

Agency (FEMA) when relocating communities out of flood plains.

(iii) The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Pub. L. 83-566), also known as the Small Watersheds Program. This program provides for cooperation with local sponsors, State, and other public agencies in the installation of planned works of improvement and land treatment measures in approved watershed projects. Eligible measures include flood prevention, water conservation, recreation, agricultural water management, flood plain easements, municipal and industrial water, and rural water supply.

§ 601.2 Functions reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture.

(a) Designation of new Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) areas. Once designated, these areas may receive RC&D Program assistance from NRCS.

(b) Administration of the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 (Pub. L. 95-192) to conduct an appraisal and develop a national conservation program every 5 years.

§ 601.3 Natural disaster assistance.

(a) To assist in emergencies caused by natural disasters, NRCS may:

(1) Provide technical and financial assistance under authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 (Pub. L. 81-516, Stat. 184, 33 U.S.C. 701b) and Section 403 of Title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-334).

(2) Provide technical assistance for rehabilitation of land and conservation systems for which other U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies provide cost sharing.

(3) Provide technical assistance on rehabilitation of rural lands damaged by natural disaster.

(4) Provide assistance in evaluating the severity of the disaster, assessing problems created, and determining the amount and kind of emergency work needed for restoration.

(5) Provide available information, maps, and reports on projects described in Parts 621, 622, 623, and 640 of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1950.

(6) Provide assistance in locating heavy earthmoving equipment.

(7) Make light trucks and other types of NRCS transportation equipment available for emergency use.

(8) Provide technical assistance in locating alternate routes when existing roads and highways cannot be used.

(b) In a disaster, it is the responsibility of the state conservationist to determine the extent of NRCS assistance. In presidentially-declared disasters, NRCS coordinates emergency assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

§ 601.4 Defense responsibilities.

In the event of nuclear attack, NRCS is responsible for providing:

(a) Technical guidance, based upon results of radiological monitoring and the extent of radiological contamination to farmers, ranchers, and others relating to:

(1) The selection and use of land for agricultural production.

(2) The harvesting of crops.

(3) The use of crops stored on the farm.

(4) The use, conservation, disposal, and control of water to insure adequate usable water for agricultural purposes and to prevent floods.

(5) The safety of livestock.

(b) Basic soil information, land use guides, and onsite technical assistance in selecting land for production and in applying practices to increase production of food and fiber with maximum efficiency.