

records, or reports required to be maintained under paragraph (1) shall be kept confidential, and shall not be disclosed to the public by any person.

**(B) Disclosure**

Information referred to in subparagraph (A) may be disclosed to the public only if—

- (i) the Secretary considers the information relevant;
- (ii) the information is revealed in a suit or administrative hearing brought at the direction or on the request of the Secretary or to which the Secretary or any officer of the Department is a party; and
- (iii) the information relates to this chapter.

**(C) Misconduct**

Any disclosure of confidential information in violation of subparagraph (A) by any Board member or employee of the Board, except as required by other law or allowed under subparagraph (B) or (D), shall be considered a violation of this chapter.

**(D) General statements**

Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to prohibit—

- (i) the issuance of general statements, based on the reports, of the number of persons subject to the plan or statistical data collected therefrom, which statements do not identify the information furnished by any person; or
- (ii) the publication, by direction of the Secretary, of the name of any person violating the plan, together with a statement of the particular provisions of the plan violated by such person.

**(4) Availability of information**

**(A) Exception**

Except as provided in this chapter, information obtained under this chapter may be made available to another agency of the Federal Government for a civil or criminal law enforcement activity if the activity is authorized by law and if the head of the agency has made a written request to the Secretary specifying the particular information desired and the law enforcement activity for which the information is sought.

**(B) Penalty**

Any person knowingly violating this subsection, on conviction, shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or to imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both, and if an officer or employee of the Board or the Department, shall be removed from office.

**(5) Withholding information**

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize the withholding of information from Congress.

**(i) Use of assessments**

The plan shall provide that the assessments collected under section 6007 of this title shall be used for payment of the expenses in implementing and administering this chapter, with provision for a reasonable reserve, and to cover those

administrative costs incurred by the Secretary in implementing and administering this chapter, except for the salaries of Government employees incurred in conducting referenda.

**(j) Other terms and conditions**

The plan also shall contain such terms and conditions, not inconsistent with this chapter, as determined necessary by the Secretary to effectuate this chapter.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XIX, §1910, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3841; Pub. L. 102-237, title VIII, §802(2), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1882.)

AMENDMENTS

1991—Subsec. (b)(8)(G). Pub. L. 102-237 substituted “subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (3),” for “paragraph 3(A), (B), and (C),” and “subparagraphs (D) and (E) of paragraph (3)” for “paragraph (3)(D) and (E)”.

**§ 6006. Permissive terms in plans**

**(a) In general**

A plan issued pursuant to this chapter may contain one or more of the terms and conditions contained in this section.

**(b) Exemptions**

The plan may provide authority to exempt from the plan pecans used for nonfood uses and authority for the Board to require satisfactory safeguards against improper uses of such exemptions.

**(c) Different payment and reporting schedules**

The plan may provide authority to designate different payment and reporting schedules for growers, grower-shellors, first handlers and importers to recognize differences in marketing practices and procedures utilized in different production areas.

**(d) Promotion**

The plan may provide for the establishment, issuance, effectuation, and administration of appropriate programs or projects for the promotion of pecans and for the disbursement of necessary funds for such purposes, except that—

- (1) any such program or project shall be directed toward increasing the general demand for pecans; and
- (2) such promotional activities shall comply with other restrictions on the use of funds that are established under this chapter.

**(e) Research and information**

The plan may provide for establishing and carrying on research, consumer information, and industry information projects and studies to the end that the marketing and utilization of pecans may be encouraged, expanded, improved, or made more efficient, and for the disbursement of necessary funds for such purposes.

**(f) Reserve funds**

The plan may provide authority to accumulate reserve funds from assessments collected pursuant to this chapter, to permit an effective and continuous coordinated program of research, consumer information, industry information and promotion in years when the production and assessment income may be reduced,

except that the total reserve fund may not exceed the amount budgeted for the operation of the plan for 2 years.

**(g) Foreign markets**

The plan may provide authority to use funds collected under this chapter, with the approval of the Secretary, for the development and expansion of pecan sales in foreign markets.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XIX, §1911, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3847.)

**§ 6007. Assessments**

**(a) In general**

During the effective period of a plan issued pursuant to this chapter, assessments shall be—

(1) levied on all pecans produced in, and all pecans imported into, the United States and marketed; and

(2) deducted from the payment made to a grower for all pecans sold to a first handler.

**(b) Limitation on assessments**

No more than one assessment may be assessed under subsection (a) on a grower (as remitted by a first handler), grower-sheller, or importer, for any lot of pecans handled or imported.

**(c) Remitting assessments**

**(1) In general**

Assessments required under subsection (a) shall be remitted to the Board by—

(A) a first handler; and

(B) an importer.

**(2) Times to remit assessment**

**(A) First handlers**

Each first handler who is not a grower-sheller and who is required to remit an assessment under paragraph (1) shall remit such assessment to the Board no later than the last day of the month following the month that the pecans being assessed were purchased or marketed by such first handler.

**(B) Grower-shellers**

Each first handler who is a grower-sheller and who is required to remit an assessment under paragraph (1) shall remit such assessment to the Board, to the extent practicable, in payments of one-third of the total annual amount of such assessment due to the Board on January 31, March 31, and May 10, or such dates as may be recommended by the Board and approved by the Secretary, during the fiscal year that the pecans being assessed were harvested.

**(C) Importers**

Importers of pecans into the United States shall pay the assessment at the time the pecans enter the United States and shall remit such assessment to the Board.

**(d) Assessment rate**

**(1) In general**

Except as provided in paragraph (2), assessment rates shall be recommended by the Board and approved by the Secretary, except that the maximum assessment shall not exceed—

(A) during the period commencing on the effective date of the issuance of a plan and ending on the date the referendum is conducted under section 6011(a) of this title, one-half cent per pound for in-shell pecans as determined by the Board and approved by the Secretary; and

(B) after such period, 2 cents per pound for in-shell pecans.

**(2) Adjusting rate for shelled pecans**

The rate of assessment of shelled pecans shall be twice the rate established for in-shell pecans pursuant to paragraph (1).

**(3) Special State assessment**

**(A) In general**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, with the approval of the Secretary and if authorized by State law and requested by such State, a special assessment of one-quarter cent per pound for in-shell pecans, and an appropriate per-pound assessment for shelled pecans as adjusted under paragraph (2), shall be remitted to the Board for the purpose of utilizing such funds by a State pecan marketing board for research projects to promote pecans pursuant to State law.

**(B) Collection and remittance**

The Board shall collect such assessments and upon receipt of such assessments shall remit such assessments to the State, within a time period mutually agreed upon between the State and the Board, and approved by the Secretary. In the collection of such State assessments, neither the Board nor the Secretary shall in any manner enforce the collection or remittance of any such payment by producers of such State assessments or investigate nonpayment of such State assessments, except to provide to a State the names of growers from whom such assessments were collected and the respective amounts of assessments collected.

**(C) Regulations**

The Secretary is authorized to make such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

**(e) Late-payment charge**

**(1) In general**

There shall be a late-payment charge imposed on any person who fails to remit, on or before the due date established by the Board under subsection (c)(2), to the Board the total amount for which such person is liable.

**(2) Amount of charge**

The amount of the late-payment charge imposed under paragraph (1) shall be prescribed by the Board with the approval of the Secretary.

**(f) Refund of assessments from escrow account**

**(1) Establishment of escrow account**

During the period beginning on the effective date of a plan first issued under section 6003 of this title and ending on the date the referendum is conducted under section 6011(a) of this title, the Board shall—