

Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA

§ 1467.1

under State law and without regard to any claim or lien against the crop, or proceeds thereof, in favor of the owner or any other creditor except agencies of the U.S. Government. The regulations governing offsets and withholdings found at part 1403 of this chapter shall be applicable to contract payments.

(b) EQIP participants may assign any payments in accordance with part 1404 of this chapter.

§ 1466.35 Misrepresentation and scheme or device.

(a) A person, joint venture, legal entity or tribe that is determined to have erroneously represented any fact affecting a program determination made in accordance with this Part shall not be entitled to contract payments and must refund to NRCS all payments, plus interest determined in accordance with part 1403 of this chapter.

(b) A producer who is determined to have knowingly:

(1) Adopted any scheme or device that tends to defeat the purpose of the program;

(2) Made any fraudulent representation;

(3) Adopted any scheme or device for the purpose of depriving any tenant or sharecropper of the payments to which such person would otherwise be entitled under the program; or

(4) Misrepresented any fact affecting a program determination, shall refund to NRCS all payments, plus interest determined in accordance with 7 CFR 1403, received by such producer with respect to all contracts. The producer's interest in all contracts shall be terminated.

(c) In accordance with §1466.26(e), NRCS may determine the producer ineligible for future conservation programs funding.

§ 1466.36 Environmental credits for conservation improvements.

NRCS recognizes that environmental benefits will be achieved by implementing conservation practices funded through EQIP, and environmental credits may be gained as a result of implementing activities compatible with the purposes of an EQIP contract. NRCS asserts no direct or indirect interest on

these credits. However, NRCS retains the authority to ensure that operation and maintenance (O&M) requirements for EQIP-funded improvements are met, consistent with §§1466.21 and 1466.22. Where activities may impact the land under an EQIP contract, participants are highly encouraged to request an O&M compatibility determination from NRCS prior to entering into any credit agreements.

PART 1467—WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM

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AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 3837 *et seq.*

SOURCE: 74 FR 2328, Jan. 15, 2009, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1467.1 Applicability.

(a) The regulations in this part set forth the policies, procedures, and requirements for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) as administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for program implementation.

(b) The Chief, NRCS, may implement WRP in any of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands of the United States, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.