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requests for proposals, awarding grants, and administering grants under any competitive agricultural research, education, or extension grant program (7 U.S.C. 3319b).

(132) Administer a program of competitive grants, establish education teams, and establish an online clearinghouse of curricula and training materials and programs, all for training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for the benefit of beginning farmers and ranchers (7 U.S.C. 3319f).

(133) Administer agricultural research, education, and extension activities (including through competitive grants), using any authority available to the Secretary, to reduce the vulnerability of the United States food and agricultural system to chemical or biological attack, to continue partnerships with institutions of higher education and other institutions to help form stable, long-term programs to enhance the biosecurity of the United States, to make competitive grants to universities and qualified research institutions for research on counterbioterrorism, and to counter or otherwise respond to chemical or biological attack (7 U.S.C. 3351).

(134) Administer a program of competitive grants to colleges and universities for expansion and security upgrades to enhance the security of agriculture against bioterrorism (7 U.S.C. 3352).

(135) Administer programs for distance education grants and resident instruction grants to eligible institutions in insular areas that have demonstrable capacity to carry out teaching and extension programs in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3361–3363).

(136) Administer a program of cooperative research (including through competitive award of grants and cooperative agreements to colleges and universities) and extension projects on carbon cycling in soils and plants, the exchange of other greenhouse gases from agriculture, and the carbon sequestration benefits of conservation practices (7 U.S.C. 6711).

(137) Administer a program, in coordination with State veterinarians and other appropriate State animal

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health professionals, to conduct research, testing, and evaluation of programs for the control and management of Johne's disease in livestock (7 U.S.C. 7629).

(138) Administer a program of grants to the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, the Boy Scouts of America, the National 4-H Council, and the National FFA Organization to establish pilot projects to expand the programs carried out by the organizations in rural areas and small towns (7 U.S.C. 7630).

(139) Oversee implementation of the termination of Federal schedule A civil service appointments of State agricultural extension employees at land-grant colleges and universities (section 7220 of Pub. L. 107–171).

(140) Administer and direct a program of grants to the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (section 10805 of Pub. L. 107–171).

(b) [Reserved]

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 62 FR 65595, Dec. 15, 1997; 65 FR 5417, Feb. 4, 2000; 68 FR 27445, May 20, 2003]

§2.67 Administrator, Economic Research Service.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to §2.21 (a)(3), (a)(8) and (a)(9), subject to reservations in §2.21(b)(2), the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics to the Administrator, Economic Research Service:

(1) Conduct economic research on matters of importance to cooperatives as authorized by the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627).

(2) Conduct economic and social science research and analyses relating to:

(i) Food and agriculture situation and outlook;

(ii) The production, marketing, and distribution of food and fiber products (excluding forest and forest products), including studies of the performance of the food and agricultural sector of the economy in meeting needs and wants of consumers;

(iii) Basic and long-range, worldwide, economic analyses and research on supply, demand, and trade in food and fiber products and the effects on the

U.S. food and agriculture system, including general economic analyses of the international financial and monetary aspects of agricultural affairs;

(iv) Natural resources, including studies of the use and management of land and water resources, the quality of these resources, resource institutions, and watershed and river basin development problems; and

(v) Rural people and communities, as authorized by title II of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), and the Act of June 29, 1935, as amended (7 U.S.C. 427).

(3) Perform economic and other social science research under section 104(b)(1) and (3) of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, as amended, with funds administered by the Foreign Agricultural Service (7 U.S.C. 1704(b)(1), (3)).

(4) Investigate and make findings as to the effect upon the production of food and upon the agricultural economy of any proposed action pending before the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for presentation in the public interest, before said Administrator, other agencies, or before the courts.

(5) Review economic data and analyses used in speeches by Department personnel and in materials prepared for release through the press, radio and television.

(6) Cooperate and work with national and international institutions and other persons throughout the world in the performance of agricultural research and extension activities to promote and support the development of a viable and sustainable global agricultural system. Such work may be carried out by:

(i) Exchanging research materials and results with the institutions or persons;

(ii) Engaging in joint or coordinated research;

(iii) Entering into cooperative arrangements with Departments and Ministries of Agriculture in other nations to conduct research, extension; and education activities (limited to arrangements either involving no exchange of funds or involving disbursements by the agency to the institutions of other nations), and then re-

porting these arrangements to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics;

(iv) Stationing representatives at such institutions or organizations in foreign countries; or

(v) Entering into agreements with land-grant colleges and universities, other organizations, institutions, or individuals with comparable goals, and with the concurrence of the Office of International Cooperation and Development, USDA, international organizations (limited to agreements either involving no exchange of funds or involving disbursements by the agency to the cooperator), and then reporting these agreements to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (7 U.S.C. 3291(a)).

(7) Prepare for transmittal by the Secretary to the President and both Houses of Congress, an analytical report under section 5 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3504) concerning the effect of holdings, acquisitions, and transfers of U.S. agricultural land by foreign persons.

(8) Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), concerning estimates of supplies of agricultural commodities and evaluation of requirements therefor; food and agricultural aspects of economic stabilization and economic research; and coordination of energy programs.

(9) Enter into contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements to further research programs in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3318).

(10) Enter into cost-reimbursable agreements relating to agricultural research (7 U.S.C. 3319a).

(11) Represent the Department in international organizational activities and on international technical committees concerned with agricultural science, education, and development activities, including library and information science activities.

(12) Facilitate access by research and extension professionals, farmers, and other interested persons in the United

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States to, and the use by those persons of, organic research conducted outside the United States (7 U.S.C. 5925d).

(13)–(14) [Reserved]

(15) Solicit and consider input and recommendations from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, extension, or education (7 U.S.C. 7612(b)).

(16) Consider the results of the annual review performed by the Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board regarding the relevance to priorities of the funding of all agricultural research, extension, or education activities conducted or funded by the Department and the adequacy of funding, when formulating each request for proposals, and evaluating proposals, involving an agricultural research, extension, or education activity funded, on a competitive basis, by the Department; and solicit and consider input from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, extension, or education regarding the prior year's request for proposals for each activity funded on a competitive basis (7 U.S.C. 7613(c)).

(17) Establish procedures that ensure scientific peer review of all research activities conducted by the Economic Research Service (7 U.S.C. 7613(d)).

(18) Include in each issuance of projections of net farm income an estimate of the net farm income earned by commercial producers in the United States that will in addition show the estimate of net farm income attributable to commercial producers of livestock, loan commodities, and agricultural commodities other than loan commodities (7 U.S.C. 7998).

(b) *Reservation.* The following authority is reserved to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics: Review all proposed decisions having substantial economic policy implications.

[60 FR 56393, Nov. 8, 1995, as amended at 62 FR 65596, Dec. 15, 1997; 64 FR 40736, July 28, 1999; 65 FR 5418, Feb. 4, 2000; 68 FR 27446, May 20, 2003]

§ 2.68 Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.21 (a)(3) and (a)(8), subject to reservations in § 2.21(b)(2), the following delegations

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of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics to the Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service:

(1) Prepare crop and livestock estimates and administer reporting programs, including estimates of production, supply, price, and other aspects of the U.S. agricultural economy, collection of statistics, conduct of enumerative and objective measurement surveys, construction and maintenance of sampling frames, and related activities. Prepare reports of the Agricultural Statistics Board of the Department of Agriculture covering official state and national estimates (7 U.S.C. 476, 951, and 2204).

(2) Take such security precautions as are necessary to prevent disclosure of crop or livestock report information prior to the scheduled issuance time approved in advance by the Secretary of Agriculture and take such actions as are necessary to avoid disclosure of confidential data or information supplied by any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or association (18 U.S.C. 1902, 1905, and 2072).

(3) Improve statistics in the Department; maintain liaison with OMB and other Federal agencies for coordination of statistical methods and techniques.

(4) Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 *et seq.*), concerning coordination of damage assessment; and food and agricultural aspects of agricultural statistics.

(5) Enter into contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements to further research and statistical reporting programs in the food and agricultural sciences (7 U.S.C. 3318).

(6) Enter cost-reimbursable agreements relating to agricultural research and statistical reporting (7 U.S.C. 3319a).

(7) Cooperate and work with national and international institutions and other persons throughout the world in the performance of agricultural research and extension activities to promote and support the development of a