

**(b) Subpoenas, oaths, and affirmations****(1) Investigations**

For the purpose of conducting an investigation under subsection (a), the Secretary may administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel the attendance of witnesses, take evidence, and require the production of any records that are relevant to the inquiry. The production of the records may be required from any place in the United States.

**(2) Administrative hearings**

For the purpose of an administrative hearing held under section 7806(a)(2) or 7807(c)(3) of this title, the presiding officer may administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel the attendance of witnesses, take evidence, and require the production of any records that are relevant to the inquiry. The attendance of witnesses and the production of the records may be required from any place in the United States.

**(c) Aid of courts****(1) In general**

In the case of contumacy by, or refusal to obey a subpoena issued under subsection (b) to, any person, the Secretary may invoke the aid of any court of the United States within the jurisdiction of which the investigation or proceeding is conducted, or where the person resides or conducts business, in order to enforce a subpoena issued under subsection (b).

**(2) Order**

The court may issue an order requiring the person referred to in paragraph (1) to comply with a subpoena referred to in paragraph (1).

**(3) Failure to obey**

Any failure to obey the order of the court may be punished by the court as a contempt of court.

**(4) Process**

Process in any proceeding under this subsection may be served in the United States judicial district in which the person being proceeded against resides or conducts business, or wherever the person may be found.

(Pub. L. 106-387, §1(a) [title XII, §1209], Oct. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 1549, 1549A-95.)

**§ 7809. Confidentiality****(a) Prohibition**

No information regarding names of voters or how a person voted in a referendum conducted under this chapter shall be made public.

**(b) Penalty**

Any person who knowingly violates subsection (a) or the confidentiality terms of an order, as described in section 7804(m)(2) of this title, shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000 or to imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both. If the person is an officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture or the Board, the person shall be removed from office.

**(c) Additional prohibition**

No information obtained under this chapter may be made available to any agency or officer

of the Federal Government for any purpose other than the implementation of this chapter or an investigatory or enforcement action necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

**(d) Withholding information from Congress prohibited**

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

(Pub. L. 106-387, §1(a) [title XII, §1210], Oct. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 1549, 1549A-96.)

**§ 7810. Authority for Secretary to suspend or terminate order****(a) Grounds for suspension or termination**

If the Secretary finds that an order, or any provision of the order, obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the policy of this chapter specified in section 7801(b) of this title, the Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of the order or provision under such terms as the Secretary determines are appropriate.

**(b) Effect of lack of approval of order**

If, as a result of a referendum, the Secretary determines that the order is not approved, the Secretary shall, within 180 days after making the determination, suspend, or terminate, as appropriate, collection of assessments under the order, and suspend or terminate, as appropriate, activities under the order in an orderly manner as soon as possible.

(Pub. L. 106-387, §1(a) [title XII, §1211], Oct. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 1549, 1549A-96.)

**§ 7811. Rules of construction****(a) Termination or suspension not an order**

The termination or suspension of an order, or a provision of an order, shall not be considered an order under the meaning of this chapter.

**(b) Rights**

This chapter—

(1) may not be construed to provide for control of production or otherwise limit the right of individual Hass avocado growers, handlers and importers to produce, handle, or import Hass avocados; and

(2) shall be construed to treat all persons producing, handling, and importing Hass avocados fairly and to implement any order in an equitable manner.

**(c) Other programs**

Nothing in this chapter may be construed to preempt or supersede any other program relating to Hass avocado promotion, research, industry information, and consumer information organized and operated under the laws of the United States or of a State.

(Pub. L. 106-387, §1(a) [title XII, §1212], Oct. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 1549, 1549A-96.)

**§ 7812. Regulations**

The Secretary may issue such regulations as are necessary to carry out this chapter and the powers vested in the Secretary by this chapter, including regulations relating to the assessment of late payment charges and interest.

(Pub. L. 106-387, §1(a) [title XII, §1213], Oct. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 1549, 1549A-97.)

### § 7813. Authorization of appropriations

#### (a) In general

There are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year such sums as are necessary to carry out this chapter.

#### (b) Administrative expenses

Funds appropriated under subsection (a) may not be used for the payment of the expenses or expenditures of the Board in administering a provision of an order.

(Pub. L. 106-387, §1(a) [title XII, §1214], Oct. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 1549, 1549A-97.)

## CHAPTER 106—COMMODITY PROGRAMS

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### § 7901. Definitions

In this chapter (other than subchapter III):

#### (1) Agricultural Act of 1949

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 of this title.

#### (2) Base acres

The term “base acres”, with respect to a covered commodity on a farm, means the number of acres established under section 7911 of this title with respect to the covered commodity on the election made by the owner of the farm under subsection (a) of such section.

#### (3) Counter-cyclical payment

The term “counter-cyclical payment” means a payment made to producers on a farm under section 7914 of this title.

#### (4) Covered commodity

The term “covered commodity” means wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, rice, soybeans, and other oilseeds.

#### (5) Direct payment

The term “direct payment” means a payment made to producers on a farm under section 7913 of this title.

#### (6) Effective price

The term “effective price”, with respect to a covered commodity for a crop year, means the price calculated by the Secretary under section 7914 of this title to determine whether counter-cyclical payments are required to be made for that crop year.

#### (7) 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,