

(2) Duties**(A) In general**

The National Coordinator shall—

(i) advise the Secretary and coordinate activities of the Department on programs, policies, and issues relating to beginning farmers and ranchers; and

(ii) in consultation with the applicable State food and agriculture council, determine whether to approve a plan submitted by a State coordinator under subsection (c)(3)(B).

(B) Discretionary duties

Additional duties of the National Coordinator may include—

(i) developing and implementing new strategies—

(I) for outreach to beginning farmers and ranchers; and

(II) to assist beginning farmers and ranchers with connecting to owners or operators that have ended, or expect to end within 5 years, actively owning or operating a farm or ranch; and

(ii) facilitating interagency and interdepartmental collaboration on issues relating to beginning farmers and ranchers.

(3) Reports

Not less frequently than once each year, the National Coordinator shall distribute within the Department and make publicly available a report describing the status of steps taken to carry out the duties described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2).

(4) Contracts and cooperative agreements

In carrying out the duties under paragraph (2), the National Coordinator may enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with an institution of higher education (as defined in section 1001 of title 20), cooperative extension services (as defined in section 3103 of this title), or a nonprofit organization—

(A) to conduct research on the profitability of new farms in operation for not less than 5 years in a region;

(B) to develop educational materials;

(C) to conduct workshops, courses, training, or certified vocational training; or

(D) to conduct mentoring activities.

(c) State beginning farmer and rancher coordinators**(1) In general****(A) Designation**

The National Coordinator, in consultation with State food and agriculture councils and directors of State offices, shall designate in each State a State beginning farmer and rancher coordinator from among employees of State offices.

(B) Requirements

To be designated as a State coordinator, an employee shall—

(i) be familiar with issues relating to beginning farmers and ranchers; and

(ii) have the ability to coordinate with other Federal departments and agencies.

(2) Training

The Secretary shall develop a training plan to provide to each State coordinator knowledge of programs and services available from the Department for beginning farmers and ranchers, taking into consideration the needs of all production types and sizes of agricultural operations.

(3) Duties

A State coordinator shall—

(A) coordinate technical assistance at the State level to assist beginning farmers and ranchers in accessing programs of the Department;

(B) develop and submit to the National Coordinator for approval under subsection (b)(2)(A)(ii) a State plan to improve the coordination, delivery, and efficacy of programs of the Department to beginning farmers and ranchers, taking into consideration the needs of all types of production methods and sizes of agricultural operation, at each county and area office in the State;

(C) oversee implementation of an approved State plan described in subparagraph (B);

(D) work with outreach coordinators in the State offices to ensure appropriate information about technical assistance is available at outreach events and activities; and

(E) coordinate partnerships and joint outreach efforts with other organizations and government agencies serving beginning farmers and ranchers.

(Pub. L. 107-171, title VII, § 7404, as added Pub. L. 115-334, title XII, § 12304, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4965.)

Editorial Notes**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 7404 of Pub. L. 107-171 was classified as a note under section 3101 of this title, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 115-334, title VII, § 7506, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4823.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, and not as part of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, which in part comprises this chapter.

§ 6934b. Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator**(a) Authorization**

The Secretary shall establish in the Department the position of Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator.

(b) Duties

The Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator shall—

(1) promote the role of youth-serving organizations and school-based agricultural education in motivating and preparing young people to pursue careers in the agriculture, food, and natural resources systems;

(2) work to help build youth awareness of the reach and importance of agriculture, across a diversity of fields and disciplines;

(3) identify short-term and long-term interests of the Department and provide opportuni-

ties, resources, input, and coordination with programs and agencies of the Department to youth-serving organizations and school-based agricultural education, including the development of internship opportunities;

(4) share, internally and externally, the extent to which active steps are being taken to encourage collaboration with, and support of, youth-serving organizations and school-based agricultural education;

(5) provide information to youth involved in food and agriculture organizations concerning the availability of, and eligibility requirements for, participation in agricultural programs, with particular emphasis on beginning farmer and rancher programs;

(6) serve as a resource for assisting youth involved in food and agriculture organizations in applying for participation in agriculture; and

(7) advocate on behalf of youth involved in food and agriculture organizations in interactions with employees of the Department.

(c) Contracts and cooperative agreements

For purposes of carrying out the duties under subsection (b), the Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator shall consult with the cooperative extension and the land-grant university systems, and may enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with the research centers of the Agricultural Research Service, cooperative extension and the land-grant university systems, non-land-grant colleges of agriculture, or nonprofit organizations for—

(1) the conduct of regional research on the profitability of small farms;

(2) the development of educational materials;

(3) the conduct of workshops, courses, and certified vocational training;

(4) the conduct of mentoring activities; or

(5) the provision of internship opportunities.

(Pub. L. 107–171, title VII, § 7405, as added Pub. L. 115–334, title XII, § 12305, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4967.)

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 7405 of Pub. L. 107–171 was classified to section 3319f of this title, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 115–334, title XII, § 12301(a)(1), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4950.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, and not as part of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, which in part comprises this chapter.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

DEFINITIONS

“Department” means the Department of Agriculture and “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, see section 7401 of Pub. L. 107–171, set out as a note under section 3319b of this title.

§ 6935. Repealed. Pub. L. 115–334, title XII, § 12414(b), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4981

Section, Pub. L. 113–79, title III, § 3208, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 781, related to Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

§ 6936. Natural Resources Conservation Service

(a) Establishment

The Secretary is authorized to establish and maintain within the Department a Natural Resources Conservation Service.

(b) Functions

If the Secretary establishes the Natural Resources Conservation Service under subsection (a), the Secretary is authorized to assign to the Service jurisdiction over the following:

(1) The Water Bank Act (16 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.).

(2) Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.), except subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of such title [16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.].

(3) Salinity control measures under section 1592(c) of title 43.

(4) The Farms for the Future Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 4201 note; Public Law 101–624).

(5) Such other functions as the Secretary considers appropriate, except functions under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.).

(c) Special concurrence requirements for certain functions

In carrying out the programs specified in paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

(1) acting on the recommendations of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, with the concurrence of the Farm Service Agency, issue regulations to carry out such programs;

(2) ensure that the Natural Resources Conservation Service, in establishing policies, priorities, and guidelines for each such program, does so with the concurrence of the Farm Service Agency at national, State, and local levels;

(3) ensure that, in reaching such concurrence at the local level, the Natural Resources Conservation Service works in cooperation with Soil and Water Conservation Districts or similar organizations established under State law;

(4) ensure that officials of county and area committees established under section 590h(b)(5) of title 16 meet annually with officials of such Districts or similar organizations to consider local conservation priorities and guidelines; and

(5) take steps to ensure that the concurrence process does not interfere with the effective delivery of such programs.

(d) Use of Federal and non-Federal employees

(1) Use authorized

In the implementation of functions assigned to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Secretary may use interchangeably in local offices of the Service both Federal employees of the Department and non-Federal employees of county and area committees established under section 590h(b)(5) of title 16.

(2) Exception

Notwithstanding paragraph (1), no personnel action (as defined in section 2302(a)(2)(A) of title 5) may be taken with respect to a Federal