

PART 3700—ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS

Sec.

3700.1 General.

3700.2 Organization.

3700.3 Functions.

3700.4 Authority to act for the Administrator.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301 and 552, and 7 CFR 2.67.

SOURCE: 61 FR 1827, Jan. 24, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

§ 3700.1 General.

The Economic Research Service (ERS), originally established in 1961 under the authority of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627), was reestablished as an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture of September 30, 1981 (46 FR 47747), in response to Secretary's Memorandum 1000–1 of June 17, 1981, entitled "Reorganization of Department." The mission of ERS is to provide economic and other social science information and analysis for public and private decisions on agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural America. Its primary customers are USDA policy officials and program administrators, the Office of the White House, Congress, and environmental, consumer, and rural public interest groups, including farm groups and industry.

§ 3700.2 Organization.

ERS maintains its offices at 1301 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005–4788. The organization consists of:

(a) The Administrator;

(b) Associate Administrator;

(c) Five Divisions; Commercial Agriculture Division, Food and Consumer Economics Division, Information Services Division, Natural Resources and Environment Division, and Rural Economy Division; and

(d) Office of Energy and New Uses.

§ 3700.3 Functions.

(a) *Administrator and Associate Administrator.* The Administrator and Associate Administrator are responsible for developing and implementing policies and plans in support of a program of economic and social science research, analysis, and data dissemination. Gen-

eral functions are: Conducting research and staff analysis, and developing short to long-term outlook analysis and economic indicators.

(b) *Director, Commercial Agriculture Division.* The Director, Commercial Agriculture Division, is responsible for conducting a program of economic research; economic intelligence gathering, analysis, and reporting; and data development and dissemination on economic conditions, U.S. and foreign policies, and agriculture production, trade, and marketing. General functions are:

(1) Developing and monitoring current intelligence and indicators on domestic and international agricultural markets and related farm and trade developments and short to long-term forecasts of domestic and world agricultural markets.

(2) Assessing the technological, economic, and institutional forces influencing U.S. and world agricultural markets.

(3) Conducting special analyses of U.S. and world agricultural markets for policy officials to assist in policy development and the operation of USDA programs.

(4) Collecting necessary information and performing international, national, and regional macroeconomics analysis to estimate the effects of macro economic trends and events in the global economy on the American farm sector.

(c) *Director, Food and Consumer Economic Division.* The Director, Food and Consumer Economic Division, is responsible for providing economic research, monitoring and statistical indicators, and staff and the policy analysis of consumer and food marketing issues, including: Consumption determinants and trends; consumer demand for food quality, safety, and nutrition; food security; market competition; vertical coordination; nutrition education and food assistance programs; and food safety regulation. General functions are:

(1) Analyzing consumer behavior and food choices, including research regarding the socio-demographic and economic determinants of food and nutrient consumption; consumer valuation