conserving use, unless it is also made known to that Federal official that the lack of agricultural production or the lack of a conserving use is a consequence of drought, flood, or other natural disaster.”