

stock producers to cover economic losses incurred by such producers in connection with the production of livestock.

(c) Types of assistance

The assistance provided to livestock producers may be in the following forms:

- (1) Indemnity payments to livestock producers who incur livestock mortality losses.
- (2) Livestock feed assistance to livestock producers affected by shortages of feed.
- (3) Compensation for sudden increases in production costs.
- (4) Such other assistance, and for such other economic losses, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) Limitations

The Secretary may not use the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to provide assistance under this section.

(e) Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(Pub. L. 107-171, title X, §10104, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 488; Pub. L. 108-447, div. A, title VII, §785(b)(2), Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 2850; Pub. L. 109-97, title VII, §784(b)(3), Nov. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 2162.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, and not as part of the Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Act of 1988 which comprises this subchapter or as part of the Agricultural Act of 1949 which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of the 1949 Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1421 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2005—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-97 substituted “bison, horses, and deer” for “and bison”.

2004—Pub. L. 108-447 added subsec. (a) and redesignated former subsecs. (a) to (d) as (b) to (e), respectively.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2005 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 109-97 applicable to losses resulting from a disaster that occurs on or after July 28, 2005, and inapplicable to losses resulting from a disaster that occurs before such date, see section 784(c) of Pub. L. 109-97, set out as a note under section 1471 of this title.

CHAPTER 36—CROP INSURANCE

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§ 1501. Short title; application of other laws

This chapter may be cited as the "Federal Crop Insurance Act". Except as otherwise expressly provided the provisions in titles I to IV, inclusive, shall not apply with respect to this chapter, and the term "Act" wherever it appears in such titles shall not be construed to include this chapter.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, § 501, 52 Stat. 72.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

"Titles I to IV, inclusive," and "such titles", referred to in text, are references to titles I to IV of act Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, 52 Stat. 31, as amended, known as the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, which is classified principally to chapter 35 (§ 1281 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1281 of this title and Tables.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-224, title I, § 171, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 397, provided that:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this Act [probably means this title, see Tables for classification] and the amendments made by this Act take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [June 20, 2000].

"(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

"(1) 2001 FISCAL YEAR.—The following provisions and the amendments made by the provisions take effect on October 1, 2000:

"(A) Subtitle C [§§ 131-134 of Pub. L. 106-224, enacting sections 1522 to 1524 of this title and amending sections 1518 and 7331 of this title].

"(B) Section 146 [amending section 1508 of this title].

"(C) Section 163 [114 Stat. 395].

"(2) 2001 CROP YEAR.—The amendments made by the following provisions apply beginning with the 2001 crop of an agricultural commodity:

"(A) Subsections (a), (b), and (c) of section 101 [amending section 1508 of this title].

"(B) Section 102(a) [amending section 1508 of this title].

"(C) Subsections (a), (b), and (c) of section 103 [amending section 1508 of this title and provisions set out as a note under section 1508 of this title].

"(D) Section 104 [amending section 1508 of this title].

"(E) Section 105(b) [amending section 1508 of this title].

"(F) Section 108 [enacting section 1508a of this title].

"(G) Section 109 [amending section 7333 of this title].

"(H) Section 162 [amending section 1508 of this title].

"(3) 2001 REINSURANCE YEAR.—The amendments made by the following provisions apply beginning with the 2001 reinsurance year:

"(A) Section 101(d) [amending section 1508 of this title].

"(B) Section 102(b) [amending section 1508 of this title].

"(C) Section 103(d) [amending section 1508 of this title]."

SHORT TITLE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-224, § 1(a), June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 358, provided that: "This Act [see Tables for classification] may be cited as the 'Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000'."

SHORT TITLE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 103-354, title I, § 101(a), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3179, provided that: "This title [enacting sections 1433f, 1515, 1521, and 2008f of this title, amending sections 1441-2, 1444-2, 1444f, 1445b-3a, 1502 to 1509, 1511, 1513, 1516, and 1518 to 1520 of this title, sections 901 and 902 of Title 2, The Congress, and section 1014 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure, repealing sections 1446i and 1508a of this title, enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 1502, 1506, and 1508 of this title and sections 901 and 902 of Title 2, and repealing provisions set out as a note under section 1421 of this title] may be cited as the 'Federal Crop Insurance Reform Act of 1994'."

SHORT TITLE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 96-365, § 1, Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1312, provided: "That this Act [amending sections 1441, 1444, 1444c, 1445b, 1504, 1505, 1506, 1507, 1508, 1516, and 1518 and repealing section 1515 of this title and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 1504, 1508, and 1516 of this title] may be cited as the 'Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1980'."

REGULATIONS

Pub. L. 106-224, title I, § 172, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 397, provided that: "Not later than 120 days after the

date of the enactment of this Act [June 20, 2000], the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate regulations to carry out this Act [probably means this title, see Tables for classification] and the amendments made by this Act.”

SAVINGS CLAUSE

Pub. L. 106-224, title I, §173, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 398, provided that: “The Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) and section 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333), as in effect on day before the date of the enactment of this Act [June 20, 2000], shall—

“(1) continue to apply with respect to the 1999 crop year; and

“(2) apply with respect to the 2000 crop year, to the extent the application of an amendment made by this Act [probably means this title, see Tables for classification] is delayed under section 171(b) [set out as an Effective Date of 2000 Amendment note above] or by the terms of the amendment.”

§ 1502. Purpose; definitions; protection of information; relation to other laws

(a) Purpose

It is the purpose of this chapter to promote the national welfare by improving the economic stability of agriculture through a sound system of crop insurance and providing the means for the research and experience helpful in devising and establishing such insurance.

(b) Definitions

As used in this chapter:

(1) Additional coverage

The term “additional coverage” means a plan of crop insurance coverage providing a level of coverage greater than the level available under catastrophic risk protection.

(2) Approved insurance provider

The term “approved insurance provider” means a private insurance provider that has been approved by the Corporation to provide insurance coverage to producers participating in the Federal crop insurance program established under this chapter.

(3) Board

The term “Board” means the Board of Directors of the Corporation established under section 1505(a) of this title.

(4) Corporation

The term “Corporation” means the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation established under section 1503 of this title.

(5) Department

The term “Department” means the United States Department of Agriculture.

(6) Loss ratio

The term “loss ratio” means the ratio of all sums paid by the Corporation as indemnities under any eligible crop insurance policy to that portion of the premium designated for anticipated losses and a reasonable reserve, other than that portion of the premium designated for operating and administrative expenses.

(7) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(8) Transitional yield

The term “transitional yield” means the maximum average production per acre or equivalent measure that is assigned to acreage for a crop year by the Corporation in accordance with the regulations of the Corporation whenever the producer fails—

(A) to certify that acceptable documentation of production and acreage for the crop year is in the possession of the producer; or

(B) to present the acceptable documentation on the demand of the Corporation or an insurance company reinsured by the Corporation.

(c) Protection of confidential information

(1) General prohibition against disclosure

Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary, any other officer or employee of the Department or an agency thereof, an approved insurance provider and its employees and contractors, and any other person may not disclose to the public information furnished by a producer under this chapter.

(2) Authorized disclosure

(A) Disclosure in statistical or aggregate form

Information described in paragraph (1) may be disclosed to the public if the information has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form that does not allow the identification of the person who supplied particular information.

(B) Consent of producer

A producer may consent to the disclosure of information described in paragraph (1). The participation of the producer in, and the receipt of any benefit by the producer under, this chapter or any other program administered by the Secretary may not be conditioned on the producer providing consent under this paragraph.

(3) Violations; penalties

Section 2276(c) of this title shall apply with respect to the release of information collected in any manner or for any purpose prohibited by this subsection.

(d) Relation to other laws

(1) Terms and conditions of policies and plans

The terms and conditions of any policy or plan of insurance offered under this chapter that is reinsured by the Corporation shall not—

(A) be subject to the jurisdiction of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission or the Securities and Exchange Commission; or

(B) be considered to be accounts, agreements (including any transaction that is of the character of, or is commonly known to the trade as, an “option”, “privilege”, “indemnity”, “bid”, “offer”, “put”, “call”, “advance guaranty”, or “decline guaranty”), or transactions involving contracts of sale of a commodity for future delivery, traded or executed on a contract market for the purposes of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1 et seq.).

(2) Effect on CFTC and Commodity Exchange Act

Nothing in this chapter affects the jurisdiction of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission or the applicability of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) to any transaction conducted on a contract market under that Act by an approved insurance provider to offset the approved insurance provider's risk under a plan or policy of insurance under this chapter.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §502, 52 Stat. 72; June 21, 1941, ch. 214, §1, 55 Stat. 255; Aug. 1, 1947, ch. 440, §4, 61 Stat. 719; Pub. L. 103-354, title I, §102(a), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3180; Pub. L. 106-224, title I, §§122, 141, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 377, 389.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Commodity Exchange Act, referred to in subsec. (d)(1)(B), (2), is act Sept. 21, 1922, ch. 369, 42 Stat. 998, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 1 (§1 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2000—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 106-224, §122, added subsec. (c).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 106-224, §141, added subsec. (d).

1994—Pub. L. 103-354 substituted "Purpose and definitions" for "Declaration of purpose" in section catchline, designated existing text as subsec. (a) and added heading, and added subsec. (b).

1947—Act Aug. 1, 1947, amended section generally, restating purpose of chapter to improve all agriculture by crop insurance instead of being limited only to wheat.

1941—Act June 21, 1941, substituted "crop" for "wheat-crop" and "agricultural commodities" for "wheat".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Section 120 of title I of Pub. L. 103-354 provided that: "Except as otherwise provided in this title, this title [enacting sections 1433f, 1515, 1521, and 2008f of this title, amending this section and sections 1441-2, 1444-2, 1444f, 1445b-3a, 1503 to 1509, 1511, 1513, 1516, and 1518 to 1520 of this title, sections 901 and 902 of Title 2, The Congress, and section 1014 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure, repealing sections 1446i and 1508a of this title, enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 1501, 1506, and 1508 of this title and sections 901 and 902 of Title 2, and repealing provisions set out as a note under section 1421 of this title] and the amendments made by this title shall become effective on the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 13, 1994] and shall apply to the provision of crop insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) beginning with the 1995 crop year. With respect to the 1994 crop year, the Federal Crop Insurance Act (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) shall continue to apply."

§ 1503. Federal Crop Insurance Corporation; creation; offices

To carry out the purposes of this chapter, there is hereby created as an agency of and within the Department a body corporate with the name "Federal Crop Insurance Corporation". The principal office of the Corporation shall be located in the District of Columbia, but there may be established agencies or branch offices elsewhere in the United States under rules and regulations prescribed by the Board.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §503, 52 Stat. 72; Pub. L. 103-354, title I, §102(b)(1), (4)(A), (B), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3180, 3181.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-354 in first sentence struck out "of Agriculture" after "Department" and "(herein called the Corporation)" before period at end, and in second sentence struck out "of Directors" after "Board".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-354 effective Oct. 13, 1994, and applicable to provision of crop insurance under Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) beginning with 1995 crop year, with such Act, as in effect on the day before Oct. 13, 1994, to continue to apply with respect to 1994 crop year, see section 120 of Pub. L. 103-354, set out as a note under section 1502 of this title.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Under authority of Ex. Ord. No. 9577, June 29, 1945, Secretary of Agriculture consolidated administration of program of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation in Production and Marketing Administration by Memorandum 1118, Aug. 18, 1945. 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §501, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7877, 60 Stat. 1100, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, transferred administration of program of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to Secretary of Agriculture. In his letter to Congress President stated that purpose of this transfer was to permit Secretary of Agriculture to continue consolidation already effected in Production and Marketing Administration.

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation consolidated with other agencies into Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration for duration of war, see Ex. Ord. No. 9069.

§ 1504. Capital stock of Corporation

(a) Subscription by United States

The Corporation shall have a capital stock of \$500,000,000 subscribed by the United States of America, payment for which shall, with the approval of the Secretary, be subject to call in whole or in part by the Board.

(b) Appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary for the purpose of subscribing to the capital stock of the Corporation.

(c) Issuance of stock to Secretary of the Treasury

Receipts for payments by the United States of America for or on account of such stock shall be issued by the Corporation to the Secretary of the Treasury and shall be evidence of the stock ownership by the United States of America.

(d) Cancellation of receipts; nonliability of Corporation

Within thirty days after September 26, 1980, the Secretary of the Treasury shall cancel, without consideration, receipts for payments for or on account of the stock of the Corporation outstanding on September 26, 1980, and such receipts shall cease to be liabilities of the Corporation.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §504, 52 Stat. 72; Aug. 25, 1949, ch. 512, §§4, 6, 63 Stat. 665; Pub. L. 95-47, June 16, 1977, 91 Stat. 228; Pub. L. 95-181, §1, Nov. 15, 1977, 91 Stat. 1373; Pub. L. 96-365, title I, §101, Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1312; Pub. L. 103-354, title I, §102(b)(2), (4)(C), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3180, 3181.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-354, § 102(b)(2)(A), (4)(C), struck out “of Agriculture” after “Secretary” and “of Directors of the Corporation” after “Board”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 103-354, § 102(b)(2)(B), struck out “Federal Crop Insurance” before “Corporation outstanding”.

1980—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 96-365, § 101(a), substituted “\$500,000,000” for “\$200,000,000”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 96-365, § 101(b), added subsec. (d). 1977—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 95-181 substituted “\$200,000,000” for “\$150,000,000”.

Pub. L. 95-47 substituted “\$150,000,000” for “\$100,000,000”.

1949—Subsec. (a). Act Aug. 25, 1949, § 4, struck out second sentence relating to restoration of impairment of capital stock.

Subsec. (b). Act Aug. 25, 1949, § 6, authorized appropriations for subscribing to corporation’s capital stock in order to offset losses suffered prior to time program was placed on an experimental basis in 1947.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-354 effective Oct. 13, 1994, and applicable to provision of crop insurance under Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) beginning with 1995 crop year, with such Act, as in effect on the day before Oct. 13, 1994, to continue to apply with respect to 1994 crop year, see section 120 of Pub. L. 103-354, set out as a note under section 1502 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Section 112 of Pub. L. 96-365 provided that: “Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the provisions of this Act amending the Federal Crop Insurance Act [amending sections 1504, 1505 to 1507, 1508, and 1518 of this title and repealing section 1515 of this title] shall become effective on the date of enactment of this Act [Sept. 26, 1980].”

Section 101(a) of Pub. L. 96-365 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective Oct. 1, 1980.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Administration of program of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation transferred to Secretary of Agriculture by 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 501, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7877, 60 Stat. 1100. See note set out under section 1503 of this title.

Wartime consolidation of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation into Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration, see note set out under section 1503 of this title.

CANCELLATION OF OUTSTANDING RECEIPTS FOR STOCK IN EXCESS OF \$27,000,000

Section 5 of act Aug. 25, 1949, provided that: “The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to cancel, without consideration, outstanding receipts for payments for or on account of the stock of the Corporation in excess of \$27,000,000.”

INSTITUTION OF EXPANDED PROGRAM; PAYMENT OF COST FOR FISCAL YEAR 1950

Section 11 of act Aug. 25, 1949, provided that: “The expanded program authorized herein [sections 1504, 1505, 1506, 1507, and 1508 of this title] shall be instituted beginning with the 1950 crop year, the additional cost for fiscal year 1950 to be financed, pending the appropriation of supplemental funds, from any appropriation available for operating and administrative expenses of the Corporation for such fiscal year.”

§ 1504a. Capitalization of Corporation

The payment for capital stock in the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation shall be effected by transfer of funds on the books of the Treasury Department to the credit of the Corporation.

(June 27, 1940, ch. 437, title I, 54 Stat. 640.)

CODIFICATION

Section was not enacted as part of the Federal Crop Insurance Act which comprises this chapter.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Administration of program of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation transferred to Secretary of Agriculture by 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 501, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7877, 60 Stat. 1100. See note set out under section 1503 of this title.

Wartime consolidation of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation into Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration, see note set out under section 1503 of this title.

§ 1505. Management of Corporation**(a) Board of Directors****(1) Establishment**

The management of the Corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors subject to the general supervision of the Secretary.

(2) Composition

The Board shall consist of only the following members:

(A) The manager of the Corporation, who shall serve as a nonvoting ex officio member.

(B) The Under Secretary of Agriculture responsible for the Federal crop insurance program.

(C) One additional Under Secretary of Agriculture (as designated by the Secretary).

(D) The Chief Economist of the Department of Agriculture.

(E) One person experienced in the crop insurance business.

(F) One person experienced in reinsurance or the regulation of insurance.

(G) Four active producers who are policy holders, are from different geographic areas of the United States, and represent a cross-section of agricultural commodities grown in the United States, including at least one specialty crop producer.

(3) Appointment of private sector members

The members of the Board described in subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) of paragraph (2)—

(A) shall be appointed by, and hold office at the pleasure of, the Secretary;

(B) shall not be otherwise employed by the Federal Government;

(C) shall be appointed to staggered 4-year terms, as determined by the Secretary; and

(D) shall serve not more than two consecutive terms.

(4) Chairperson

The Board shall select a member of the Board to serve as Chairperson.

(b) Vacancies

Vacancies in the Board so long as there shall be four members in office shall not impair the powers of the Board to execute the functions of the Corporation, and four of the members in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Board.

(c) Compensation

The Directors of the Corporation who are employed in the Department shall receive no addi-

tional compensation for their services as such Directors but may be allowed necessary traveling and subsistence expenses when engaged in business of the Corporation, outside of the District of Columbia. The Directors of the Corporation who are not employed by the Federal Government shall be paid such compensation for their services as Directors as the Secretary shall determine, but such compensation shall not exceed the daily equivalent of the rate prescribed for grade GS-18 under section 5332 of title 5 when actually employed, and actual necessary traveling and subsistence expenses, or a per diem allowance in lieu of subsistence expenses, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5 for persons in Government service employed intermittently, when on the business of the Corporation away from their homes or regular places of business.

(d) Manager of Corporation

The manager of the Corporation shall be its chief executive officer, with such power and authority as may be conferred by the Board. The manager shall be appointed by, and hold office at the pleasure of, the Secretary.

(e) Expert review of policies, plans of insurance, and related material

(1) Review by experts

The Board shall establish procedures under which any related policy or plan of insurance, as well as any related material or modification of such a policy or plan of insurance, to be offered under this chapter shall be subject to independent reviews by persons experienced as actuaries and in underwriting, as determined by the Board.

(2) Review of Corporation policies and plans

Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Board shall contract with at least five persons to each conduct a review of the policy or plan of insurance, of whom—

(A) not more than one person may be employed by the Federal Government; and

(B) at least one person must be designated by approved insurance providers pursuant to procedures determined by the Board.

(3) Review of private submissions

If the reviews under paragraph (1) cover a policy or plan of insurance, or any related material or modification of a policy or plan of insurance, submitted under section 1508(h) of this title—

(A) the Board shall contract with at least five persons to each conduct a review of the policy or plan of insurance, of whom—

(i) not more than one person may be employed by the Federal Government; and

(ii) none may be employed by an approved insurance provider; and

(B) each review must be completed and submitted to the Board not later than 30 days prior to the end of the 120-day period described in section 1508(h)(4)(D) of this title.

(4) Consideration of reviews

The Board shall include reviews conducted under this subsection as part of the consideration of any policy or plan or insurance, or

any related material or modification of a policy or plan of insurance, proposed to be offered under this chapter.

(5) Funding of reviews

Each contract to conduct a review under this subsection shall be funded from amounts made available under section 1516(b)(2)(A)(ii) of this title.

(6) Relation to other authority

The contract authority provided in this subsection is in addition to any other contracting authority that may be exercised by the Board under section 1506(l) of this title.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §505, 52 Stat. 72; Aug. 1, 1947, ch. 440, §8, 61 Stat. 719; Aug. 25, 1949, ch. 512, §7, 63 Stat. 665; Pub. L. 96-365, title I, §102, Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1312; Pub. L. 103-354, title I, §§102(b)(3), (4), 103, 115(a), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3181, 3204; Pub. L. 106-224, title I, §142(a)(1), (b), June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 389, 390.)

AMENDMENTS

2000—Pub. L. 106-224, §142(a)(1), inserted section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106-224, §142(a)(1), added heading and text of subsec. (a) and struck out former subsec. (a) which read as follows: “The management of the Corporation shall be vested in a Board subject to the general supervision of the Secretary. The Board shall consist of the manager of the Corporation, the Under Secretary of Agriculture responsible for the Federal crop insurance program, one additional Under Secretary of Agriculture (as designated by the Secretary of Agriculture), one person experienced in the crop insurance business who is not otherwise employed by the Federal Government, and three active farmers who are not otherwise employed by the Federal Government. The Board shall be appointed by, and hold office at the pleasure of, the Secretary. The Secretary shall not be a member of the Board. The Secretary, in appointing the three active farmers who are not otherwise employed by the Federal Government, shall ensure that such members are policyholders and are from different geographic areas of the United States, in order that diverse agricultural interests in the United States are at all times represented on the Board.”

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 106-224, §142(b), added subsec. (e).

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-354, §102(b)(3), (4)(A), (C), in first sentence struck out “of Directors (hereinafter called the ‘Board’)” after “Board” and “of Agriculture” after “Secretary”.

Pub. L. 103-354, §103, in second sentence struck out “or Assistant Secretary” after “Corporation, the Under Secretary” and substituted “one additional Under Secretary of Agriculture (as designated by the Secretary of Agriculture)” for “the Under Secretary or Assistant Secretary of Agriculture responsible for the farm credit programs of the Department of Agriculture”.

Pub. L. 103-354, §115(a)(1), substituted “The Board shall be appointed by, and hold office at the pleasure of, the Secretary. The Secretary shall not be a member of the Board.” for former third sentence which read as follows: “The Board shall be appointed by, and hold office at the pleasure of the Secretary, who shall not, himself, be a member of the Board.”

Pub. L. 103-354, §102(b)(4)(C), in third sentence struck out “of Agriculture” before “, who shall not”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 103-354, §102(b)(4)(B), (C), struck out “of Agriculture” after “Department” in first sentence and after “Secretary” in second sentence.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 103-354, §§102(b)(4)(C), 115(a)(2), in first sentence struck out “upon him” before “by the Board”, and in second sentence substituted “The manager shall” for “He shall” and struck out “of Agriculture” after “Secretary”.

1980—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 96-365, §102(a), increased Board membership to seven from five persons; substituted provisions including on the Board the Under Secretaries or Assistant Secretaries of Agriculture for crop insurance and farm credit programs and one person experienced in crop insurance business for former provisions including on the Board two other Agriculture Department employees and two persons with insurance business experience; authorized appointment of three active farmers not otherwise Federal employees; and required farmer appointees to be policyholders and representative of agricultural interests of different geographic areas.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 96-365, §102(b), substituted “four” for “three” in two places.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 96-365, §102(c), substituted as limitation on compensation of Directors of the Corporation not employed by the Federal Government the daily equivalent of rate prescribed for grade GS-18 under section 5332 of title 5 when actually employed, and actual necessary traveling and subsistence expenses, or the per diem allowance in lieu of subsistence expenses, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5 for persons in Government service employed intermittently, when on the business of the Corporation away from their homes or regular places of business for former limitation of \$50 per day when actually employed and transportation expenses plus not to exceed \$10 per diem in lieu of subsistence expenses when on business of the Corporation away from their homes or regular places of business.

1949—Subsec. (c). Act Aug. 25, 1949, reduced compensation of members of Board of Directors who are not Government employees from “not to exceed \$100 per day” to “not to exceed \$50 per day”, and changed from “subsistence expenses” to “transportation expenses and not to exceed \$10 per diem”.

1947—Act Aug. 1, 1947, amended section generally and, among other changes, increased membership of Board from three to five, provided for two members with insurance experience, not Government employees, increased from two to three the number of members necessary to carry on functions and to constitute a quorum, provided for compensation and expenses of Board members not otherwise Government employed, and for appointment of manager of corporation by the Secretary of Agriculture instead of being selected by the Board.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-354 effective Oct. 13, 1994, and applicable to provision of crop insurance under Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) beginning with 1995 crop year, with such Act, as in effect on the day before Oct. 13, 1994, to continue to apply with respect to 1994 crop year, see section 120 of Pub. L. 103-354, set out as a note under section 1502 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-365 effective Sept. 26, 1980, see section 112 of Pub. L. 96-365, set out as a note under section 1504 of this title.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Administration of program of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation transferred to Secretary of Agriculture by 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §501, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7877, 60 Stat. 1100. See note set out under section 1503 of this title.

Wartime consolidation of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation into Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration, see note set out under section 1503 of this title.

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 1, 2001

Pub. L. 106-224, title I, §142(a)(2), (3), June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 390, provided that:

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The initial members of the Board of Directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Cor-

poration required to be appointed under section 505(a)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act [7 U.S.C. 1505(a)(3)] (as amended by paragraph (1)) shall be appointed during the period beginning February 1, 2001, and ending April 1, 2001.

“(3) EFFECT ON EXISTING BOARD.—A member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation on the date of the enactment of this Act [June 20, 2000] may continue to serve as a member of the Board until the members referred to in paragraph (2) are first appointed.”

REFERENCES IN OTHER LAWS TO GS-16, 17, OR 18 PAY RATES

References in laws to the rates of pay for GS-16, 17, or 18, or to maximum rates of pay under the General Schedule, to be considered references to rates payable under specified sections of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, see section 529 [title I, §101(c)(1)] of Pub. L. 101-509, set out in a note under section 5376 of Title 5.

§ 1506. General powers

(a) Succession

The Corporation shall have succession in its corporate name.

(b) Corporate seal

The Corporation may adopt, alter, and use a corporate seal, which shall be judicially noticed.

(c) Property

The Corporation may purchase or lease and hold such real and personal property as it deems necessary or convenient in the transaction of its business, and may dispose of such property held by it upon such terms as it deems appropriate.

(d) Suit

The Corporation, subject to the provisions of section 1508(j) of this title, may sue and be sued in its corporate name, but no attachment, injunction, garnishment, or other similar process, mesne or final, shall be issued against the Corporation or its property. The district courts of the United States, including the district courts of the District of Columbia and of any territory or possession, shall have exclusive original jurisdiction, without regard to the amount in controversy, of all suits brought by or against the Corporation. The Corporation may intervene in any court in any suit, action, or proceeding in which it has an interest. Any suit against the Corporation shall be brought in the District of Columbia, or in the district wherein the plaintiff resides or is engaged in business.

(e) Bylaws and regulations

The Corporation may adopt, amend, and repeal bylaws, rules, and regulations governing the manner in which its business may be conducted and the powers granted to it by law may be exercised and enjoyed.

(f) Mails

The Corporation shall be entitled to the use of the United States mails in the same manner as the other executive agencies of the Government.

(g) Assistance

The Corporation, with the consent of any board, commission, independent establishment, or executive department of the Government, including any field service thereof, may avail

itself of the use of information, services, facilities, officials, and employees thereof in carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

(h) Collection and sharing of information

(1) Surveys and investigations

The Corporation may conduct surveys and investigations relating to crop insurance, agriculture-related risks and losses, and other issues related to carrying out this chapter.

(2) Data collection

The Corporation shall assemble data for the purpose of establishing sound actuarial bases for insurance on agricultural commodities.

(3) Sharing of records

Notwithstanding section 1502(c) of this title, records submitted in accordance with this chapter and section 7333 of this title shall be available to agencies and local offices of the Department, appropriate State and Federal agencies and divisions, and approved insurance providers for use in carrying out this chapter, such section 7333 of this title, and other agricultural programs.

(i) Expenditures

The Corporation shall determine the character and necessity for its expenditures under this chapter and the manner in which they shall be incurred, allowed, and paid, without regard to the provisions of any other laws governing the expenditure of public funds and such determinations shall be final and conclusive upon all other officers of the Government.

(j) Settling claims

The Corporation shall have the authority to make final and conclusive settlement and adjustment of any claim by or against the Corporation or a fiscal officer of the Corporation.

(k) Other powers

The Corporation shall have such powers as may be necessary or appropriate for the exercise of the powers herein specifically conferred upon the Corporation and all such incidental powers as are customary in corporations generally.

(l) Contracts

The Corporation may enter into and carry out contracts or agreements, and issue regulations, necessary in the conduct of its business, as determined by the Board. State and local laws or rules shall not apply to contracts, agreements, or regulations of the Corporation or the parties thereto to the extent that such contracts, agreements, or regulations provide that such laws or rules shall not apply, or to the extent that such laws or rules are inconsistent with such contracts, agreements, or regulations.

(m) Submission of certain information

(1) Social security account and employer identification numbers

The Corporation shall require, as a condition of eligibility for participation in the multiple peril crop insurance program, submission of social security account numbers, subject to the requirements of section 405(c)(2)(C)(iii)¹ of

title 42, and employer identification numbers, subject to the requirements of section 6109(f) of title 26.

(2) Notification by policyholders

Each policyholder shall notify each individual or other entity that acquires or holds a substantial beneficial interest in such policyholder of the requirements and limitations under this chapter.

(3) Identification of holders of substantial interests

The Manager of the Corporation may require each policyholder to provide to the Manager, at such times and in such manner as prescribed by the Manager, the name of each individual that holds or acquires a substantial beneficial interest in the policyholder.

(4) "Substantial beneficial interest" defined

For purposes of this subsection, the term "substantial beneficial interest" means not less than 5 percent of all beneficial interests in the policyholder.

(n) Penalties

(1) False information

If a person willfully and intentionally provides any false or inaccurate information to the Corporation or to any insurer with respect to an insurance plan or policy under this chapter, the Corporation may, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing on the record—

(A) impose a civil fine of not to exceed \$10,000 on the person; and

(B) disqualify the person from purchasing catastrophic risk protection or receiving noninsured assistance for a period of not to exceed 2 years, or from receiving any other benefit under this chapter for a period of not to exceed 10 years.

(2) Assessment of penalty

In assessing penalties under this subsection, the Corporation shall consider the gravity of the violation.

(o) Actuarial soundness

(1) Projected loss ratio as of October 1, 1995

The Corporation shall take such actions as are necessary to improve the actuarial soundness of Federal multiperil crop insurance coverage made available under this chapter to achieve, on and after October 1, 1995, an overall projected loss ratio of not greater than 1.1, including—

(A) instituting appropriate requirements for documentation of the actual production history of insured producers to establish recorded or appraised yields for Federal crop insurance coverage that more accurately reflect the associated actuarial risk, except that the Corporation may not carry out this paragraph in a manner that would prevent beginning farmers (as defined by the Secretary) from obtaining Federal crop insurance;

(B) establishing in counties, to the extent practicable, a crop insurance option based on area yields in a manner that allows an insured producer to qualify for an indemnity if

¹ See References in Text note below.

a loss has occurred in a specified area in which the farm of the insured producer is located;

(C) establishing a database that contains the social security account and employee identification numbers of participating producers, agents, and loss adjusters and using the numbers to identify insured producers, agents, and loss adjusters who are high risk for actuarial purposes and insured producers who have not documented at least 4 years of production history, to assess the performance of insurance providers, and for other purposes permitted by law; and

(D) taking any other measures authorized by law to improve the actuarial soundness of the Federal crop insurance program while maintaining fairness and effective coverage for agricultural producers.

(2) Projected loss ratio as of October 1, 1998

The Corporation shall take such actions, including the establishment of adequate premiums, as are necessary to improve the actuarial soundness of Federal multiperil crop insurance made available under this chapter to achieve, on and after October 1, 1998, an overall projected loss ratio of not greater than 1.075.

(3) Nonstandard classification system

To the extent that the Corporation uses the nonstandard classification system, the Corporation shall apply the system to all insured producers in a fair and consistent manner.

(p) Regulations

The Secretary and the Corporation are each authorized to issue such regulations as are necessary to carry out this chapter.

(q) Purchase of American-made equipment and products

(1) Sense of Congress

It is the sense of Congress that, to the greatest extent practicable, all equipment and products purchased by the Corporation using funds made available to the Corporation should be American-made.

(2) Notice requirement

In providing financial assistance to, or entering into any contract with, any entity for the purchase of equipment and products to carry out this chapter, the Corporation, to the greatest extent practicable, shall provide to the entity a notice describing the statement made in paragraph (1).

(r) Procedures for responding to certain inquiries

(1) Procedures required

The Corporation shall establish procedures under which the Corporation will provide a final agency determination in response to an inquiry regarding the interpretation by the Corporation of this chapter or any regulation issued under this chapter.

(2) Implementation

Not later than 180 days after June 23, 1998, the Corporation shall issue regulations to implement this subsection. At a minimum, the regulations shall establish—

(A) the manner in which inquiries described in paragraph (1) are required to be submitted to the Corporation; and

(B) a reasonable maximum number of days within which the Corporation will respond to all inquiries.

(3) Effect of failure to timely respond

If the Corporation fails to respond to an inquiry in accordance with the procedures established pursuant to this subsection, the person requesting the interpretation of this chapter or regulation may assume the interpretation is correct for the applicable reinsurance year.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §506, 52 Stat. 73; June 21, 1941, ch. 214, §2, 55 Stat. 255; Aug. 1, 1947, ch. 440, §7, 61 Stat. 719; Aug. 25, 1949, ch. 512, §8, 63 Stat. 665; Pub. L. 96-365, title I, §§103, 107(a), Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1313, 1317; Pub. L. 101-624, title XXII, §§2201(a), 2202, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3951, 3954; Pub. L. 102-237, title VI, §601(1), (2), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1878; Pub. L. 103-66, title XIV, §1403(a), Aug. 10, 1993, 107 Stat. 333; Pub. L. 103-354, title I, §§104, 119(f)(1), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3181, 3208; Pub. L. 105-185, title V, §533, June 23, 1998, 112 Stat. 583; Pub. L. 106-224, title I, §§121(b), 124(b), June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 377, 378.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 405(c)(2)(C)(iii) of title 42, referred to in subsec. (m)(1), was redesignated section 405(c)(2)(C)(iv) of title 42 by Pub. L. 103-296, title III, §321(a)(9)(B), Aug. 15, 1994, 108 Stat. 1536.

AMENDMENTS

2000—Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 106-224, §124(b), added subsec. (h) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (h). Text read as follows: “The Corporation shall assemble data for the purpose of establishing sound actuarial bases for insurance on agricultural commodities.”

Subsecs. (q) to (s). Pub. L. 106-224, §121(b), redesignated subsecs. (r) and (s) as (q) and (r), respectively, and struck out former subsec. (q), which related to program compliance by insurance providers and required notice to any provider of any error, omission, or failure to follow Corporation regulations or procedures for which provider may be responsible and which may result in a debt owed the Corporation.

1998—Subsec. (s). Pub. L. 105-185 added subsec. (s).

1994—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 103-354, §119(f)(1), substituted “1508(j)” for “1508(f)” in first sentence.

Subsec. (j). Pub. L. 103-354, §104(2), added subsec. (j). Former subsec. (j) redesignated (k).

Subsec. (k). Pub. L. 103-354, §104(1), redesignated subsec. (j) as (k). Former subsec. (k) redesignated (l).

Subsec. (l). Pub. L. 103-354, §104(1), (3), redesignated subsec. (k) as (l), in first sentence inserted “, and issue regulations,” after “agreements”, and in second sentence substituted “contracts, agreements, or regulations” for “contracts or agreements” wherever appearing. Former subsec. (l) redesignated (m).

Subsec. (m). Pub. L. 103-354, §104(1), redesignated subsec. (l) as (m). Former subsec. (m) redesignated (n).

Subsec. (n). Pub. L. 103-354, §104(1), redesignated subsec. (m) as (n). Former subsec. (n) redesignated (o).

Subsec. (n)(1)(B). Pub. L. 103-354, §104(4), added subpar. (B) and struck out former subpar. (B) which read as follows: “disqualify the person from receiving any benefit under this chapter for a period of not to exceed 10 years.”

Subsec. (o). Pub. L. 103-354, §104(1), (5)(B), redesignated subsec. (n) as (o) and reenacted heading without change.

Subsec. (o)(1). Pub. L. 103-354, §104(5)(B), designated existing provisions as par. (1) and inserted heading. Former par. (1) redesignated subpar. (A).

Subsec. (o)(1)(A). Pub. L. 103-354, §104(5)(A), (C), redesignated former par. (1) as subpar. (A) and substituted “(as defined by the Secretary) from obtaining Federal crop insurance” for “from obtaining adequate Federal crop insurance, as determined by the Corporation”.

Subsec. (o)(1)(B). Pub. L. 103-354, §104(5)(A), redesignated former par. (2) as subpar. (B).

Subsec. (o)(1)(C). Pub. L. 103-354, §104(5)(A), (D), redesignated former par. (3) as subpar. (C) and inserted “, agents, and loss adjusters” after “participating producers” and after “identify insured producers”.

Subsec. (o)(1)(D). Pub. L. 103-354, §104(5)(A), redesignated former par. (4) as subpar. (D).

Subsec. (o)(2) to (4). Pub. L. 103-354, §104(5)(A), (E), added pars. (2) and (3) and redesignated former pars. (2) to (4) as subpars. (B) to (D), respectively, of par. (1) and realigned their margins.

Subsecs. (p) to (r). Pub. L. 103-354, §104(6), added subsecs. (p) to (r).

1993—Subsec. (n). Pub. L. 103-66 added subsec. (n).

1991—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 102-237, §601(1), substituted “section 1508(f)” for “section 1508(c)” and a period for semicolon at end.

Subsec. (m)(1). Pub. L. 102-237, §601(2), in introductory provisions substituted “willfully” for “wilfully” and in subpar. (A) struck out “to” after “exceed”.

1990—Pub. L. 101-624, §2202(b)(1), substituted “General powers” for “General powers of Corporation” as section catchline and struck out “The Corporation—” before subsec. (a).

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-624, §2202(b)(2), (13), inserted heading and “The Corporation” and substituted period for semicolon at end.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 101-624, §2202(b)(3), (13), inserted heading and “The Corporation” and substituted period for semicolon at end.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101-624, §2202(b)(4), (13), inserted heading and “The Corporation” and substituted period for semicolon at end.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 101-624, §2202(b)(5), inserted heading and “The Corporation,”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 101-624, §2202(b)(6), (13), inserted heading and “The Corporation” and substituted period for semicolon at end.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 101-624, §2202(b)(7), (13), inserted heading and “The Corporation” and substituted period for semicolon at end.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 101-624, §2202(b)(8), (13), inserted heading and “The Corporation,” and substituted period for semicolon at end.

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 101-624, §2202(b)(9), (13), inserted heading and “The Corporation” and substituted period for semicolon at end.

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 101-624, §2202(b)(10), (14), inserted heading and “The Corporation” and substituted period for “; and” at end.

Subsec. (j). Pub. L. 101-624, §2202(b)(11), (14), inserted heading and “The Corporation” and substituted period for “; and” at end.

Subsec. (k). Pub. L. 101-624, §2202(b)(12), inserted heading and “The Corporation”.

Subsec. (l). Pub. L. 101-624, §2201(a), added subsec. (l).

Subsec. (m). Pub. L. 101-624, §2202(a), added subsec. (m).

1980—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 96-365, §103(1), substituted “may purchase” for “may make contracts and purchase”. See subsec. (k) of this section.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 96-365, §103(2), substituted provision granting exclusive original jurisdiction to district courts of the United States, including district courts of the District of Columbia and of any territory or possession, for prior grant to any State court of record having general jurisdiction or any United States district court, authorized intervention by the Corporation in proceedings, and required suits against the Corporation to be brought in the District of Columbia or in district wherein plaintiff resides or is engaged in business.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 96-365, §103(3), substituted “use of the United States mails” for “free use of the United States mails”.

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 96-365, §107(a), struck out authority for conducting researches, surveys, and investigations relating to crop insurance. See section 1508(i) of this title.

Subsec. (k). Pub. L. 96-365, §103(4), added subsec. (k).

1949—Subsec. (h). Act Aug. 25, 1949, struck out obsolete language and included authority for a study of the possibility of developing some type of livestock insurance.

1947—Subsec. (d). Act Aug. 1, 1947, provided for suits in State courts of general jurisdiction or in United States district courts regardless of amount in controversy.

1941—Subsec. (h). Act June 21, 1941, substituted “and preparatory to the application of the chapter to other basic commodities when so provided by law, shall assemble data relative to field corn, for the purpose of establishing a satisfactory actuarial basis for such commodity” for “for wheat and other agricultural commodities.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 105-185, title V, §537, June 23, 1998, 112 Stat. 584, provided that: “Except as provided in section 535 [112 Stat. 583], this subtitle [subtitle C (§§531-537) of title V of Pub. L. 105-185, amending this section and sections 1508 and 1516 of this title and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section] and the amendments made by this subtitle take effect on July 1, 1998.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-354 effective Oct. 13, 1994, and applicable to provision of crop insurance under Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) beginning with 1995 crop year, with such Act, as in effect on the day before Oct. 13, 1994, to continue to apply with respect to 1994 crop year, see section 120 of Pub. L. 103-354, set out as a note under section 1502 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1993 AMENDMENT

Section 1403(c)(1) of Pub. L. 103-66 provided that: “Except as provided in paragraph (2), this section [amending this section and sections 1508 and 1508a of this title] and the amendments made by this section shall become effective on October 1, 1993.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-365 effective Sept. 26, 1980, see section 112 of Pub. L. 96-365, set out as a note under section 1504 of this title.

REGULATIONS

Section 1403(c)(2) of Pub. L. 103-66 provided that: “Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Aug. 10, 1993], the Secretary of Agriculture shall publish, for public comment, proposed regulations to implement the amendments made by this section [amending this section and sections 1508 and 1508a of this title].”

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Administration of program of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation transferred to Secretary of Agriculture by 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §501, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7877, 60 Stat. 1100. See note set out under section 1503 of this title.

Wartime consolidation of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation into Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration, see note set out under section 1503 of this title.

REQUIRED TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF STANDARD REINSURANCE AGREEMENTS

Pub. L. 106-224, title I, §148, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 394, provided that: “Notwithstanding section 536 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1506 note; Public Law 105-185),

the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation may renegotiate the Standard Reinsurance Agreement once during the 2001 through 2005 reinsurance years.”

Pub. L. 105-185, title V, §536, June 23, 1998, 112 Stat. 584, provided that:

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘approved insurance provider’ and ‘Corporation’ have the meanings given the terms in section 502(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1502(b)).

“(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

“(1) INCORPORATION OF AMENDMENTS.—For each of the 1999 and subsequent reinsurance years, the Corporation shall ensure that each Standard Reinsurance Agreement between an approved insurance provider and the Corporation reflects the amendments to the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) that are made by this subtitle [see Effective Date of 1998 Amendment note above] to the extent the amendments are applicable to approved insurance providers.

“(2) RETENTION OF EXISTING PROVISIONS.—Except to the extent necessary to implement the amendments made by this subtitle, each Standard Reinsurance Agreement described in paragraph (1) shall contain the following provisions of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement for the 1998 reinsurance year:

“(A) Section II, concerning the terms of reinsurance and underwriting gain and loss for an approved insurance provider.

“(B) Section III, concerning the terms for subsidies and administrative fees for an approved insurance provider.

“(C) Section IV, concerning the terms for loss adjustment for an approved insurance provider under catastrophic risk protection.

“(D) Section V.C., concerning interest payments between the Corporation and an approved insurance provider.

“(E) Section V.I.5., concerning liquidated damages.

“(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—To implement this subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle, the Corporation is not required to amend provisions of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement not specifically affected by this subtitle or an amendment made by this subtitle.”

CROP INSURANCE PROVIDER EVALUATION

Section 118 of Pub. L. 103-354 provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (referred to in this section as the ‘Corporation’) shall jointly evaluate the financial arrangement between the Corporation and approved insurance providers to determine the quality, costs, and efficiencies of providing the benefits of multiple peril crop insurance to producers of agricultural commodities covered under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.).

“(b) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS.—The Corporation shall require private insurance providers and agents to supply, and the private insurance providers and agents shall supply, records and information necessary to make the determinations and evaluations required under this section. The Corporation shall solicit from the approved insurance providers and agents proposals for modifying or altering the requirements, regulations, procedures, and processes related to implementing the Federal Crop Insurance Act to reduce the operating and administrative costs of the providers and agents.

“(c) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after receipt of information and cost-reduction proposals under subsection (b), the Corporation shall evaluate the information and proposals obtained and report the results of the evaluation to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

“(d) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 13, 1994], the Com-

troller General and the Corporation shall submit a final report that provides the evaluation required under subsection (a) to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate. In making the evaluation, the Comptroller General and the Corporation shall—

“(1) consider the changes made by the Corporation in response to increased program participation resulting from the enactment of this Act;

“(2) include an evaluation and opinion of the accuracy and reasonableness of—

“(A) the average actual costs for approved insurance providers to deliver multiple peril crop insurance;

“(B) the cost per policy of complying with the requirements, regulations, procedures, and processes of the Federal Crop Insurance Act;

“(C) the cost differences for various provider firm sizes and any business delivered by the Federal Government;

“(D) the adequacy of the standard reimbursement for potential new providers; and

“(E) the identification of any new costs related to the enactment of this Act not previously identified in the information reported by the providers;

“(3) compare delivery costs of multiple peril crop insurance to other insurance coverages that the provider may sell and determine the extent, if any, to which any funds provided to carry out the Federal Crop Insurance Act are being used to fund any other business enterprise operated by the provider;

“(4)(A) assess alternative methods for reimbursing providers for reasonable and necessary expenses associated with delivery of multiple peril crop insurance;

“(B) recommend changes under this paragraph that reasonably demonstrate the need to achieve the greatest operating efficiencies on the part of the provider and the Corporation has been recognized; and

“(C) identify areas for improved operating efficiencies, if any, in the requirements made by the Corporation for compliance and program integrity;

“(5) assess the potential for alternative forms of reinsurance arrangements for providers of different firm sizes, taking into consideration—

“(A) the need to achieve a reasonable return on the capital of the provider compared to other lines of insurance;

“(B) the relative risk borne by the provider for the different lines of insurance;

“(C) the availability and price of commercial reinsurance; and

“(D) any additional costs that may be incurred by the Federal Government in carrying out the Federal Crop Insurance Act; and

“(6) include an analysis of the effect of the current or proposed reinsurance arrangements on providers having different business levels.

“(e) INFORMATION.—

“(1) PRIVACY.—In conducting the evaluation required by this section, the Comptroller General and the Corporation shall maintain the privacy of proprietary information.

“(2) SUBPOENAS.—The Comptroller General shall have the power to subpoena information relevant to the evaluation required by this section from any private insurance provider. The Comptroller General shall allow the Corporation access to the information subpoenaed taking into consideration the necessity of preserving the privacy of proprietary information.”

§§ 1506a, 1506b. Omitted

CODIFICATION

Section 1506a, act July 30, 1947, ch. 356, title II, §202, 61 Stat. 550, which related to authority of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to make expenditures, was from the Department of Agriculture Appropriation Act, 1948, and was not repeated in subsequent appropriation acts.

Section 1506b, acts June 29, 1954, ch. 409, title II, §201, 68 Stat. 317; May 23, 1955, ch. 43, title II, §201, 69 Stat.

60; June 4, 1956, ch. 355, title II, §201, 70 Stat. 238, which provided that crop inspection costs and loss adjustments could be considered as nonadministrative or non-operating expenses, was from the Department of Agriculture and Farm Credit Administration Appropriation Acts for fiscal years 1955-57, and was not repeated in subsequent appropriation acts.

§ 1507. Personnel of Corporation

(a) Appointment; civil service exemption; compensation

The Secretary shall appoint such officers and employees as may be necessary for the transaction of the business of the Corporation pursuant to civil-service laws and regulations, fix their compensation in accordance with the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, define their authority and duties, and delegate to them such of the powers vested in the Corporation as the Secretary may determine appropriate. However, personnel paid by the hour, day, or month when actually employed may be appointed without regard to civil-service laws and regulations.

(b) Application of employees' compensation law

Insofar as applicable, the benefits of subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, shall extend to persons given employment under the provisions of this chapter, including the employees of the committees and associations referred to in subsection (c) of this section and the members of such committees.

(c) Use of associations of producers and private insurance companies; payment of administrative and program expenses; sale of crop insurance through private agents and brokers; renewals, exclusion of compensation from premium rates, indemnification for errors or omissions of Commission or its contractors

In the administration of this chapter, the Board shall, to the maximum extent possible, (1) establish or use committees or associations of producers and make payments to them to cover the administrative and program expenses, as determined by the Board, incurred by them in co-operating in carrying out this chapter, (2) contract with private insurance companies, private rating bureaus, and other organizations as appropriate for actuarial services, services relating to loss adjustment and rating plans of insurance, and other services to avoid duplication by the Federal Government of services that are or may readily be available in the private sector and to enable the Corporation to concentrate on regulating the provision of insurance under this chapter and evaluating new products and materials submitted under section 1508(h) or 1523 of this title, and reimburse such companies for the administrative and program expenses, as determined by the Board, incurred by them, under terms and provisions and rates of compensation consistent with those generally prevailing in the insurance industry, and (3) encourage the sale of Federal crop insurance through licensed private insurance agents and brokers and give the insured the right to renew such insurance for successive terms through such agents and brokers, in which case the agent or broker shall be reasonably compensated from premiums paid by

the insured for such sales and renewals recognizing the function of the agent or broker to provide continuing services while the insurance is in effect: *Provided*, That such compensation shall not be included in computations establishing premium rates. The Board shall provide such agents and brokers with indemnification, including costs and reasonable attorney fees, from the Corporation for errors or omissions on the part of the Corporation or its contractors for which the agent or broker is sued or held liable, except to the extent the agent or broker has caused the error or omission. Nothing in this subsection shall permit the Corporation to contract with other persons to carry out the responsibility of the Corporation to review and approve policies, rates, and other materials submitted under section 1508(h) of this title.

(d) Allotment of funds to Federal and State agencies

The Secretary may allot to bureaus and offices of the Department or transfer to such other agencies of the State and Federal Governments that the Secretary requests to assist in carrying out this chapter any funds made available pursuant to the provisions of section 1516 of this title.

(e) Utilization of producer cooperative associations

In carrying out the provisions of this chapter the Board may, in its discretion, utilize producer-owned and producer-controlled cooperative associations.

(f) Use of resources, data, boards, and committees of Federal agencies

The Board should use, to the maximum extent possible, the resources, data, boards, and the committees of (1) the Soil Conservation Service, in assisting the Board in the classification of land as to risk and production capability and in the development of acceptable conservation practices; (2) the Forest Service, in assisting the Board in the development of a timber insurance plan; (3) the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, in assisting the Board in the determination of individual producer yields and in serving as a local contact point for farmers where the Board deems necessary; and (4) other Federal agencies in any way the Board deems necessary in carrying out this chapter.

(g) Specialty Crops Coordinator

(1) The Corporation shall establish a management-level position to be known as the Specialty Crops Coordinator.

(2) The Specialty Crops Coordinator shall have primary responsibility for addressing the needs of specialty crop producers, and for providing information and advice, in connection with the activities of the Corporation to improve and expand the insurance program for specialty crops. In carrying out this paragraph, the Specialty Crops Coordinator shall act as the liaison of the Corporation with representatives of specialty crop producers and assist the Corporation with the knowledge, expertise, and familiarity of the producers with risk management and production issues pertaining to specialty crops.

(3) The Specialty Crops Coordinator shall use information collected from Corporation field of-

rice directors in States in which specialty crops have a significant economic effect and from other sources, including the extension service and colleges and universities.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, § 507, 52 Stat. 73; Aug. 1, 1947, ch. 440, § 6, 61 Stat. 719; Aug. 25, 1949, ch. 512, § 10, 63 Stat. 665; Oct. 28, 1949, ch. 782, title XI, § 1106(a), 63 Stat. 972; Pub. L. 92-310, title II, § 221(b), June 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 205; Pub. L. 96-365, title I, § 104, Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1313; Pub. L. 101-624, title XXII, § 2206, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3958; Pub. L. 102-237, title VI, § 601(3), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1878; Pub. L. 103-354, title I, §§ 102(b)(4)(B), (C), 105, 115(b), 119(f)(2), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3181, 3182, 3204, 3208; Pub. L. 106-224, title I, § 143, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 391.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The civil-service laws, referred to in subsec. (a), are set out in Title 5, Government Organization and Employees. See, particularly section 3301 et seq. of Title 5.

In subsec. (a), “chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5” substituted for “the Classification Act of 1949” on authority of Pub. L. 89-554, § 7(b), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 631, the first section of which enacted Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Provisions that authorized personnel paid by the hour, day, or month when actually employed, and county crop insurance committeemen to have their compensation fixed without regard to “the Classification Act of 1923, as amended” were omitted as obsolete. Sections 1202 and 1204 of the Classification Act of 1949, 63 Stat. 972, 973 repealed the 1923 Act and all laws or parts of laws inconsistent with the 1949 Act. While section 1106(a) of the 1949 Act provided that references in other laws to the 1923 Act should be held and considered to mean the 1949 Act it did not have the effect of continuing the exceptions contained in this subsection because of section 1106(b) which provided that the application of the 1949 Act to any position, officer, or employee shall not be affected by section 1106(a). The Classification Act of 1949 was repealed by Act Sept. 6, 1966, Pub. L. 89-554, § 8(a), 80 Stat. 632 (of which section 1 revised and enacted Title 5, U.S.C., into law). Section 5102 of Title 5, now contains the applicability provisions of the 1949 Act, and section 5103 of Title 5 authorizes the Office of Personnel Management to determine the applicability to specific positions and employees.

In subsec. (b), reference to “subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5” substituted for “the Act entitled ‘An Act to provide compensation for employees of the United States suffering injuries while in the performance of their duties, and for other purposes’, approved September 7, 1916, as amended” on authority of Pub. L. 89-554, § 7(b), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 631, the first section of which enacted Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

AMENDMENTS

2000—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 106-224, in cl. (2), substituted “actuarial services, services relating to loss adjustment and rating plans of insurance,” for “actuarial, loss adjustment,” and inserted “and to enable the Corporation to concentrate on regulating the provision of insurance under this chapter and evaluating new products and materials submitted under section 1508(h) or 1523 of this title” after “private sector”.

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-354, §§ 105(1), 115(b)(1), substituted “as the Secretary may determine appropriate. However,” for “as he may determine: *Provided, That:*” and struck out “, and county crop insurance committeemen” before “may be appointed”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 103-354, § 119(f)(2), substituted “1508(h)” for “1508(b)” in last sentence.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 103-354, § 105(2), made technical amendment to reference to section 1516 of this title and struck out before period at end “, except that employ-

ees or agencies responsible for administering this chapter in each county shall be selected and designated by the Corporation and shall be responsible directly to the Corporation without the intervention of any intermediate office or agency”.

Pub. L. 103-354, § 102(b)(4)(B), (C), 115(b)(2), substituted “Secretary” for “Secretary of Agriculture”, “Department” for “Department of Agriculture”, and “that the Secretary requests” for “as he may request”.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 103-354, § 105(3), added subsec. (g). 1991—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 102-237 inserted a comma after “private insurance companies” in cl. (2).

1990—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101-624 inserted “private rating bureaus, and other organizations as appropriate for actuarial, loss adjustment, and other services to avoid duplication by the Federal Government of services that are or may readily be available in the private sector,” after “private insurance companies” and inserted at end “Nothing in this subsection shall permit the Corporation to contract with other persons to carry out the responsibility of the Corporation to review and approve policies, rates, and other materials submitted under section 1508(b) of this title.”

1980—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 96-365, § 104(1), inserted “shall, to the maximum extent possible”, incorporated existing provisions in cl. (1), including in cl. (1) provision for payment of program expenses, but omitting provision for inclusion of estimated expenses in insurance premiums, and added cls. (2) and (3) and provisions for exclusion of compensation from premium rates and indemnification of agents and brokers for errors or omissions of Commission or its contractors.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 96-365, § 104(2), added subsec. (f). 1972—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 92-310 struck out provisions which empowered Secretary to require bonds of officers and employees.

1949—Act Oct. 28, 1949, substituted “Classification Act of 1949” for “Classification Act of 1923”.

Act Aug. 25, 1949, inserted requirement that officers and employees be appointed subject to civil service laws and regulations, and exempted personnel paid by hour, day, or month when employed, and county crop insurance committeemen from civil-service laws and regulations or the Classification Act of 1923.

1947—Act Aug. 1, 1947, provided for selection and designation of county employees and agencies and their direct responsibility.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-354 effective Oct. 13, 1994, and applicable to provision of crop insurance under Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) beginning with 1995 crop year, with such Act, as in effect on the day before Oct. 13, 1994, to continue to apply with respect to 1994 crop year, see section 120 of Pub. L. 103-354, set out as a note under section 1502 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-365 effective Sept. 26, 1980, see section 112 of Pub. L. 96-365, set out as a note under section 1504 of this title.

REPEALS

Act Oct. 29, 1949, ch. 782, cited as a credit to this section, was repealed (subject to a savings clause) by Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, § 8, 80 Stat. 632, 655.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Administration of program of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation transferred to Secretary of Agriculture by 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 501, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7877, 60 Stat. 1100. See note set out under section 1503 of this title.

Wartime consolidation of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation into Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration, see note set out under section 1503 of this title.

§ 1508. Crop insurance**(a) Authority to offer insurance****(1) In general**

If sufficient actuarial data are available (as determined by the Corporation), the Corporation may insure, or provide reinsurance for insurers of, producers of agricultural commodities grown in the United States under 1 or more plans of insurance determined by the Corporation to be adapted to the agricultural commodity concerned. To qualify for coverage under a plan of insurance, the losses of the insured commodity must be due to drought, flood, or other natural disaster (as determined by the Secretary).

(2) Period

Except in the cases of tobacco, potatoes, and sweet potatoes, insurance shall not extend beyond the period during which the insured commodity is in the field. As used in the preceding sentence, in the case of an aquacultural species, the term "field" means the environment in which the commodity is produced.

(3) Exclusion of losses due to certain actions of producer**(A) Exclusions**

Insurance provided under this subsection shall not cover losses due to—

- (i) the neglect or malfeasance of the producer;
- (ii) the failure of the producer to reseed to the same crop in such areas and under such circumstances as it is customary to reseed; or
- (iii) the failure of the producer to follow good farming practices, including scientifically sound sustainable and organic farming practices.

(B) Good farming practices**(i) Informal administrative process**

A producer shall have the right to a review of a determination regarding good farming practices made under subparagraph (A)(iii) in accordance with an informal administrative process to be established by the Corporation.

(ii) Administrative review**(I) No adverse decision**

The determination shall not be considered an adverse decision for purposes of subtitle H of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6991 et seq.).

(II) Reversal or modification

Except as provided in clause (i), the determination may not be reversed or modified as the result of a subsequent administrative review.

(iii) Judicial review**(I) Right to review**

A producer shall have the right to judicial review of the determination without exhausting any right to a review under clause (i).

(II) Reversal or modification

The determination may not be reversed or modified as the result of judicial review unless the determination is found to be arbitrary or capricious.

(C) Limitation on revenue coverage for potatoes

No policy or plan of insurance provided under this chapter (including a policy or plan of insurance approved by the Board under subsection (h) of this section) shall cover losses due to a reduction in revenue for potatoes except as covered under a whole farm policy or plan of insurance, as determined by the Corporation.

(4) Expansion to other areas or single producers**(A) Area expansion**

The Corporation may offer plans of insurance or reinsurance for production of agricultural commodities in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau in the same manner as provided in this section for production of agricultural commodities in the United States.

(B) Producer expansion

In an area in the United States or specified in subparagraph (A) where crop insurance is not available for a particular agricultural commodity, the Corporation may offer to enter into a written agreement with an individual producer operating in the area for insurance coverage under this chapter if the producer has actuarially sound data relating to the production by the producer of the commodity or similar commodities and the data is acceptable to the Corporation.

(5) Dissemination of crop insurance information**(A) Available information**

The Corporation shall make available to producers through local offices of the Department—

- (i) current and complete information on all aspects of Federal crop insurance; and
- (ii) a listing of insurance agents and companies offering to sell crop insurance in the area of the producers.

(B) Use of electronic methods**(i) Dissemination by Corporation**

The Corporation shall make the information described in subparagraph (A) available electronically to producers and approved insurance providers.

(ii) Submission to Corporation

To the maximum extent practicable, the Corporation shall allow producers and approved insurance providers to use electronic methods to submit information required by the Corporation.

(6) Addition of new and specialty crops**(A) Data collection**

Not later than 180 days after October 13, 1994, the Secretary shall issue guidelines for

publication in the Federal Register for data collection to assist the Corporation in formulating crop insurance policies for new and specialty crops.

(B) Addition of new crops

Not later than 1 year after October 13, 1994, and annually thereafter, the Corporation shall report to Congress on the progress and expected timetable for expanding crop insurance coverage under this chapter to new and specialty crops.

(C) Addition of direct sale perishable crops

Not later than 1 year after October 13, 1994, the Corporation shall report to Congress on the feasibility of offering a crop insurance program designed to meet the needs of specialized producers of vegetables and other perishable crops who market through direct marketing channels.

(D) Addition of nursery crops

Not later than 2 years after April 4, 1996, the Corporation shall conduct a study and limited pilot program on the feasibility of insuring nursery crops.

(7) Adequate coverage for States

(A) Definition of adequately served

In this paragraph, the term “adequately served” means having a participation rate that is at least 50 percent of the national average participation rate.

(B) Review

The Board shall review the policies and plans of insurance that are offered by approved insurance providers under this chapter to determine if each State is adequately served by the policies and plans of insurance.

(C) Report

(i) In general

Not later than 30 days after completion of the review under subparagraph (B), the Board shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the review.

(ii) Recommendations

The report shall include recommendations to increase participation in States that are not adequately served by the policies and plans of insurance.

(8) Special provisions for cotton and rice

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, beginning with the 2001 crops of upland cotton, extra long staple cotton, and rice, the Corporation shall offer plans of insurance, including prevented planting coverage and replanting coverage, under this chapter that cover losses of upland cotton, extra long staple cotton, and rice resulting from failure of irrigation water supplies due to drought and saltwater intrusion.

(b) Catastrophic risk protection

(1) In general

The Corporation shall offer a catastrophic risk protection plan to indemnify producers for crop loss due to loss of yield or prevented

planting, if provided by the Corporation, when the producer is unable, because of drought, flood, or other natural disaster (as determined by the Secretary), to plant other crops for harvest on the acreage for the crop year.

(2) Amount of coverage

(A) In general

Subject to subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the case of each of the 1995 through 1998 crop years, catastrophic risk protection shall offer a producer coverage for a 50 percent loss in yield, on an individual yield or area yield basis, indemnified at 60 percent of the expected market price, or a comparable coverage (as determined by the Corporation); and

(ii) in the case of each of the 1999 and subsequent crop years, catastrophic risk protection shall offer a producer coverage for a 50 percent loss in yield, on an individual yield or area yield basis, indemnified at 55 percent of the expected market price, or a comparable coverage (as determined by the Corporation).

(B) Reduction in actual payment

The amount paid to a producer on a claim under catastrophic risk protection may reflect a reduction that is proportional to the out-of-pocket expenses that are not incurred by the producer as a result of not planting, growing, or harvesting the crop for which the claim is made, as determined by the Corporation.

(3) Alternative catastrophic coverage

Beginning with the 2001 crop year, the Corporation shall offer producers of an agricultural commodity the option of selecting either of the following:

(A) The catastrophic risk protection coverage available under paragraph (2)(A).

(B) An alternative catastrophic risk protection coverage that—

(i) indemnifies the producer on an area yield and loss basis if such a policy or plan of insurance is offered for the agricultural commodity in the county in which the farm is located;

(ii) provides, on a uniform national basis, a higher combination of yield and price protection than the coverage available under paragraph (2)(A); and

(iii) the Corporation determines is comparable to the coverage available under paragraph (2)(A) for purposes of subsection (e)(2)(A) of this section.

(4) Sale of catastrophic risk coverage

(A) In general

Catastrophic risk coverage may be offered by—

(i) approved insurance providers, if available in an area; and

(ii) at the option of the Secretary that is based on considerations of need, local offices of the Department.

(B) Need

For purposes of considering need under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Secretary may

take into account the most efficient and cost-effective use of resources, the availability of personnel, fairness to local producers, the needs and convenience of local producers, and the availability of private insurance carriers.

(C) Delivery of coverage

(i) In general

In full consultation with approved insurance providers, the Secretary may continue to offer catastrophic risk protection in a State (or a portion of a State) through local offices of the Department if the Secretary determines that there is an insufficient number of approved insurance providers operating in the State or portion of the State to adequately provide catastrophic risk protection coverage to producers.

(ii) Coverage by approved insurance providers

To the extent that catastrophic risk protection coverage by approved insurance providers is sufficiently available in a State (or a portion of a State) as determined by the Secretary, only approved insurance providers may provide the coverage in the State or portion of the State.

(iii) Timing of determinations

Not later than 90 days after April 4, 1996, the Secretary shall announce the results of the determinations under clause (i) for policies for the 1997 crop year. For subsequent crop years, the Secretary shall make the announcement not later than April 30 of the year preceding the year in which the crop will be produced, or at such other times during the year as the Secretary finds practicable in consultation with affected crop insurance providers for those States (or portions of States) in which catastrophic coverage remains available through local offices of the Department.

(iv) Current policies

This clause shall take effect beginning with the 1997 crop year. Subject to clause (ii) all catastrophic risk protection policies written by local offices of the Department shall be transferred to the approved insurance provider for performance of all sales, service, and loss adjustment functions. Any fees in connection with such policies that are not yet collected at the time of the transfer shall be payable to the approved insurance providers assuming the policies. The transfer process for policies for the 1997 crop year with sales closing dates before January 1, 1997, shall begin at the time of the Secretary's announcement under clause (iii) and be completed by the sales closing date for the crop and county. The transfer process for all subsequent policies (including policies for the 1998 and subsequent crop years) shall begin at a date that permits the process to be completed not later than 45 days before the sales closing date.

(5) Administrative fee

(A) Basic fee

Each producer shall pay an administrative fee for catastrophic risk protection in an amount equal to 10 percent of the premium for the catastrophic risk protection or \$100 per crop per county, whichever is greater, as determined by the Corporation.

(B) Payment on behalf of producers

(i) Payment authorized

If State law permits a licensing fee or other payment to be paid by an insurance provider to a cooperative association or trade association and rebated to a producer with catastrophic risk protection or additional coverage, a cooperative association or trade association located in that State may pay, on behalf of a member of the association in that State or a contiguous State who consents to be insured under such an arrangement, all or a portion of the administrative fee required by this paragraph for catastrophic risk protection.

(ii) Treatment of licensing fees

A licensing fee or other payment made by an insurance provider to the cooperative association or trade association in connection with the issuance of catastrophic risk protection or additional coverage to members of the cooperative association or trade association shall be subject to the laws regarding rebates of the State in which the fee or other payment is made.

(iii) Selection of provider

Nothing in this subparagraph limits the option of a producer to select the licensed insurance agent or other approved insurance provider from whom the producer will purchase a policy or plan of insurance or to refuse coverage for which a payment is offered to be made under clause (i).

(iv) Delivery of insurance

A policy or plan of insurance for which a payment is made under clause (i) shall be delivered by a licensed insurance agent or other approved insurance provider.

(v) Additional coverage encouraged

A cooperative association or trade association, and any approved insurance provider with whom a licensing fee or other arrangement under this subparagraph is made, shall encourage producer members to purchase appropriate levels of additional coverage in order to meet the risk management needs of the member producers.

(vi) Report

Not later than April 1, 2002, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that evaluates—

- (I) the operation of this subparagraph; and

(II) the impact of this subparagraph on participation in the Federal crop insurance program, including the impact on levels of coverage purchased.

(C) Time for payment

The administrative fee required by this paragraph shall be paid by the producer on the date that premium for a policy of additional coverage would be paid by the producer.

(D) Use of fees

(i) In general

The amounts paid under this paragraph shall be deposited in the crop insurance fund established under section 1516(c) of this title, to be available for the programs and activities of the Corporation.

(ii) Limitation

No funds deposited in the crop insurance fund under this subparagraph may be used to compensate an approved insurance provider or agent for the delivery of services under this subsection.

(E) Waiver of fee

The Corporation shall waive the amounts required under this paragraph for limited resource farmers, as defined by the Corporation.

(6) Participation requirement

A producer may obtain catastrophic risk coverage for a crop of the producer on land in the county only if the producer obtains the coverage for the crop on all insurable land of the producer in the county.

(7) Eligibility for Department programs

(A) In general

Effective for the spring-planted 1996 and subsequent crops (and fall-planted 1996 crops at the option of the Secretary), to be eligible for any payment or loan under the Agricultural Market Transition Act [7 U.S.C. 7201 et seq.], for the conservation reserve program, or for any benefit described in section 2008f of this title, a person shall—

(i) obtain at least the catastrophic level of insurance for each crop of economic significance in which the person has an interest; or

(ii) provide a written waiver to the Secretary that waives any eligibility for emergency crop loss assistance in connection with the crop.

(B) “Crop of economic significance” defined

As used in this paragraph, the term “crop of economic significance” means a crop that has contributed, or is expected to contribute, 10 percent or more of the total expected value of all crops grown by the producer.

(8) Limitation due to risk

The Corporation may limit catastrophic risk coverage in any county or area, or on any farm, on the basis of the insurance risk concerned.

(9) Transitional coverage for 1995 crops

Effective only for a 1995 crop planted or for which insurance attached prior to January 1,

1995, the Corporation shall allow producers of the crops until not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date of enactment of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [Oct. 13, 1994] to obtain catastrophic risk protection for the crop. On enactment of such Act, a producer who made timely purchases of a crop insurance policy before the date of enactment of such Act, under the provisions of this chapter then in effect, shall be eligible for the same benefits to which a producer would be entitled under comparable additional coverage under subsection (c) of this section.

(10) Simplification

(A) Catastrophic risk protection plans

In developing and carrying out the policies and procedures for a catastrophic risk protection plan under this chapter, the Corporation shall, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize the paperwork required and the complexity and costs of procedures governing applications for, processing, and servicing of the plan for all parties involved.

(B) Other plans

To the extent that the policies and procedures developed under subparagraph (A) may be applied to other plans of insurance offered under this chapter without jeopardizing the actuarial soundness or integrity of the crop insurance program, the Corporation shall apply the policies and procedures to the other plans of insurance within a reasonable period of time (as determined by the Corporation) after the effective date of this paragraph.

(11) Loss adjustment

The rate for reimbursing an approved insurance provider or agent for expenses incurred by the approved insurance provider or agent for loss adjustment in connection with a policy of catastrophic risk protection shall not exceed 8 percent of the premium for catastrophic risk protection that is used to define loss ratio.

(c) General coverage levels

(1) Additional coverage generally

(A) In general

The Corporation shall offer to producers of agricultural commodities grown in the United States plans of crop insurance that provide additional coverage.

(B) Purchase

To be eligible for additional coverage, a producer must apply to an approved insurance provider for purchase of additional coverage if the coverage is available from an approved insurance provider. If additional coverage is unavailable privately, the Corporation may offer additional coverage plans of insurance directly to producers.

(2) Transfer of relevant information

If a producer has already applied for catastrophic risk protection at the local office of the Department and elects to purchase additional coverage, the relevant information for

the crop of the producer shall be transferred to the approved insurance provider servicing the additional coverage crop policy.

(3) Yield and loss basis

A producer shall have the option of purchasing additional coverage based on an individual yield and loss basis or on an area yield and loss basis, if both options are offered by the Corporation.

(4) Level of coverage

The level of coverage shall be dollar denominated and may be purchased at any level not to exceed 85 percent of the individual yield or 95 percent of the area yield (as determined by the Corporation). Not later than the beginning of the 1996 crop year, the Corporation shall provide producers with information on catastrophic risk and additional coverage in terms of dollar coverage (within the allowable limits of coverage provided in this paragraph).

(5) Expected market price

(A) Establishment or approval

For the purposes of this chapter, the Corporation shall establish or approve the price level (referred to in this chapter as the "expected market price") of each agricultural commodity for which insurance is offered.

(B) General rule

Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (C), the expected market price of an agricultural commodity shall be not less than the projected market price of the agricultural commodity, as determined by the Corporation.

(C) Other authorized approaches

The expected market price of an agricultural commodity—

(i) may be based on the actual market price of the agricultural commodity at the time of harvest, as determined by the Corporation;

(ii) in the case of revenue and other similar plans of insurance, may be the actual market price of the agricultural commodity, as determined by the Corporation;

(iii) in the case of cost of production or similar plans of insurance, shall be the projected cost of producing the agricultural commodity, as determined by the Corporation; or

(iv) in the case of other plans of insurance, may be an appropriate amount, as determined by the Corporation.

(6) Price elections

(A) In general

Subject to subparagraph (B), insurance coverage shall be made available to a producer on the basis of any price election that equals or is less than the price election established by the Corporation. The coverage shall be quoted in terms of dollars per acre.

(B) Minimum price elections

The Corporation may establish minimum price elections below which levels of insurance shall not be offered.

(C) Wheat classes and malting barley

The Corporation shall, as the Corporation determines practicable, offer producers dif-

ferent price elections for classes of wheat and malting barley (including contract prices in the case of malting barley), in addition to the standard price election, that reflect different market prices, as determined by the Corporation. The Corporation shall, as the Corporation determines practicable, offer additional coverage for each class determined under this subparagraph and charge a premium for each class that is actuarially sound.

(7) Fire and hail coverage

For levels of additional coverage equal to 65 percent or more of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at 100 percent of the expected market price, or an equivalent coverage, a producer may elect to delete from the additional coverage any coverage against damage caused by fire and hail if the producer obtains an equivalent or greater dollar amount of coverage for damage caused by fire and hail from an approved insurance provider. On written notice of the election to the company issuing the policy providing additional coverage and submission of evidence of substitute coverage on the commodity insured, the premium of the producer shall be reduced by an amount determined by the Corporation to be actuarially appropriate, taking into account the actuarial value of the remaining coverage provided by the Corporation. In no event shall the producer be given credit for an amount of premium determined to be greater than the actuarial value of the protection against losses caused by fire and hail that is included in the additional coverage for the crop.

(8) State premium subsidies

The Corporation may enter into an agreement with any State or agency of a State under which the State or agency may pay to the approved insurance provider an additional premium subsidy to further reduce the portion of the premium paid by producers in the State.

(9) Limitations on additional coverage

The Board may limit the availability of additional coverage under this subsection in any county or area, or on any farm, on the basis of the insurance risk involved. The Board shall not offer additional coverage equal to less than 50 percent of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at 100 percent of the expected market price, or an equivalent coverage.

(10) Administrative fee

(A) Fee required

If a producer elects to purchase coverage for a crop at a level in excess of catastrophic risk protection, the producer shall pay an administrative fee for the additional coverage of \$30 per crop per county.

(B) Use of fees; waiver

Subparagraphs (D) and (E) of subsection (b)(5) of this section shall apply with respect to the collection and use of administrative fees under this paragraph.

(d) Premiums

(1) Premiums required

The Corporation shall fix adequate premiums for all the plans of insurance of the

Corporation at such rates as the Board determines are actuarially sufficient to attain an expected loss ratio of not greater than 1.1 through September 30, 1998, and not greater than 1.075 after October 1, 1998.

(2) Premium amounts

The premium amounts for catastrophic risk protection under subsection (b) of this section and additional coverage under subsection (c) of this section shall be fixed as follows:

(A) In the case of catastrophic risk protection, the amount of the premium shall be sufficient to cover anticipated losses and a reasonable reserve.

(B) In the case of additional coverage equal to or greater than 50 percent of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at not greater than 100 percent of the expected market price, or a comparable coverage for a policy or plan of insurance that is not based on individual yield, the amount of the premium shall—

(i) be sufficient to cover anticipated losses and a reasonable reserve; and

(ii) include an amount for operating and administrative expenses, as determined by the Corporation, on an industry-wide basis as a percentage of the amount of the premium used to define loss ratio.

(3) Performance-based discount

The Corporation may provide a performance-based premium discount for a producer of an agricultural commodity who has good insurance or production experience relative to other producers of that agricultural commodity in the same area, as determined by the Corporation.

(e) Payment of portion of premium by Corporation

(1) In general

For the purpose of encouraging the broadest possible participation of producers in the catastrophic risk protection provided under subsection (b) of this section and the additional coverage provided under subsection (c) of this section, the Corporation shall pay a part of the premium in the amounts provided in accordance with this subsection.

(2) Amount of payment

Subject to paragraph (4), the amount of the premium to be paid by the Corporation shall be as follows:

(A) In the case of catastrophic risk protection, the amount shall be equivalent to the premium established for catastrophic risk protection under subsection (d)(2)(A) of this section.

(B) In the case of additional coverage equal to or greater than 50 percent, but less than 55 percent, of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at not greater than 100 percent of the expected market price, or a comparable coverage for a policy or plan of insurance that is not based on individual yield, the amount shall be equal to the sum of—

(i) 67 percent of the amount of the premium established under subsection

(d)(2)(B)(i) of this section for the coverage level selected; and

(ii) the amount determined under subsection (d)(2)(B)(ii) of this section for the coverage level selected to cover operating and administrative expenses.

(C) In the case of additional coverage equal to or greater than 55 percent, but less than 65 percent, of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at not greater than 100 percent of the expected market price, or a comparable coverage for a policy or plan of insurance that is not based on individual yield, the amount shall be equal to the sum of—

(i) 64 percent of the amount of the premium established under subsection (d)(2)(B)(i) of this section for the coverage level selected; and

(ii) the amount determined under subsection (d)(2)(B)(ii) of this section for the coverage level selected to cover operating and administrative expenses.

(D) In the case of additional coverage equal to or greater than 65 percent, but less than 75 percent, of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at not greater than 100 percent of the expected market price, or a comparable coverage for a policy or plan of insurance that is not based on individual yield, the amount shall be equal to the sum of—

(i) 59 percent of the amount of the premium established under subsection (d)(2)(B)(i) of this section for the coverage level selected; and

(ii) the amount determined under subsection (d)(2)(B)(ii) of this section for the coverage level selected to cover operating and administrative expenses.

(E) In the case of additional coverage equal to or greater than 75 percent, but less than 80 percent, of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at not greater than 100 percent of the expected market price, or a comparable coverage for a policy or plan of insurance that is not based on individual yield, the amount shall be equal to the sum of—

(i) 55 percent of the amount of the premium established under subsection (d)(2)(B)(i) of this section for the coverage level selected; and

(ii) the amount determined under subsection (d)(2)(B)(ii) of this section for the coverage level selected to cover operating and administrative expenses.

(F) In the case of additional coverage equal to or greater than 80 percent, but less than 85 percent, of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at not greater than 100 percent of the expected market price, or a comparable coverage for a policy or plan of insurance that is not based on individual yield, the amount shall be equal to the sum of—

(i) 48 percent of the amount of the premium established under subsection (d)(2)(B)(i) of this section for the coverage level selected; and

(ii) the amount determined under subsection (d)(2)(B)(ii) of this section for the coverage level selected to cover operating and administrative expenses.

(G) Subject to subsection (c)(4) of this section, in the case of additional coverage equal to or greater than 85 percent of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at not greater than 100 percent of the expected market price, or a comparable coverage for a policy or plan of insurance that is not based on individual yield, the amount shall be equal to the sum of—

(i) 38 percent of the amount of the premium established under subsection (d)(2)(B)(i) of this section for the coverage level selected; and

(ii) the amount determined under subsection (d)(2)(B)(ii) of this section for the coverage level selected to cover operating and administrative expenses.

(3) Premium reduction

If an approved insurance provider determines that the provider may provide insurance more efficiently than the expense reimbursement amount established by the Corporation, the approved insurance provider may reduce, subject to the approval of the Corporation, the premium charged the insured by an amount corresponding to the efficiency. The approved insurance provider shall apply to the Corporation for authority to reduce the premium before making such a reduction, and the reduction shall be subject to the rules, limitations, and procedures established by the Corporation.

(4) Prohibition on continuous coverage

Notwithstanding paragraph (2), during each of the 2001 and subsequent reinsurance years, additional coverage under subsection (c) of this section shall be available only in 5 percent increments beginning at 50 percent of the recorded or appraised average yield.

(5) Premium payment disclosure

Each policy or plan of insurance under this chapter shall prominently indicate the dollar amount of the portion of the premium paid by the Corporation.

(f) Eligibility

(1) In general

To participate in catastrophic risk protection coverage under this section, a producer shall submit an application at the local office of the Department or to an approved insurance provider.

(2) Sales closing date

(A) In general

For coverage under this chapter, each producer shall purchase crop insurance on or before the sales closing date for the crop by providing the required information and executing the required documents. Subject to the goal of ensuring actuarial soundness for the crop insurance program, the sales closing date shall be established by the Corporation to maximize convenience to producers in obtaining benefits under price and produc-

tion adjustment programs of the Department.

(B) Established dates

Except as provided in subparagraph (C), the Corporation shall establish, for an insurance policy for each insurable crop that is planted in the spring, a sales closing date that is 30 days earlier than the corresponding sales closing date that was established for the 1994 crop year.

(C) Exception

If compliance with subparagraph (B) results in a sales closing date for an agricultural commodity that is earlier than January 31, the sales closing date for that commodity shall be January 31 beginning with the 2000 crop year.

(3) Records and reporting

To obtain catastrophic risk protection under subsection (b) of this section or additional coverage under subsection (c) of this section, a producer shall—

(A) provide annually records acceptable to the Secretary regarding crop acreage, acreage yields, and production for each agricultural commodity insured under this chapter or accept a yield determined by the Corporation; and

(B) report acreage planted and prevented from planting by the designated acreage reporting date for the crop and location as established by the Corporation.

(g) Yield determinations

(1) In general

Subject to paragraph (2), the Corporation shall establish crop insurance underwriting rules that ensure that yield coverage, as specified in this subsection, is provided to eligible producers obtaining catastrophic risk protection under subsection (b) of this section or additional coverage under subsection (c) of this section.

(2) Yield coverage plans

(A) Actual production history

Subject to subparagraph (B), the yield for a crop shall be based on the actual production history for the crop, if the crop was produced on the farm without penalty during each of the 4 crop years immediately preceding the crop year for which actual production history is being established, building up to a production data base for each of the 10 consecutive crop years preceding the crop year for which actual production history is being established.

(B) Assigned yield

If the producer does not provide satisfactory evidence of the yield of a commodity under subparagraph (A), the producer shall be assigned—

(i) a yield that is not less than 65 percent of the transitional yield of the producer (adjusted to reflect actual production reflected in the records acceptable to the Corporation for continuous years), as specified in regulations issued by the Corpora-

tion based on production history requirements; or

(ii) a yield determined by the Corporation, in the case of—

(I) a producer that has not had a share of the production of the insured crop for more than two crop years, as determined by the Secretary;

(II) a producer that produces an agricultural commodity on land that has not been farmed by the producer; or

(III) a producer that rotates a crop produced on a farm to a crop that has not been produced on the farm.

(C) Area yield

The Corporation may offer a crop insurance plan based on an area yield that allows an insured producer to qualify for an indemnity if a loss has occurred in an area (as specified by the Corporation) in which the farm of the producer is located. Under an area yield plan, an insured producer shall be allowed to select the level of area production at which an indemnity will be paid consistent with such terms and conditions as are established by the Corporation.

(D) Commodity-by-commodity basis

A producer may choose between individual yield or area yield coverage or combined coverage, if available, on a commodity-by-commodity basis.

(3) Transitional yields for producers of feed or forage

(A) In general

If a producer does not provide satisfactory evidence of a yield under paragraph (2)(A), the producer shall be assigned a yield that is at least 80 percent of the transitional yield established by the Corporation (adjusted to reflect the actual production history of the producer) if the Secretary determines that—

(i) the producer grows feed or forage primarily for on-farm use in a livestock, dairy, or poultry operation; and

(ii) over 50 percent of the net farm income of the producer is derived from the operation.

(B) Yield calculation

The Corporation shall—

(i) for the first year of participation of a producer, provide the assigned yield under this paragraph to the producer of feed or forage; and

(ii) for the second year of participation of the producer, apply the actual production history or assigned yield requirement, as provided in this subsection.

(C) Termination of authority

The authority provided by this paragraph shall terminate on the date that is 3 years after the effective date of this paragraph.

(4) Adjustment in actual production history to establish insurable yields

(A) Application

This paragraph shall apply whenever the Corporation uses the actual production

records of the producer to establish the producer's actual production history for an agricultural commodity for any of the 2001 and subsequent crop years.

(B) Election to use percentage of transitional yield

If, for one or more of the crop years used to establish the producer's actual production history of an agricultural commodity, the producer's recorded or appraised yield of the commodity was less than 60 percent of the applicable transitional yield, as determined by the Corporation, the Corporation shall, at the election of the producer—

(i) exclude any of such recorded or appraised yield; and

(ii) replace each excluded yield with a yield equal to 60 percent of the applicable transitional yield.

(C) Premium adjustment

In the case of a producer that makes an election under subparagraph (B), the Corporation shall adjust the premium to reflect the risk associated with the adjustment made in the actual production history of the producer.

(5) Adjustment to reflect increased yields from successful pest control efforts

(A) Situations justifying adjustment

The Corporation shall develop a methodology for adjusting the actual production history of a producer when each of the following apply:

(i) The producer's farm is located in an area where systematic, area-wide efforts have been undertaken using certain operations or measures, or the producer's farm is a location at which certain operations or measures have been undertaken, to detect, eradicate, suppress, or control, or at least to prevent or retard the spread of, a plant disease or plant pest, including a plant pest (as defined in section 7759¹ of this title).

(ii) The presence of the plant disease or plant pest has been found to adversely affect the yield of the agricultural commodity for which the producer is applying for insurance.

(iii) The efforts described in clause (i) have been effective.

(B) Adjustment amount

The amount by which the Corporation adjusts the actual production history of a producer of an agricultural commodity shall reflect the degree to which the success of the systematic, area-wide efforts described in subparagraph (A), on average, increases the yield of the commodity on the producer's farm, as determined by the Corporation.

(h) Submission of policies and materials to Board

(1) In general

In addition to any standard forms or policies that the Board may require be made available

¹ See References in Text note below.

to producers under subsection (c) of this section, a person (including an approved insurance provider, a college or university, a cooperative or trade association, or any other person) may prepare for submission or propose to the Board—

(A) other crop insurance policies and provisions of policies; and

(B) rates of premiums for multiple peril crop insurance pertaining to wheat, soybeans, field corn, and any other crops determined by the Secretary.

(2) Submission of policies

A policy or other material submitted to the Board under this subsection may be prepared without regard to the limitations contained in this chapter, including the requirements concerning the levels of coverage and rates and the requirement that a price level for each commodity insured must equal the expected market price for the commodity as established by the Board.

(3) Review and approval by the Board

A policy or other material submitted to the Board under this subsection shall be reviewed by the Board and, if the Board finds that the interests of producers are adequately protected and that any premiums charged to the producers are actuarially appropriate, shall be approved by the Board for reinsurance and for sale by approved insurance providers to producers as an additional choice at actuarially appropriate rates and under appropriate terms and conditions. The Corporation may enter into more than 1 reinsurance agreement with the approved insurance provider simultaneously to facilitate the offering of the new policies.

(4) Guidelines for submission and review

The Corporation shall issue regulations to establish guidelines for the submission, and Board review, of policies or other material submitted to the Board under this subsection. At a minimum, the guidelines shall ensure the following:

(A) Confidentiality

(i) In general

A proposal submitted to the Board under this subsection (including any information generated from the proposal) shall be considered to be confidential commercial or financial information for the purposes of section 552(b)(4) of title 5.

(ii) Standard of confidentiality

If information concerning a proposal could be withheld by the Secretary under the standard for privileged or confidential information pertaining to trade secrets and commercial or financial information under section 552(b)(4) of title 5, the information shall not be released to the public.

(iii) Application

This subparagraph shall apply with respect to a proposal only during the period preceding any approval of the proposal by the Board.

(B) Personal presentation

The Board shall provide an applicant with the opportunity to present the proposal to the Board in person if the applicant so desires.

(C) Notification of intent to disapprove

(i) Time period

The Board shall provide an applicant with notification of intent to disapprove a proposal not later than 30 days prior to making the disapproval.

(ii) Modification of application

(I) Authority

An applicant that receives the notification may modify the application, and such application, as modified, shall be considered by the Board in the manner provided in subparagraph (D) within the 30-day period beginning on the date the modified application is submitted.

(II) Time period

Clause (i) shall not apply to the Board's consideration of the modified application.

(iii) Explanation

Any notification of intent to disapprove a policy or other material submitted under this subsection shall be accompanied by a complete explanation as to the reasons for the Board's intention to deny approval.

(D) Determination to approve or disapprove policies or materials

(i) Time period

Not later than 120 days after a policy or other material is submitted under this subsection, the Board shall make a determination to approve or disapprove the policy or material.

(ii) Explanation

Any determination by the Board to disapprove any policy or other material shall be accompanied by a complete explanation of the reasons for the Board's decision to deny approval.

(iii) Failure to meet deadline

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, if the Board fails to make a determination within the prescribed time period, the submitted policy or other material shall be deemed approved by the Board for the initial reinsurance year designated for the policy or material, unless the Board and the applicant agree to an extension.

(5) Premium schedule

(A) Payment by Corporation

In the case of a policy or plan of insurance developed and approved under this subsection or section 1522 of this title, or conducted under section 1523 of this title (other than a policy or plan of insurance applicable to livestock), the Corporation shall pay a portion of the premium of the policy or plan of insurance that is equal to—

- (i) the percentage, specified in subsection (e) of this section for a similar level of coverage, of the total amount of the premium used to define loss ratio; and
- (ii) an amount for administrative and operating expenses determined in accordance with subsection (k)(4) of this section.

(B) Transitional schedule

Effective only during the 2001 reinsurance year, in the case of a policy or plan of insurance developed and approved under this subsection or section 1522 of this title, or conducted under section 1523 of this title (other than a policy or plan of insurance applicable to livestock), and first approved by the Board after June 20, 2000, the payment by the Corporation of a portion of the premium of the policy may not exceed the dollar amount that would otherwise be authorized under subsection (e) of this section (consistent with subsection (c)(5) of this section, as in effect on the day before June 20, 2000).

(6) Additional prevented planting policy coverage

(A) In general

Beginning with the 1995 crop year, the Corporation shall offer to producers additional prevented planting coverage that insures producers against losses in accordance with this paragraph.

(B) Approved insurance providers

Additional prevented planting coverage shall be offered by the Corporation through approved insurance providers.

(C) Timing of loss

A crop loss shall be covered by the additional prevented planting coverage if—

- (i) crop insurance policies were obtained for—
 - (I) the crop year the loss was experienced; and
 - (II) the crop year immediately preceding the year of the prevented planting loss; and
- (ii) the cause of the loss occurred—
 - (I) after the sales closing date for the crop in the crop year immediately preceding the loss; and
 - (II) before the sales closing date for the crop in the year in which the loss is experienced.

(i) Adoption of rates and coverages

(1) In general

The Corporation shall adopt, as soon as practicable, rates and coverages that will improve the actuarial soundness of the insurance operations of the Corporation for those crops that are determined to be insured at rates that are not actuarially sound, except that no rate may be increased by an amount of more than 20 percent over the comparable rate of the preceding crop year.

(2) Review of rating methodologies

To maximize participation in the Federal crop insurance program and to ensure equity for producers, the Corporation shall periodically

review the methodologies employed for rating plans of insurance under this chapter consistent with section 1507(c)(2) of this title.

(3) Analysis of rating and loss history

The Corporation shall analyze the rating and loss history of approved policies and plans of insurance for agricultural commodities by area.

(4) Premium adjustment

If the Corporation makes a determination that premium rates are excessive for an agricultural commodity in an area relative to the requirements of subsection (d)(2) of this section for that area, then, for the 2002 crop year (and as necessary thereafter), the Corporation shall make appropriate adjustments in the premium rates for that area for that agricultural commodity.

(j) Claims for losses

(1) In general

Under rules prescribed by the Corporation, the Corporation may provide for adjustment and payment of claims for losses. The rules prescribed by the Corporation shall establish standards to ensure that all claims for losses are adjusted, to the extent practicable, in a uniform and timely manner.

(2) Denial of claims

(A) In general

Subject to subparagraph (B), if a claim for indemnity is denied by the Corporation or an approved provider, an action on the claim may be brought against the Corporation or Secretary only in the United States district court for the district in which the insured farm is located.

(B) Statute of limitations

A suit on the claim may be brought not later than 1 year after the date on which final notice of denial of the claim is provided to the claimant.

(3) Indemnification

The Corporation shall provide approved insurance providers with indemnification, including costs and reasonable attorney fees incurred by the approved insurance provider, due to errors or omissions on the part of the Corporation.

(4) Marketing windows

The Corporation shall consider marketing windows in determining whether it is feasible to require planting during a crop year.

(k) Reinsurance

(1) In general

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the Corporation shall, to the maximum extent practicable, provide reinsurance to insurers approved by the Corporation that insure producers of any agricultural commodity under 1 or more plans acceptable to the Corporation.

(2) Terms and conditions

The reinsurance shall be provided on such terms and conditions as the Board may deter-

mine to be consistent with subsections (b) and (c) of this section and sound reinsurance principles.

(3) Share of risk

The reinsurance agreements of the Corporation with the reinsured companies shall require the reinsured companies to bear a sufficient share of any potential loss under the agreement so as to ensure that the reinsured company will sell and service policies of insurance in a sound and prudent manner, taking into consideration the financial condition of the reinsured companies and the availability of private reinsurance.

(4) Rate

(A) In general

Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the rate established by the Board to reimburse approved insurance providers and agents for the administrative and operating costs of the providers and agents shall not exceed—

- (i) for the 1998 reinsurance year, 27 percent of the premium used to define loss ratio; and
- (ii) for each of the 1999 and subsequent reinsurance years, 24.5 percent of the premium used to define loss ratio.

(B) Proportional reductions

A policy of additional coverage that received a rate of reimbursement for administrative and operating costs for the 1998 reinsurance year that is lower than the rate specified in subparagraph (A)(i) shall receive a reduction in the rate of reimbursement that is proportional to the reduction in the rate of reimbursement between clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A).

(C) Other reductions

Beginning with the 2002 reinsurance year, in the case of a policy or plan of insurance approved by the Board that was not reinsured during the 1998 reinsurance year but, had it been reinsured, would have received a reduced rate of reimbursement during the 1998 reinsurance year, the rate of reimbursement for administrative and operating costs established for the policy or plan of insurance shall take into account the factors used to determine the rate of reimbursement for administrative and operating costs during the 1998 reinsurance year, including the expected difference in premium and actual administrative and operating costs of the policy or plan of insurance relative to an individual yield policy or plan of insurance and other appropriate factors, as determined by the Corporation.

(5) Cost and regulatory reduction

Consistent with section 118 of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform Act of 1994, and consistent with maintenance of program integrity, prevention of fraud and abuse, the need for program expansion, and improvement of quality of service to customers, the Board shall alter program procedures and administrative requirements in order to reduce the ad-

ministrative and operating costs of approved insurance providers and agents in an amount that corresponds to any reduction in the reimbursement rate required under paragraph (4) during the 5-year period beginning on October 13, 1994.

(6) Agency discretion

The determination of whether the Corporation is achieving, or has achieved, corresponding administrative cost savings shall not be subject to administrative review, and is wholly committed to agency discretion within the meaning of section 701(a)(2) of title 5.

(7) Plan

The Corporation shall submit to Congress a plan outlining the measures that will be used to achieve the reduction required under paragraph (5). If the Corporation can identify additional cost reduction measures, the Corporation shall describe the measures in the plan.

(I) Optional coverages

The Corporation may offer specific risk protection programs, including protection against prevented planting, wildlife depredation, tree damage and disease, and insect infestation, under such terms and conditions as the Board may determine, except that no program may be undertaken if insurance for the specific risk involved is generally available from private companies.

(m) Quality loss adjustment coverage

(1) Effect of coverage

If a policy or plan of insurance offered under this chapter includes quality loss adjustment coverage, the coverage shall provide for a reduction in the quantity of production of the agricultural commodity considered produced during a crop year, or a similar adjustment, as a result of the agricultural commodity not meeting the quality standards established in the policy or plan of insurance.

(2) Additional quality loss adjustment

(A) Producer option

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in addition to the quality loss adjustment coverage available under paragraph (1), the Corporation shall offer producers the option of purchasing quality loss adjustment coverage on a basis that is smaller than a unit with respect to an agricultural commodity that satisfies each of the following:

- (i) The agricultural commodity is sold on an identity-preserved basis.
- (ii) All quality determinations are made solely by the Federal agency designated to grade or classify the agricultural commodity.
- (iii) All quality determinations are made in accordance with standards published by the Federal agency in the Federal Register.
- (iv) The discount schedules that reflect the reduction in quality of the agricultural commodity are established by the Secretary.

(B) Basis for adjustment

Under this paragraph, the Corporation shall set the quality standards below which

quality losses will be paid based on the variability of the grade of the agricultural commodity from the base quality for the agricultural commodity.

(3) Review of criteria and procedures

(A) Review

The Corporation shall contract with a qualified person to review the quality loss adjustment procedures of the Corporation so that the procedures more accurately reflect local quality discounts that are applied to agricultural commodities insured under this chapter.

(B) Procedures

Effective beginning not later than the 2004 reinsurance year, based on the review, the Corporation shall make adjustments in the procedures, taking into consideration the actuarial soundness of the adjustment and the prevention of fraud, waste, and abuse.

(4) Quality of agricultural commodities delivered to warehouse operators

In administering this chapter, the Secretary shall accept, in the same manner and under the same terms and conditions, evidence of the quality of agricultural commodities delivered to—

(A) warehouse operators that are licensed under the United States Warehouse Act (7 U.S.C. 241 et seq.);

(B) warehouse operators that—

(i) are licensed under State law; and
(ii) have entered into a storage agreement with the Commodity Credit Corporation; and

(C) warehouse operators that—

(i) are not licensed under State law but are in compliance with State law regarding warehouses; and
(ii) have entered into a commodity storage agreement with the Commodity Credit Corporation.

(n) Limitation on multiple benefits for same loss

(1) In general

Except as provided in paragraph (2), if a producer who is eligible to receive benefits under catastrophic risk protection under subsection (b) of this section is also eligible to receive assistance for the same loss under any other program administered by the Secretary, the producer shall be required to elect whether to receive benefits under this chapter or under the other program, but not both. A producer who purchases additional coverage under subsection (c) of this section may also receive assistance for the same loss under other programs administered by the Secretary, except that the amount received for the loss under the additional coverage together with the amount received under the other programs may not exceed the amount of the actual loss of the producer.

(2) Exception

Paragraph (1) shall not apply to emergency loans under subtitle C of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961 et seq.).

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §508, 52 Stat. 74; June 22, 1938, ch. 563, 52 Stat. 835; June 21, 1941, ch. 214, §§3-7, 10, 55 Stat. 255, 256; Dec. 23, 1944, ch. 713, §§1-3, 58 Stat. 918, 919; Aug. 1, 1947, ch. 440, §§1-3, 61 Stat. 718; Aug. 25, 1949, ch. 512, §§1-3, 63 Stat. 663; Aug. 13, 1953, ch. 431, 67 Stat. 575; Pub. L. 85-111, July 23, 1957, 71 Stat. 309; Pub. L. 86-131, Aug. 4, 1959, 73 Stat. 278; Pub. L. 88-589, Sept. 12, 1964, 78 Stat. 933; Pub. L. 96-365, title I, §§105, 106, 107(b), Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1314, 1315, 1317; Pub. L. 100-387, title II, §208(a), Aug. 11, 1988, 102 Stat. 941; Pub. L. 101-624, title XXII, §§2203-2205, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3955-3957; Pub. L. 102-237, title VI, §601(4), (5), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1878; Pub. L. 103-66, title XIV, §1403(b)(1), (2), Aug. 10, 1993, 107 Stat. 333, 334; Pub. L. 103-354, title I, §106, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3183; Pub. L. 104-127, title I, §§193(a)(1), (2), (c), (d), (f), 195, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 943-946; Pub. L. 105-185, title V, §§532, 534, June 23, 1998, 112 Stat. 581, 583; Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(a) [title VIII, §803(a)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681, 2681-38; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, §1000(a)(5) [title II, §§205(a), 206], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A-294; Pub. L. 106-224, title I, §§101-103(b)(1), (c), (d), 104-107, 123, 124(a), 144-146, 161, 162, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 360-368, 378, 391, 392, 395; Pub. L. 107-171, title X, §§10001-10003, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 486; Pub. L. 109-97, title VII, §780, Nov. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 2162.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, referred to in subsec. (a)(3)(B)(ii)(I), is title II of Pub. L. 103-354, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3209, as amended. Subtitle H of the Act is classified principally to subchapter VIII (§6991 et seq.) of chapter 98 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

The Agricultural Market Transition Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(7)(A), is title I of Pub. L. 104-127, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 896, which is classified principally to chapter 100 (§7201 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see References in Text note set out under section 7201 of this title and Tables.

For the effective date of this paragraph, referred to in subsecs. (b)(10)(B) and (g)(3)(C), as being Oct. 13, 1994, see Effective Date of 1994 Amendment note below.

Section 7759 of this title, referred to in subsec. (g)(5)(A)(i), was amended by Pub. L. 106-224, title IV, §438(a)(3), June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 454, and, as amended, no longer contains provisions defining the term “plant pest”. See section 7702 of this title.

Section 118 of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform Act of 1994, referred to in subsec. (k)(5), is section 118 of Pub. L. 103-354, which is set out as a note under section 1506 of this title.

The United States Warehouse Act, referred to in subsec. (m)(4)(A), is part C of act Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, 39 Stat. 486, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 10 (§241 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 241 of this title and Tables.

The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, referred to in subsec. (n)(2), is title III of Pub. L. 87-128, Aug. 8, 1961, 75 Stat. 307, as amended. Subtitle C of the Act is classified generally to subchapter III (§1961 et seq.) of chapter 50 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1921 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2005—Subsec. (a)(4)(B). Pub. L. 109-97 inserted “or similar commodities” after “the commodity”.

2002—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 107-171, §10001, substituted “, potatoes, and sweet potatoes” for “and potatoes”.

Subsec. (e)(4). Pub. L. 107-171, §10002, substituted "Prohibition" for "Temporary prohibition" in heading and "and subsequent reinsurance years" for "through 2005 reinsurance years" in text.

Subsec. (m)(3). Pub. L. 107-171, §10003(1), designated first sentence of par. (3) as subpar. (A) and inserted heading and designated second sentence of par. (3) as subpar. (B), inserted heading, and substituted "Effective beginning not later than the 2004 reinsurance year, based on" for "Based on" in text.

Subsec. (m)(4). Pub. L. 107-171, §10003(2), added par. (4).

2000—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 106-224, §123, added par. (3) and struck out heading and text of former par. (3). Text read as follows: "Insurance provided under this subsection shall not cover losses due to—

"(A) the neglect or malfeasance of the producer;

"(B) the failure of the producer to reseed to the same crop in such areas and under such circumstances as it is customary to reseed; or

"(C) the failure of the producer to follow good farming practices (as determined by the Secretary)."

Subsec. (a)(3)(C). Pub. L. 106-224, §161, added subpar. (C).

Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 106-224, §144, designated existing provisions as subpar. (A) and inserted heading, redesignated former subpars. (A) and (B) as cls. (i) and (ii), respectively, and realigned their margins, and added subpar. (B).

Subsec. (a)(7). Pub. L. 106-224, §145, added par. (7).

Subsec. (a)(8). Pub. L. 106-224, §162, added par. (8).

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 106-224, §103(a), added par. (3) and struck out heading and text of former par. (3). Text read as follows: "A producer shall have the option of basing the catastrophic coverage of the producer on an individual yield and loss basis or on an area yield and loss basis, if both options are offered by the Corporation."

Subsec. (b)(5)(A). Pub. L. 106-224, §103(b)(1)(A), substituted "\$100" for "\$50".

Subsec. (b)(5)(B). Pub. L. 106-224, §103(b)(1)(B), (c), added subpar. (B) and struck out heading and text of former subpar. (B). Text read as follows: "In addition to the amount required under subparagraph (A), the producer shall pay a \$10 fee for each amount determined under subparagraph (A)."

Subsec. (b)(5)(C). Pub. L. 106-224, §103(b)(1)(C), substituted "administrative fee required by this paragraph" for "amounts required under subparagraphs (A) and (B)".

Subsec. (b)(11). Pub. L. 106-224, §103(d), substituted "8 percent" for "11 percent".

Subsec. (c)(5). Pub. L. 106-224, §101(a), added par. (5) and struck out heading and text of former par. (5). Text read as follows: "The Corporation shall establish a price level for each commodity on which insurance is offered that—

"(A) shall not be less than the projected market price for the commodity (as determined by the Corporation); or

"(B) at the discretion of the Corporation, may be based on the actual market price at the time of harvest (as determined by the Corporation)."

Subsec. (c)(10). Pub. L. 106-224, §104, added par. (10) and struck out former par. (10), which required administrative fee where producer elected to purchase additional coverage for crop at level that was less than 65 percent of recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at 100 percent of expected market price, or equivalent coverage, and provided for exception to fee if producer elected to purchase additional coverage for crop equal to 65 percent or more of recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at 100 percent of expected market price, or equivalent coverage, additional fee if producer elected to purchase additional coverage for crop equal to or exceeding 65 percent of recorded or appraised average yield and 100 percent of expected market price or equivalent coverage, and for deposit of fees.

Subsec. (d)(2)(B), (C). Pub. L. 106-224, §101(b)(1), added subpar. (B) and struck out former subpars. (B) and (C),

which described premium amounts in the case of additional coverage below, equal to, or greater than 65 percent of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at 100 percent of the expected market price, or an equivalent coverage.

Subsec. (d)(3). Pub. L. 106-224, §101(b)(2), added par. (3).

Subsec. (e)(2). Pub. L. 106-224, §101(c)(1), substituted "Subject to paragraph (4), the amount" for "The amount" in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (e)(2)(B) to (G). Pub. L. 106-224, §101(c)(2), added subpars. (B) to (G) and struck out former subpars. (B) and (C), which set forth amount of premium to be paid by Corporation in the case of coverage below, equal to, or greater than 65 percent of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at 100 percent of the expected market price, or an equivalent coverage.

Subsec. (e)(4). Pub. L. 106-224, §101(d), added par. (4) and struck out former par. (4), which authorized Corporation to allow approved providers to offer insurance plan to producers that would combine both individual and area yield coverage at a premium rate determined under certain conditions.

Subsec. (e)(5). Pub. L. 106-224, §101(e), added par. (5).

Subsec. (f)(3)(A). Pub. L. 106-224, §124(a), added subpar. (A) and struck out former subpar. (A) which read as follows: "provide, to the extent required by the Corporation, records acceptable to the Corporation of historical acreage and production of the crops for which the insurance is sought or accept a yield determined by the Corporation; and".

Subsec. (g)(2)(B). Pub. L. 106-224, §105(a), designated existing provisions of subpar. (B) as cl. (i) and added cl. (ii).

Subsec. (g)(2)(D). Pub. L. 106-224, §101(f), struck out "(as provided in subsection (e)(4) of this section)" after "combined coverage".

Subsec. (g)(4), (5). Pub. L. 106-224, §105(b), added pars. (4) and (5).

Subsec. (h)(1). Pub. L. 106-224, §146(a), inserted "(including an approved insurance provider, a college or university, a cooperative or trade association, or any other person)" after "a person" in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (h)(2). Pub. L. 106-224, §102(a)(1), struck out at end "In the case of such a policy, the payment by the Corporation of a portion of the premium of the policy may not exceed the amount that would otherwise be authorized under subsection (e) of this section."

Subsec. (h)(3). Pub. L. 106-224, §146(b), inserted "by approved insurance providers" after "for sale" in first sentence.

Subsec. (h)(4)(A). Pub. L. 106-224, §146(c)(1), added subpar. (A) and struck out former subpar. (A) which read as follows: "A proposal submitted to the Board under this subsection shall be considered as confidential commercial or financial information for purposes of section 552(b)(4) of title 5 until approved by the Board. A proposal disapproved by the Board shall remain confidential commercial or financial information."

Subsec. (h)(4)(B). Pub. L. 106-224, §146(c)(2), inserted subpar. heading.

Subsec. (h)(4)(C), (D). Pub. L. 106-224, §146(c)(3), added subpars. (C) and (D) and struck out former subpars. (C) and (D), which required notice of intent to disapprove, provided that modification would be considered an original application, and directed that specific guidelines were to prescribe timely submission and consideration of proposals.

Subsec. (h)(5). Pub. L. 106-224, §102(a)(2), added par. (5) and struck out heading and text of former par. (5). Text read as follows: "Any policy, provision of a policy, or rate approved under this subsection shall be published as a notice in the Federal Register and made available to all persons contracting with or reinsured by the Corporation under the terms and conditions of the contract between the Corporation and the person originally submitting the policy or other material."

Subsec. (h)(6) to (10). Pub. L. 106-224, §146(d), redesignated par. (7) as (6) and struck out former pars. (6)

which related to pilot cost of production risk protection plan, (8) which related to pilot program of assigned yields for new producers, (9) which related to revenue insurance pilot program, and (10) which related to time limits for response to submission of new policies.

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 106-224, §106, designated existing provisions as par. (1), inserted heading, and added pars. (2) to (4).

Subsec. (k)(4)(C). Pub. L. 106-224, §102(b), added subpar. (C).

Subsec. (m). Pub. L. 106-224, §107, added subsec. (m) and struck out former subsec. (m), which authorized research, surveys, pilot programs, and investigations relating to crop insurance and agriculture-related risks and losses and required evaluation of pilot programs and submission of reports, including recommendations with respect to implementation of programs on a national basis.

1999—Subsec. (f)(2). Pub. L. 106-113, §1000(a)(5) [title II, §206], designated existing provisions as subpar. (A), inserted heading, struck out “Beginning with the 1995 crop year, the Corporation shall establish, for an insurance policy for each insurable crop that is planted in the spring, a sales closing date that is 30 days earlier than the corresponding sales closing date that was established for the 1994 crop year.” after “price and production adjustment programs of the Department.”, and added subpars. (B) and (C).

Subsec. (h)(9)(A). Pub. L. 106-113, §1000(a)(5) [title II, §205(a)], substituted “1997 through 2001” for “1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000”.

1998—Subsec. (b)(5). Pub. L. 105-185, §532(a), added par. (5) and struck out heading and text of former par. (5) which, in subpar. (A) required payment of \$50 fee per crop per county up to a maximum of \$200 per producer per county and \$600 per producer for all counties, in subpar. (B) directed crediting of fees up to \$100 collected by USDA offices to appropriations account, retention of fees up to \$100 collected by approved insurance providers, and deposit of fees in excess of \$100 in crop insurance fund, and in subpar. (C) waived fee for limited resource farmers as defined by Corporation.

Subsec. (b)(11). Pub. L. 105-185, §532(d), added par. (11).

Subsec. (c)(10)(A). Pub. L. 105-185, §532(b)(1), added subpar. (A) and struck out heading and text of former subpar. (A). Text read as follows: “Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, if a producer elects to purchase additional coverage for a crop at a level that is less than 65 percent of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at 100 percent of the expected market price, or an equivalent coverage, the producer shall pay an administrative fee for the additional coverage. Subsection (b)(5) of this section shall apply in determining the amount and use of the administrative fee or in determining whether to waive the administrative fee.”

Subsec. (c)(10)(C). Pub. L. 105-185, §532(b)(2), substituted “\$20” for “\$10” in first sentence.

Subsec. (h)(10). Pub. L. 105-185, §534, added par. (10).

Subsec. (k)(4). Pub. L. 105-185, §532(c), added par. (4) and struck out heading and text of former par. (4). Text read as follows: “The rate established by the Board to reimburse approved insurance providers and agents for the administrative and operating costs of the providers and agents shall not exceed—

“(A) for the 1997 reinsurance year, 29 percent of the premium used to define loss ratio;

“(B) for the 1998 reinsurance year, 28 percent of the premium used to define loss ratio; and

“(C) for the 1999 reinsurance year, 27.5 percent of the premium used to define loss ratio.”

Subsec. (n). Pub. L. 105-277 designated existing provisions as par. (1), inserted heading, substituted “Except as provided in paragraph (2), if a producer” for “If a producer”, and added par. (2).

1996—Subsec. (a)(6)(D). Pub. L. 104-127, §193(c), added subpar. (D).

Subsec. (b)(4)(C). Pub. L. 104-127, §193(a)(1), added subpar. (C).

Subsec. (b)(7)(A). Pub. L. 104-127, §193(a)(2), added subpar. (A) and struck out heading and text of former

subpar. (A). Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “To be eligible for any price support or production adjustment program, the conservation reserve program, or any benefit described in section 2008f of this title, the producer must obtain at least the catastrophic level of insurance for each crop of economic significance grown on each farm in the county in which the producer has an interest, if insurance is available in the county for the crop.”

Subsec. (h)(9). Pub. L. 104-127, §195, added par. (9).

Subsec. (j)(4). Pub. L. 104-127, §193(d), added par. (4).

Subsec. (n). Pub. L. 104-127, §193(f), added subsec. (n).

1994—Pub. L. 103-354 amended section generally, substituting present provisions for former provisions which related to: in subsec. (a), authority to offer insurance; in subsec. (b), submission of policies and materials to Board; in subsec. (c), actuarial soundness; in subsec. (d), adoption of rates and coverages; in subsec. (e), premiums; in subsec. (f), claims for losses; in subsec. (g), special rule for cotton; in subsec. (h), reinsurance; in subsec. (i), application to other areas; in subsec. (j), optional coverages; in subsec. (k), research; in subsec. (l), crop insurance for dry edible beans; in subsec. (m), information collection on crop insurance; and in subsec. (n), area yield plan.

1993—Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 103-66, §1403(b)(1), substituted fifth sentence for former fifth sentence which read as follows: “The Corporation shall also pay operating and administrative costs to insurers of policies on which the Corporation provides reinsurance to the same extent that such costs are covered by the Corporation on the Corporation’s policies of insurance.”

Subsec. (n). Pub. L. 103-66, §1403(b)(2), added subsec. (n).

1991—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-237, §601(4), struck out par. (1) designation.

Subsecs. (k) to (n). Pub. L. 102-237, §601(5), redesignated subsecs. (l) to (n) as (k) to (m), respectively.

1990—Pub. L. 101-624, §2204(b)(1), inserted section catchline and struck out “To carry out the purposes of this chapter the Corporation is authorized and empowered—” before subsec. (a).

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-624, §2205(1), inserted heading, substituted “the Corporation may insure” for “to insure” in first sentence, and inserted provisions relating to amount of insurance to be provided in cases where Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service has established adjusted yields, and provisions relating to establishment of a price level for each commodity beginning with the 1992 crop year.

Subsecs. (b) to (d). Pub. L. 101-624, §2204(a)(1), (2), added subsecs. (b) to (d) and redesignated subsecs. (b) to (d) as (e) to (g), respectively.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 101-624, §2204(a)(1), (b)(2), redesignated subsec. (b) as (e), inserted heading, and substituted “The Corporation may fix” for “To fix” in par. (1). Former subsec. (e) redesignated (h).

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 101-624, §2204(a)(1), redesignated subsec. (c) as (f). Former subsec. (f) redesignated (i).

Pub. L. 101-624, §2203(a), inserted heading, substituted “The Corporation may adjust and pay claims for losses as provided under subsection (a) of this section” for “To adjust and pay claims for losses”, and inserted after first sentence “The rules prescribed by the Board shall establish standards to ensure that all claims for losses are adjusted to the extent practicable in a uniform and timely manner.”

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 101-624, §2204(a)(1), (b)(3), redesignated subsec. (d) as (g), inserted heading, and substituted “the Corporation may include” for “to include”. Former subsec. (g) redesignated (j).

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 101-624, §2204(a)(1), redesignated subsec. (e) as (h). Former subsec. (h) redesignated (k).

Pub. L. 101-624, §2203(b), inserted heading, substituted “The Corporation is directed” for “And directed”, and inserted sentence at end relating to revision of reinsurance agreements beginning with the 1992 reinsurance year.

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 101-624, §2204(a)(1), (b)(4), redesignated subsec. (f) as (i), inserted heading, and sub-

stituted "The Corporation may provide" for "To provide". Former subsec. (i) redesignated (l).

Subsec. (j). Pub. L. 101-624, § 2204(a)(1), (b)(5), redesignated subsec. (g) as (j), inserted heading, and substituted "The Corporation may offer" for "To offer". Former subsec. (j) redesignated (m).

Subsec. (k). Pub. L. 101-624, § 2205(2), struck out subsec. (k) which set out a special rule for calculating premiums and indemnities, with respect to insuring timber and forest yields.

Pub. L. 101-624, § 2204(a)(1), (b)(6), redesignated subsec. (h) as (k), inserted heading, and substituted "The Corporation may include" for "To include".

Subsec. (l). Pub. L. 101-624, § 2204(a)(1), (b)(7), redesignated subsec. (i) as (l), inserted heading, substituted "The Corporation may conduct" for "To conduct", and struck out second and third sentences which read as follows: "Beginning in the 1981 crop year and ending after the 1985 crop year, the Corporation shall also conduct a pilot program of individual risk underwriting of crop insurance in not less than twenty-five counties. Under this pilot program, to the extent that appropriate yield data are available, the Corporation shall make available to producers in such counties crop insurance under this chapter based on personalized rates and with guarantees determined from the producer's actual yield history."

Subsec. (m). Pub. L. 101-624, § 2204(b)(8), added subsec. (m) and struck out former subsec. (m) which read as follows: "To accumulate, prior to the 1989 crop year, sufficient actuarial data to enable the Corporation to provide crop insurance that meets the differentiated needs of producers of different types of dry edible beans. Commencing with the 1989 crop year, the Corporation shall make such crop insurance available to producers."

Pub. L. 101-624, § 2204(a)(1), redesignated subsec. (j) as (m).

Subsec. (n). Pub. L. 101-624, § 2204(a)(3), added subsec. (n).

1988—Subsec. (j). Pub. L. 100-387 added subsec. (j).

1980—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 96-365, § 105, authorized Corporation, if sufficient actuarial data is available, to insure producers of any agricultural commodity grown in the United States under any plan of insurance determined to be adapted to the commodity involved; defined "field" in the case of aquacultural species to mean the environment in which the commodity is produced; in revising percentage limitations for crop insurance coverage, prescribed 75 per centum protection for recorded or appraised average yield (previously protected up to such percentage), offered producers lesser levels of coverage including 50 per centum of recorded or appraised average yield as adjusted, barred protection exceeding 75 per centum, offered price election approximating (but not less than 90 per centum of) projected market price for commodity involved, and struck out requirement for downward adjustment of minimum percentage in yield which may be insured to reflect investment in crop; and struck out limitations on Federal crop insurance program which: limited crop insurance to not more than seven agricultural commodities in 1948 and to not more than three additional commodities yearly thereafter, beginning with 1954 crop authorized yearly expansion of crop insurance program to not more than 150 counties in addition to counties offered insurance the previous year, limited reinsurance for private insurance companies to 20 counties, and required counties selected by the Board for crop insurance to be representative of areas where the commodity involved normally was produced; and struck out general reinsurance provision, covered in subsec. (e) of this section.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 96-365, § 106(1), designated existing provisions as par. (1), struck out "in the agricultural commodity or in cash," after "premiums for insurance" and proviso from first sentence authorizing establishment of premiums on the basis of the parity or comparable price for the commodity as determined and publish by Secretary of Agriculture, or on the basis of

an average market price designated by the Board and second sentence providing for collection of premiums at such time or times, or for securing in such manner, as the Board may determine, which is covered in par. (4), required the rates to be actuarially sufficient, added pars. (2) and (3), incorporated existing provision in par. (4), and added pars. (5) and (6).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 96-365, § 106(2), struck out "in the agricultural commodity or in cash," after "claims for losses" and provisions respecting: determination of indemnities on same price basis as premiums were determined for the crop with respect to which the indemnities were paid; requirement that the Corporation post annually for each county at the county courthouse a list of indemnities paid for losses on farms in the county; action on claims in any court of the State having general jurisdiction, sitting in the county where the insured farm was located; and jurisdiction of district courts without regard to amount in controversy.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 96-365, § 106(3), redesignated subsec. (e) as (d) and struck out prior subsec. (d) authorizing Corporation to purchase, handle, store, insure, provide storage facilities for, and sell agricultural commodities.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 96-365, § 106(4), added subsec. (e). Former subsec. (e) redesignated (d).

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 96-365, § 106(4), substituted provisions for insurance and reinsurance in the territories and possessions for prior provision for reinsurance in Puerto Rico when not available from recognized private sources.

Subsecs. (g), (h). Pub. L. 96-365, § 106(4), added subsecs. (g) and (h).

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 96-365, § 107(b), added subsec. (i).

1964—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 88-589 increased from 100 to 150 the number of counties into which the Federal crop insurance program may be extended.

1959—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 86-131 struck out provision prohibiting Federal crop insurance in a county unless two hundred farms or one third of the farms normally producing the commodity apply for such insurance, excluding farms refused insurance on the basis of risk involved.

1957—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 85-111 added subsec. (f).

1953—Subsec. (a). Act Aug. 13, 1953, authorized extension of Federal crop insurance program into an additional 100 counties, struck out commodity formula basis on which this expansion may take place, and provided an exception to the strict county limitation by providing that producers on farms situated in a local producing area bordering on a county with a crop insurance program may be included in that county's program.

1949—Subsec. (a). Act Aug. 25, 1949, § 1, provided for an annual increase in number of counties in which insurance now offered by Corporation can be issued.

Subsec. (b). Act Aug. 25, 1949, § 2, struck out provision under which Corporation's administrative expenses are restricted, after the crop year 1949, to a sum equivalent to 25 percent of the premiums collected in the preceding year.

Subsec. (c). Act Aug. 25, 1949, § 3, struck out provision which required prorating of losses beginning with crop year 1950.

1947—Subsec. (a). Act Aug. 1, 1947, § 1, amended subsec. (a) generally, and among other changes, provided for crop insurance, commencing with crops planted for harvest in 1948, made provision for reinsurance, enumerated specific crops insurable in 1948, provided for additional crops in subsequent years, limited number of counties in which certain crops were insurable, increased required number of applications in any one county from fifty to two hundred, and authorized Board to refuse insurance in any county where agricultural commodity to be insured constitutes an unimportant part of total agricultural income.

Subsec. (b). Act Aug. 1, 1947, § 2, inserted proviso relating to basis for premiums.

Subsec. (c). Act Aug. 1, 1947, § 3, inserted first proviso relating to determination of price basis for indemnities.

1944—Subsec. (a). Act Dec. 23, 1944, §1, amended subsec. (a) generally to provide insurance against loss not only for wheat and cotton crops but also for flax, corn, oats, etc.

Subsec. (b). Act Dec. 23, 1944, §2, provided for the establishment of such rates as would cover crop losses and build up a reasonable reserve, and inserted proviso.

Subsec. (c). Act Dec. 23, 1944, §3, inserted first proviso, and inserted “and received” after “mailed to” in last proviso.

1941—Subsec. (a). Act June 21, 1941, §§3-5, struck out comma after “1939” and inserted “and with the cotton crop planted for harvest in 1942”, and substituted “producers of the agricultural commodity against loss in yields of the agricultural commodity” for “producers of wheat against loss in yields of wheat” in the first sentence, and “the agricultural commodity” for “wheat” in the third sentence, respectively.

Subsecs. (b), (c). Act June 21, 1941, §6, substituted “the agricultural commodity” for “wheat” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (d). Act June 21, 1941, §§6, 10, substituted “the agricultural commodity” for “wheat” wherever appearing, and inserted second sentence.

Subsec. (e). Act June 21, 1941, §7, added subsec. (e).

1938—Subsec. (a). Act June 22, 1938, inserted second proviso in first sentence.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Amendment by sections 101(a)–(c), 102(a), 103(a), (b)(1), (c), 104, 105(b), and 162 of Pub. L. 106–224 applicable beginning with the 2001 crop of an agricultural commodity, amendment by sections 101(d), 102(b), and 103(d) of Pub. L. 106–224 applicable beginning with the 2001 reinsurance year, amendment by sections 101(e), (f), 105(a), 106, 107, 123, 124(a), 144, 145, and 161 of Pub. L. 106–224 effective June 20, 2000, and amendment by section 146 of Pub. L. 106–224 effective Oct. 1, 2000, see section 171 of Pub. L. 106–224, set out as a note under section 1501 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105–185 effective July 1, 1998, see section 537 of Pub. L. 105–185, set out as a note under section 1506 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103–354 effective Oct. 13, 1994, and applicable to provision of crop insurance under Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) beginning with 1995 crop year, with such Act, as in effect on the day before Oct. 13, 1994, to continue to apply with respect to 1994 crop year, see section 120 of Pub. L. 103–354, set out as a note under section 1502 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1993 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103–66 effective Oct. 1, 1993, see section 1403(c) of Pub. L. 103–66, set out as a note under section 1506 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Section 105 of Pub. L. 96–365 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective with respect to 1981 and subsequent crops.

Section 106 of Pub. L. 96–365 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective with respect to 1981 and subsequent crops.

Amendment by section 107(b) of Pub. L. 96–365 effective Sept. 26, 1980, see section 112 of Pub. L. 96–365, set out as a note under section 1504 of this title.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Administration of program of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation transferred to Secretary of Agriculture by 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §501, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7877, 60 Stat. 1100. See note set out under section 1503 of this title.

Wartime consolidation of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation into Agricultural Conservation and Ad-

justment Administration, see note set out under section 1503 of this title.

EXPANSION OF CROP INSURANCE PILOTS

Pub. L. 106–113, div. B, §1000(a)(5) [title II, §205(b)], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A–294, provided that: “In the case of any pilot program offered under the Federal Crop Insurance Act [7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.] that was approved by the Board of Directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation on or before September 30, 1999, the pilot program may be offered on a regional, whole State, or national basis for the 2000 and 2001 crop years notwithstanding section 553 of title 5, United States Code.”

LIMITATION ON FEE FOR CATASTROPHIC RISK PROTECTION

Pub. L. 105–277, div. A, §101(a) [title VII, §748], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681, 2681–32, as amended by Pub. L. 106–224, title I, §103(b)(2), June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 364, provided that: “Notwithstanding the provisions of section 508(b)(5)(A) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(b)(5)(A)), for the 1999 reinsurance and subsequent reinsurance years, no producer shall pay more than \$100 per crop per county as an administrative fee for catastrophic risk protection under section 508(b)(5)(A) of the Act.”

SPECIAL RULE FOR 1996 CROP YEAR REGARDING CATASTROPHIC RISK PROTECTION INSURANCE

Section 193(a)(3) of Pub. L. 104–127 provided that:

“(A) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—This paragraph shall apply only to the 1996 crop year.

“(B) AVAILABILITY.—During a period of not less than 2 weeks, but not more than 4 weeks, beginning on the date of enactment of this title [Apr. 4, 1996], the Secretary shall provide producers with an opportunity to obtain catastrophic risk protection insurance under section 508(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(b)) for a spring-planted crop, and limited additional coverage for malting barley under the Malting Barley Price and Quality Endorsement. The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation may attach such limitations and restrictions on obtaining insurance during this period as the Corporation considers necessary to maintain the actuarial soundness of the crop insurance program.

“(C) ATTACHMENT.—Insurance coverage under any policy obtained under this paragraph during the extended sales period shall not attach until 10 days after the application.

“(D) CANCELLATION.—During the extended period, a producer may cancel a catastrophic risk protection policy if—

“(i) the policy is a continuation of a policy that was obtained for a previous crop year; and

“(ii) the cancellation request is made before the acreage reporting date for the policy for the 1996 crop year.”

CROP INSURANCE PILOT PROGRAM

Section 193(b) of Pub. L. 104–127 provided that:

“(1) COVERAGE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall develop and administer a pilot project for crop insurance coverage that indemnifies crop losses due to a natural disaster such as insect infestation or disease.

“(2) ACTUARIAL SOUNDNESS.—A pilot project under this paragraph shall be actuarially sound, as determined by the Secretary and administered at no net cost.

“(3) DURATION.—A pilot project under this paragraph shall be of two years’ duration.”

PREVENTED PLANTING

Section 116 of Pub. L. 103–354 provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective for the 1994 crop year, a producer described in subsection (b) shall receive compensation under the prevented planting coverage policy provision described in subsection (b)(1) by—

“(1) obtaining from the Secretary of Agriculture the applicable amount that is payable under the conserving use program described in subsection (b)(4); and

“(2) obtaining from the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation the amount that is equal to the difference between—

“(A) the amount that is payable under the conserving use program; and

“(B) the amount that is payable under the prevented planting coverage policy.

“(b) ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS.—Subsection (a) shall apply to a producer who—

“(1) purchased a prevented planting policy for the 1994 crop year from the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation prior to the spring sales closing date for the 1994 crop year;

“(2) is unable to plant a crop due to major, widespread flooding in the Midwest, or excessive ground moisture, that occurred prior to the spring sales closing date for the 1994 crop year;

“(3) had a reasonable expectation of planting a crop on the prevented planting acreage for the 1994 crop year; and

“(4) participates in a conserving use program established for the 1994 crop of wheat, feed grains, upland cotton, or rice established under section 107B(c)(1)(E), 105B(c)(1)(E), 103B(c)(1)(D), or 101B(c)(1)(D), respectively, of the Agricultural Act of 1949 ([former] 7 U.S.C. 1445b-3a(c)(1)(E), 1444f(c)(1)(E), 1444-2(c)(1)(D), or 1441-2(c)(1)(D)).

“(c) OILSEED PREVENTED PLANTING PAYMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective for the 1994 crop year, a producer of a crop of oilseeds (as defined in section 205(a) of the Agricultural Act of 1949 ([former] 7 U.S.C. 1446f(a))) shall receive a prevented planting payment for the crop if the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (b) are satisfied.

“(2) SOURCE OF PAYMENT.—The total amount of payments required under this subsection shall be made by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

“(d) PAYMENT.—A payment under this section may not be made before October 1, 1994.”

REPORT ON IMPROVING DISSEMINATION OF CROP INSURANCE INFORMATION

Section 117 of Pub. L. 103-354 provided that: “Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 13, 1994] and at the end of each of the 2 1-year periods thereafter, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation shall submit a report to Congress containing a plan to implement a sound program for producer education regarding the crop insurance program and for the dissemination of crop insurance information to producers, as required by section 508(a)(5) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act [7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(5)] (as amended by section 106).”

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE COMMISSION

Pub. L. 100-546, Oct. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 2730, provided for establishment, membership, compensation, etc., of Commission for the Improvement of the Federal Crop Insurance Program, directed Commission to study and determine why participation in program had not reached levels anticipated when Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1980 was enacted, to identify States and commodities to which lack of participation in program is most serious, and to prepare findings and recommendations setting forth means by which participation in program could be increased and natural protection for producers of agricultural commodities could be improved, required Commission to submit an interim report to Congressional committees and Secretary of Agriculture, not later than Apr. 1, 1989, containing findings and recommendations for immediate administrative improvement in program, aimed at improving program in 1990 sales year, and a final report, not later than July 1, 1989, to include Commission's findings and recommendation and a status report on improvement

of program, authorized Commission to continue to monitor program and to submit monthly reports beginning July 1, 1989, and ending Dec. 31, 1990, and terminated Commission on Dec. 31, 1990.

LOSS ADJUSTMENT OBLIGATIONS

Pub. L. 100-203, title I, §1507, Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1330-29, provided that: “It is the sense of Congress that, in carrying out the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.), the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation—

“(1) should not be required to assume 100 percent of all loss adjustments in the Federal crop insurance program; and

“(2) should assume and perform the loss adjustment obligations of a reinsured company if the Corporation determines that such company's loss adjustment performance and practices are not carried out in accordance with the applicable reinsurance agreement.”

NOTICE TO PRODUCERS OF RIGHT TO ELECT SUBSIDIZED CROP INSURANCE OR DISASTER PAYMENTS ON 1981 CROPS

Section 202 of Pub. L. 96-365 provided that: “The Secretary of Agriculture, after consultation with the Board of Directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, shall, at least sixty days prior to the beginning of the planting of the 1981 crops of wheat, feed grains, upland cotton, and rice, or thirty days after the date of enactment of this Act [Sept. 26, 1980], whichever is the later, notify producers of those commodities of their right to elect, with respect to the 1981 crop, between (1) declaring the farm acreage of the respective commodity eligible for disaster payments under the Agricultural Act of 1949 [7 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.], or (2) covering such farm acreage with crop insurance, part of the premium for which is paid by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation under the provisions of section 508(b)(3) or 508(e) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act [subsec. (b)(3) or (e) of this section]. Such notice shall include a statement of the percent of crop insurance premium that will be paid by the Corporation.”

STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE ALL-RISK, ALL-CROP INSURANCE PROGRAMS

Pub. L. 95-181, §2, Nov. 15, 1977, 91 Stat. 1373, provided that: “The Secretary of Agriculture shall undertake an immediate study of alternative programs which could be established for an all-risk, all-crop insurance to help provide protection to those suffering crop losses in floods, droughts, and other natural disasters, including alternative methods of administration, Federal assistance, reinsurance, rate setting and private insurance industry involvement, as well as variations on the existing crop insurance program, and such other matters as he determines are relevant, and shall report his findings and recommendations to the President for transmission to the Congress by March 1, 1978. The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development on behalf of the Federal Insurance Administration; the Secretary of Treasury and representatives of the private insurance industry in the course of the study and shall identify the views of each in forwarding his findings and recommendations to the President. Such sums, not exceeding \$200,000, as are appropriated for fiscal year 1978 under section 504 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended [section 1504 of this title], may be utilized to conduct such a study.”

VALIDITY AND TERMINATION OF PRIOR INSURANCE CONTRACTS

Section 5 of act Aug. 1, 1947, provided: “Nothing in this Act [amending sections 1502, 1505 (a to d), 1506(d), 1507(d), and 1508 (a to c) of this title] shall be construed to affect the validity of any insurance contract entered into prior to the enactment of this Act [Aug. 1, 1947] insofar as such contract covers the 1947 crop year. Any such contract which purports to cover a crop in the 1948 or any subsequent crop year in any county in which in-

insurance on such crop will be discontinued pursuant to this Act is hereby terminated at the end of the 1947 crop year.”

§ 1508a. Double insurance and prevented planting

(a) Definitions

In this section:

(1) First crop

The term “first crop” means the first crop of the first agricultural commodity planted for harvest, or prevented from being planted, on specific acreage during a crop year and insured under this chapter.

(2) Second crop

The term “second crop” means a second crop of the same agricultural commodity as the first crop, or a crop of a different agricultural commodity following the first crop, planted on the same acreage as the first crop for harvest in the same crop year, except the term does not include a replanted crop.

(3) Replanted crop

The term “replanted crop” means any agricultural commodity replanted on the same acreage as the first crop for harvest in the same crop year if the replanting is required by the terms of the policy of insurance covering the first crop.

(b) Double insurance

(1) Options on loss to first crop

Except as provided in subsections (d) and (e) of this section, if a first crop insured under this chapter in a crop year has a total or partial insurable loss, the producer of the first crop may elect one of the following options:

(A) No second crop planted

The producer may—

(i) elect to not plant a second crop on the same acreage for harvest in the same crop year; and

(ii) collect an indemnity payment that is equal to 100 percent of the insurable loss for the first crop.

(B) Second crop planted

The producer may—

(i) plant a second crop on the same acreage for harvest in the same crop year; and

(ii) collect an indemnity payment established by the Corporation for the first crop, but not to exceed 35 percent of the insurable loss for the first crop.

(2) Effect of no loss to second crop

If a producer makes an election under paragraph (1)(B) and the producer does not suffer an insurable loss to the second crop, the producer may collect an indemnity payment for the first crop that is equal to—

(A) 100 percent of the insurable loss for the first crop; less

(B) the amount previously collected under paragraph (1)(B)(ii).

(3) Premium for first crop if second crop planted

(A) Initial premium

If a producer makes an election under paragraph (1)(B), the producer shall be re-

sponsible for a premium for the first crop that is commensurate with the indemnity paid under paragraph (1)(B)(ii). The Corporation shall adjust the total premium for the first crop to reflect the reduced indemnity.

(B) Effect of no loss to second crop

If the producer makes an election under paragraph (1)(B) and the producer does not suffer an insurable loss to the second crop, the producer shall be responsible for a premium for the first crop that is equal to—

(i) the full premium owed by the producer for the first crop; less

(ii) the amount of premium previously paid under subparagraph (A).

(c) Prevented planting coverage

(1) Options on loss to first crop

Except as provided in subsections (d) and (e) of this section, if a first crop insured under this chapter in a crop year is prevented from being planted, the producer of the first crop may elect one of the following options:

(A) No second crop planted

The producer may—

(i) elect to not plant a second crop on the same acreage for harvest in the same crop year; and

(ii) subject to paragraph (4), collect an indemnity payment that is equal to 100 percent of the prevented planting guarantee for the acreage for the first crop.

(B) Second crop planted

The producer may—

(i) plant a second crop on the same acreage for harvest in the same crop year; and

(ii) subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), collect an indemnity payment established by the Corporation for the first crop, but not to exceed 35 percent of the prevented planting guarantee for the acreage for the first crop.

(2) Premium for first crop if second planted

If the producer makes an election under paragraph (1)(B), the producer shall pay a premium for the first crop that is commensurate with the indemnity paid under paragraph (1)(B)(ii). The Corporation shall adjust the total premium for the first crop to reflect the reduced indemnity.

(3) Effect on actual production history

Except in the case of double cropping described in subsection (d) of this section, if a producer make an election under paragraph (1)(B) for a crop year, the Corporation shall assign the producer a recorded yield for that crop year for the first crop equal to 60 percent of the producer’s actual production history for the agricultural commodity involved, for purposes of determining the producer’s actual production history for subsequent crop years.

(4) Area conditions required for payment

The Corporation shall limit prevented planting payments for producers to those situations in which other producers, in the area where a first crop is prevented from being planted is located, are also generally affected by the con-

ditions that prevented the first crop from being planted.

(5) Planting date

If a producer plants the second crop before the latest planting date established by the Corporation for the first crop, the Corporation shall not make a prevented planting payment with regard to the first crop.

(d) Exception for established double cropping practices

A producer may receive full indemnity payments on two or more crops planted for harvest in the same crop year and insured under this chapter if each of the following conditions are met:

(1) There is an established practice of planting two or more crops for harvest in the same crop year in the area, as determined by the Corporation.

(2) An additional coverage policy or plan of insurance is offered with respect to the agricultural commodities planted on the same acreage for harvest in the same crop year in the area.

(3) The producer has a history of planting two or more crops for harvest in the same crop year or the applicable acreage has historically had two or more crops planted for harvest in the same crop year.

(4) The second or more crops are customarily planted after the first crop for harvest on the same acreage in the same year in the area.

(e) Subsequent crops

Except in the case of double cropping described in subsection (d) of this section, if a producer elects to plant a crop (other than a replanted crop) subsequent to a second crop on the same acreage as the first crop and second crop for harvest in the same crop year, the producer shall not be eligible for insurance under this chapter, or noninsured crop assistance under section 7333 of this title, for the subsequent crop.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, § 508A, as added Pub. L. 106-224, title I, § 108, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 368.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1508a, act Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, § 508A, as added Aug. 14, 1989, Pub. L. 101-82, title VI, § 604, 103 Stat. 587; amended Aug. 10, 1993, Pub. L. 103-66, title XIV, § 1403(b)(3), 107 Stat. 334, related to crop insurance yield coverage, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 103-354, title I, §§ 107, 120, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3197, 3208, effective Oct. 13, 1994, and applicable to provision of crop insurance beginning with 1995 crop year.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable beginning with the 2001 crop of an agricultural commodity, see section 171(b)(2)(F) of Pub. L. 106-224, set out as an Effective Date of 2000 Amendment note under section 1501 of this title.

§ 1509. Exemption of indemnities from levy

Claims for indemnities under this chapter shall not be liable to attachment, levy, garnishment, or any other legal process before payment to the insured or to deduction on account of the indebtedness of the insured or the estate of the insured to the United States except claims of

the United States or the Corporation arising under this chapter.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, § 509, 52 Stat. 75; Pub. L. 103-354, title I, § 115(c), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3204.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-354 substituted “or the estate of the insured” for “or his estate”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-354 effective Oct. 13, 1994, and applicable to provision of crop insurance under Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) beginning with 1995 crop year, with such Act, as in effect on the day before Oct. 13, 1994, to continue to apply with respect to 1994 crop year, see section 120 of Pub. L. 103-354, set out as a note under section 1502 of this title.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Administration of program of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation transferred to Secretary of Agriculture by 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 501, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7877, 60 Stat. 1100. See note set out under section 1503 of this title.

Wartime consolidation of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation into Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration, see note set out under section 1503 of this title.

§ 1510. Deposit and investment of funds; Federal Reserve banks as fiscal agents

All money of the Corporation not otherwise employed may be deposited with the Treasurer of the United States or in any bank approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, subject to withdrawal by the Corporation at any time, or with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury may be invested in obligations of the United States or in obligations guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States. Subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Federal Reserve banks are hereby authorized and directed to act as depositories, custodians, and fiscal agents for the Corporation in the performance of its powers conferred by this chapter.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, § 510, 52 Stat. 75.)

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Administration of program of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation transferred to Secretary of Agriculture by 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, § 501, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7877, 60 Stat. 1100. See note set out under section 1503 of this title.

Wartime consolidation of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation into Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration, see note set out under section 1503 of this title.

§ 1511. Tax exemption

The Corporation, including its franchise, its capital, reserves, and surplus, and its income and property, shall be exempt from all taxation on or after February 16, 1938, imposed by the United States or by any Territory, dependency, or possession thereof, or by any State, county, municipality, or local taxing authority. A contract of insurance of the Corporation, and a contract of insurance reinsured by the Corporation, shall be exempt from taxation imposed by any State, municipality, or local taxing authority.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §511, 52 Stat. 75; Pub. L. 103-354, title I, §108, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3197.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-354 inserted at end “A contract of insurance of the Corporation, and a contract of insurance reinsured by the Corporation, shall be exempt from taxation imposed by any State, municipality, or local taxing authority.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-354 effective Oct. 13, 1994, and applicable to provision of crop insurance under Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) beginning with 1995 crop year, with such Act, as in effect on the day before Oct. 13, 1994, to continue to apply with respect to 1994 crop year, see section 120 of Pub. L. 103-354, set out as a note under section 1502 of this title.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Administration of program of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation transferred to Secretary of Agriculture by 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §501, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7877, 60 Stat. 1100. See note set out under section 1503 of this title.

Wartime consolidation of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation into Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration, see note set out under section 1503 of this title.

§ 1512. Corporation as fiscal agent of Government

When designated for that purpose by the Secretary of the Treasury, the Corporation shall be a depository of public money, except receipts from customs, under such regulations as may be prescribed by said Secretary; and it may also be employed as a financial agent of the Government; and it shall perform all such reasonable duties, as a depository of public money and financial agent of the Government, as may be required of it.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §512, 52 Stat. 75.)

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Administration of program of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation transferred to Secretary of Agriculture by 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §501, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7877, 60 Stat. 1100. See note set out under section 1503 of this title.

Wartime consolidation of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation into Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration, see note set out under section 1503 of this title.

§ 1513. Books of account and annual reports of Corporation

The Corporation shall at all times maintain complete and accurate books of accounts and shall file annually with the Secretary a complete report as to the business of the Corporation.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §513, 52 Stat. 76; Pub. L. 93-604, title VI, §603, Jan. 2, 1975, 88 Stat. 1963; Pub. L. 103-354, title I, §102(b)(4)(C), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3181.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-354 substituted “Secretary” for “Secretary of Agriculture”.

1975—Pub. L. 93-604 struck out provisions that financial transactions of Corporation shall be audited at

least once each year by the General Accounting Office for the sole purpose of making a report to Congress, together with such recommendations as the Comptroller General of the United States may deem advisable and the proviso that such report shall not be made until the Corporation shall have had reasonable opportunity to examine the exceptions and criticisms of the Comptroller General or the General Accounting Office, to point out errors therein, explain or answer the same, and to file a statement which shall be submitted by Comptroller General with his report.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-354 effective Oct. 13, 1994, and applicable to provision of crop insurance under Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) beginning with 1995 crop year, with such Act, as in effect on the day before Oct. 13, 1994, to continue to apply with respect to 1994 crop year, see section 120 of Pub. L. 103-354, set out as a note under section 1502 of this title.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Administration of program of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation transferred to Secretary of Agriculture by 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §501, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7877, 60 Stat. 1100. See note set out under section 1503 of this title.

Wartime consolidation of Federal Insurance Corporation into Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration, see note set out under section 1503 of this title.

AUDIT OF GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS

Section 9105(f) of Title 31, Money and Finance, provides that an audit under subsection (a) of that section is in place of an audit of the financial transactions of a Government corporation the Comptroller General is required to make in reporting to Congress or the President under another law.

§ 1514. Crimes and offenses

(a) to (e) Repealed. June 25, 1948, ch. 645, § 21, 62 Stat. 862, eff. Sept. 1, 1948

(f) Application of laws on interest of Members of Congress in contracts

The provisions of section 22 of title 41 shall not apply to any crop insurance agreements made under this chapter.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §514, 52 Stat. 76; June 25, 1948, ch. 645, §§ 4, 21, 62 Stat. 859, 862.)

AMENDMENTS

1948—Subsecs. (a) to (e). Act June 25, 1948, §21, repealed provisions relating to crimes and offenses. See sections 371, 433, 657, 658, 1006, 1014, and former section 1093 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure.

Subsec. (f). Act June 25, 1948, §4, struck out provisions relating to former sections 202 to 207 of Title 18. See sections 202, 216, 431 to 433 of Title 18.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1948 AMENDMENT

Amendment by act June 25, 1948, effective Sept. 1, 1948, see section 20 of that act.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Administration of program of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation transferred to Secretary of Agriculture by 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §501, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7877, 60 Stat. 1100. See note set out under section 1503 of this title.

Wartime consolidation of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation into Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration, see note set out under section 1503 of this title.

§ 1515. Program compliance and integrity

(a) Purpose

(1) In general

The purpose of this section is to improve compliance with, and the integrity of, the Federal crop insurance program.

(2) Role of insurance providers

The Corporation shall work actively with approved insurance providers to address program compliance and integrity issues as such issues develop.

(b) Notification of compliance problems

(1) Notification of errors, omissions, and failures

The Corporation shall notify in writing an approved insurance provider of any error, omission, or failure to follow Corporation regulations or procedures for which the approved insurance provider may be responsible and which may result in a debt owed the Corporation.

(2) Time for notification

Notice under paragraph (1) shall be given within 3 years after the end of the insurance period during which the error, omission, or failure is alleged to have occurred, except that this time limitation shall not apply with respect to an error, omission, or procedural violation that is willful or intentional.

(3) Effect of failure to timely notify

Except as provided in paragraph (2), the failure to timely provide the notice required under this subsection shall relieve the approved insurance provider from the debt owed the Corporation.

(c) Reconciling producer information

The Secretary shall develop and implement a coordinated plan for the Corporation and the Farm Service Agency to reconcile all relevant information received by the Corporation or the Farm Service Agency from a producer who obtains crop insurance coverage under this chapter. Beginning with the 2001 crop year, the Secretary shall require that the Corporation and the Farm Service Agency reconcile such producer-derived information on at least an annual basis in order to identify and address any discrepancies.

(d) Identification and elimination of fraud, waste, and abuse

(1) FSA monitoring program

The Secretary shall develop and implement a coordinated plan for the Farm Service Agency to assist the Corporation in the ongoing monitoring of programs carried out under this chapter, including—

(A) at the request of the Corporation or, subject to paragraph (2), on its own initiative if the Farm Service Agency has reason to suspect the existence of program fraud, waste, or abuse, conducting fact finding relative to allegations of program fraud, waste, or abuse;

(B) reporting to the Corporation, in writing in a timely manner, the results of any

fact finding conducted pursuant to subparagraph (A), any allegation of fraud, waste, or abuse, and any identified program vulnerabilities; and

(C) assisting the Corporation and approved insurance providers in auditing a statistically appropriate number of claims made under any policy or plan of insurance under this chapter.

(2) FSA inquiry

If, within five calendar days after receiving a report submitted under paragraph (1)(B), the Corporation does not provide a written response that describes the intended actions of the Corporation, the Farm Service Agency may conduct its own inquiry into the alleged program fraud, waste, or abuse on approval from the State director of the Farm Service Agency of the State in which the alleged fraud, waste, or abuse occurred. If as a result of the inquiry, the Farm Service Agency concludes further investigation is warranted, but the Corporation declines to proceed with the investigation, the Farm Service Agency may refer the matter to the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture.

(3) Use of field infrastructure

The plan required by paragraph (1) shall provide for the use of the field infrastructure of the Farm Service Agency. The Secretary shall ensure that relevant Farm Service Agency personnel are appropriately trained for any responsibilities assigned to the personnel under the plan. At a minimum, the personnel shall receive the same level of training and pass the same basic competency tests as required of loss adjusters of approved insurance providers.

(4) Maintenance of provider effort

(A) In general

The activities of the Farm Service Agency under this subsection do not affect the responsibility of approved insurance providers to conduct any audits of claims or other program reviews required by the Corporation.

(B) Notification of providers

The Corporation shall notify the appropriate approved insurance provider of a report from the Farm Service Agency regarding alleged program fraud, waste, or abuse, unless the provider is suspected to be included in, or a party to, the alleged fraud, waste, or abuse.

(C) Response

An approved insurance provider that receives a notice under subparagraph (B) shall submit a report to the Corporation, within an appropriate time period determined by the Secretary, describing the actions taken by the provider to investigate the allegations of program fraud, waste, or abuse contained in the notice.

(5) Corporation response to provider reports

(A) Prompt response

If an approved insurance provider reports to the Corporation that the approved insurance provider suspects intentional misrepres-

resentation, fraud, waste, or abuse, the Corporation shall make a determination and provide, within 90 calendar days after receiving the report, a written response that describes the intended actions of the Corporation.

(B) Cooperative effort

The approved insurance provider and the Corporation shall take coordinated action in any case where misrepresentation, fraud, waste, or abuse is alleged.

(C) Failure to timely respond

If the Corporation fails to respond as required by subparagraph (A), an approved insurance provider may request the Farm Service Agency to assist the provider in an inquiry into the alleged program fraud, waste, or abuse.

(e) Consultation with State FSA committees

The Secretary shall establish procedures under which the Corporation shall consult with the State committee of the Farm Service Agency for a State with respect to policies, plans of insurance, and material related to such policies or plans of insurance (including applicable sales closing dates, assigned yields, and transitional yields) offered in that State under this chapter.

(f) Detection of disparate performance

(1) Covered activities

The Secretary shall establish procedures under which the Corporation will be able to identify the following:

(A) Any agent engaged in the sale of coverage offered under this chapter where the loss claims associated with such sales by the agent are equal to or greater than 150 percent (or an appropriate percentage specified by the Corporation) of the mean for all loss claims associated with such sales by all other agents operating in the same area, as determined by the Corporation.

(B) Any person performing loss adjustment services relative to coverage offered under this chapter where such loss adjustments performed by the person result in accepted or denied claims equal to or greater than 150 percent (or an appropriate percentage specified by the Corporation) of the mean for accepted or denied claims (as applicable) for all other persons performing loss adjustment services in the same area, as determined by the Corporation.

(2) Review

(A) Review required

The Corporation shall conduct a review of any agent identified pursuant to paragraph (1)(A), and any person identified pursuant to paragraph (1)(B), to determine whether the higher loss claims associated with the agent or the higher number of accepted or denied claims (as applicable) associated with the person are the result of fraud, waste, or abuse.

(B) Remedial action

The Corporation shall take appropriate remedial action with respect to any occur-

rence of fraud, waste, or abuse identified in a review conducted under this paragraph.

(3) Oversight of agents and loss adjusters

The Corporation shall develop procedures to require an annual review by an approved insurance provider of the performance of each agent and loss adjuster used by the approved insurance provider. The Corporation shall oversee the conduct of annual reviews and may consult with an approved insurance provider regarding any remedial action that is determined to be necessary as a result of the annual review of an agent or loss adjuster.

(g) Submission of information to Corporation to support compliance efforts

(1) Types of information required

The Secretary shall establish procedures under which approved insurance providers shall submit to the Corporation the following information with respect to each policy or plan of insurance offered under this chapter:

(A) The name and identification number of the insured.

(B) The agricultural commodity to be insured.

(C) The elected coverage level, including the price election, of the insured.

(2) Time for submission

The information required by paragraph (1) with respect to a policy or plan of insurance shall be submitted so as to ensure receipt by the Corporation not later than the Saturday of the week containing the calendar day that is 30 days after the applicable sales closing date for the crop to be insured.

(h) Sanctions for program noncompliance and fraud

(1) False information

A producer, agent, loss adjuster, approved insurance provider, or other person that willfully and intentionally provides any false or inaccurate information to the Corporation or to an approved insurance provider with respect to a policy or plan of insurance under this chapter may, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing on the record, be subject to one or more of the sanctions described in paragraph (3).

(2) Compliance

A person may, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing on the record, be subject to one or more of the sanctions described in paragraph (3) if the person is a producer, agent, loss adjuster, approved insurance provider, or other person that willfully and intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of the Corporation.

(3) Authorized sanctions

If the Secretary determines that a person covered by this subsection has committed a material violation under paragraph (1) or (2), the following sanctions may be imposed:

(A) Civil fines

A civil fine may be imposed for each violation in an amount not to exceed the greater of—

(i) the amount of the pecuniary gain obtained as a result of the false or inaccurate information provided or the noncompliance with a requirement of this chapter; or
 (ii) \$10,000.

(B) Producer disqualification

In the case of a violation committed by a producer, the producer may be disqualified for a period of up to 5 years from receiving any monetary or nonmonetary benefit provided under each of the following:

- (i) This chapter.
- (ii) The Agricultural Market Transition Act (7 U.S.C. 7201 et seq.), including the noninsured crop disaster assistance program under section 196 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 7333).
- (iii) The Agricultural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.).
- (iv) The Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714 et seq.).
- (v) The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1281 et seq.).
- (vi) Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.).
- (vii) The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.).
- (viii) Any law that provides assistance to a producer of an agricultural commodity affected by a crop loss or a decline in the prices of agricultural commodities.

(C) Disqualification of other persons

In the case of a violation committed by an agent, loss adjuster, approved insurance provider, or other person (other than a producer), the violator may be disqualified for a period of up to 5 years from participating in any program, or receiving any benefit, under this chapter.

(4) Assessment of sanction

The Secretary shall consider the gravity of the violation of the person covered by this subsection in determining—

- (A) whether to impose a sanction under this subsection; and
- (B) the type and amount of the sanction to be imposed.

(5) Disclosure of sanctions

Each policy or plan of insurance under this chapter shall provide notice describing the sanctions prescribed under paragraph (3) for willfully and intentionally—

- (A) providing false or inaccurate information to the Corporation or to an approved insurance provider; or
- (B) failing to comply with a requirement of the Corporation.

(6) Insurance fund

Any funds collected under this subsection shall be deposited into the insurance fund established under section 1516(c) of this title.

(i) Annual report on program compliance and integrity efforts

(1) Report required

The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-

culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate an annual report describing the operation of this section during the preceding year and efforts undertaken by the Secretary and the Corporation to carry out this section.

(2) Information regarding fraud, waste, and abuse

The report shall identify specific occurrences of waste, fraud, or abuse and contain an outline of actions that have been or are being taken to eliminate the identified waste, fraud, or abuse.

(j) Information management

(1) Systems upgrades

The Secretary shall upgrade the information management systems of the Corporation used in the administration and enforcement of this chapter. In upgrading the systems, the Secretary shall ensure that new hardware and software are compatible with the hardware and software used by other agencies of the Department to maximize data sharing and promote the purpose of this section.

(2) Use of available information technologies

The Secretary shall use the information technologies known as data mining and data warehousing and other available information technologies to administer and enforce this chapter.

(3) Use of private sector

The Secretary may enter into contracts to use private sector expertise and technological resources in implementing this subsection.

(k) Funding

(1) Available funds

To carry out this section and sections 1502(c), 1506(h), 1508(a)(3)(B), and 1508(f)(3)(A) of this title, the Corporation may use, from amounts made available from the insurance fund established under section 1516(c) of this title, not more than \$23,000,000 during the period of fiscal years 2001 through 2005, of which not more than \$9,000,000 shall be available for fiscal year 2001.

(2) Prohibition

None of the funds made available under paragraph (1) may be used to pay the salaries of employees of the Corporation.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §515, as added Pub. L. 103-354, title I, §109, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3197; amended Pub. L. 106-224, title I, §121(a), June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 372.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Agricultural Market Transition Act, referred to in subsec. (h)(3)(B)(ii), is title I of Pub. L. 104-127, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 896, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 100 (§7201 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see References in Text note set out under section 7201 of this title and Tables.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, referred to in subsec. (h)(3)(B)(iii), is act Oct. 31, 1949, ch. 792, 63 Stat. 1051, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 35A (§1421 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1421 of this title and Tables.

The Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act, referred to in subsec. (h)(3)(B)(iv), is act June 29, 1948, ch. 704, 62 Stat. 1070, as amended, which is classified generally to subchapter II (§714 et seq.) of chapter 15 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 714 of Title 15 and Tables.

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, referred to in subsec. (h)(3)(B)(v), is act Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, 52 Stat. 31, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 35 (§1281 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1281 of this title and Tables.

The Food Security Act of 1985, referred to in subsec. (h)(3)(B)(vi), is Pub. L. 99-198, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1354, as amended. Title XII of the Act, popularly known as the "Sodbuster Law", is classified principally to chapter 58 (§3801 et seq.) of Title 16, Conservation. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1985 Amendment note set out under section 1281 of this title and Tables.

The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, referred to in subsec. (h)(3)(B)(vii), is title III of Pub. L. 87-128, Aug. 8, 1961, 75 Stat. 307, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 50 (§1921 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of the Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1921 of this title and Tables.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section, act Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §515, 52 Stat. 77, provided for appointment and compensation of an advisory committee, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 96-365, title I, §108, Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1317.

AMENDMENTS

2000—Pub. L. 106-224 amended section generally, substituting present provisions for provisions which had authorized establishment of Advisory Committee for Federal Crop Insurance, described primary responsibility, membership of Committee, and administrative provisions, required annual report regarding progress toward implementation and improved crop insurance coverage, soundness of program, and rate of participation, and set forth termination of authority on Sept. 30, 1998.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 13, 1994, and applicable to provision of crop insurance under Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) beginning with 1995 crop year, with such Act, as in effect on the day before Oct. 13, 1994, to continue to apply with respect to 1994 crop year, see section 120 of Pub. L. 103-354, set out as an Effective Date of 1994 Amendment note under section 1502 of this title.

§ 1516. Funding

(a) Authorization of appropriations

(1) Discretionary expenses

There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1999 and each subsequent fiscal year such sums as are necessary to cover the salaries and expenses of the Corporation.

(2) Mandatory expenses

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to cover for each of the 1999 and subsequent reinsurance years the following:

(A) The administrative and operating expenses of the Corporation for the sales commissions of agents.

(B) Premium subsidies, including the administrative and operating expenses of an approved insurance provider for the delivery of policies with additional coverage.

(C) Costs associated with the conduct of livestock and wild salmon pilot programs carried out under section 1523 of this title, subject to the limitations in subsections (a)(3)(E)(ii) and (b)(10) of section 1523 of this title.

(D) Costs associated with the reimbursement, contracting, and partnerships for research and development under section 1522 of this title.

(b) Payment of Corporation expenses from insurance fund

(1) Expenses generally

For each of the 1999 and subsequent reinsurance years, the Corporation may pay from the insurance fund established under subsection (c) of this section all expenses of the Corporation (other than expenses covered by subsection (a)(1) of this section and expenses covered by paragraph (2)(A)), including the following:

(A) Premium subsidies and indemnities.

(B) Administrative and operating expenses of the Corporation necessary to pay the sales commissions of agents.

(C) All administrative and operating expense reimbursements due under a reinsurance agreement with an approved insurance provider.

(D) Costs associated with the conduct of livestock and wild salmon pilot programs carried out under section 1523 of this title, subject to the limitations in subsections (a)(3)(E)(ii) and (b)(10) of section 1523 of this title.

(E) Costs associated with the reimbursement, contracting, and partnerships for research and development under section 1522 of this title.

(2) Policy consideration and implementation

(A) In general

For each of the 1999 and subsequent reinsurance years, the Corporation may use the insurance fund established under subsection (c) of this section, but not to exceed \$3,500,000 for each fiscal year, to pay the following:

(i) Costs associated with the consideration and implementation of policies, plans of insurance, and related materials submitted under section 1508(h) of this title or developed under section 1522 or 1523 of this title.

(ii) Costs to contract for the review of policies, plans of insurance, and related materials under section 1505(e) of this title and to contract for other assistance in considering policies, plans of insurance, and related materials.

(B) Dairy options pilot program

Amounts necessary to carry out the dairy options pilot program shall not be counted toward the limitation on expenses specified in subparagraph (A).

(c) Insurance fund

(1) In general

There is established an insurance fund, for the deposit of premium income, amounts made

available under subsection (a)(2) of this section, and civil fines collected under section 1515(h) of this title, to be available without fiscal year limitation.

(2) Commodity Credit Corporation funds

If at any time the amounts in the insurance fund are insufficient to enable the Corporation to carry out subsection (b) of this section, to the extent the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation are available—

(A) the Corporation may request the Secretary to use the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out subsection (b) of this section; and

(B) the Secretary may use the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out subsection (b) of this section.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §516, 52 Stat. 77; June 21, 1941, ch. 214, §§6, 8, 55 Stat. 255, 256; Aug. 3, 1956, ch. 950, §10, 70 Stat. 1034; Pub. L. 96-365, title I, §§109, 110, Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1317, 1318; Pub. L. 97-11, May 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 13; Pub. L. 99-198, title X, §1021, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1459; Pub. L. 103-354, title I, §110, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3198; Pub. L. 104-127, title I, §193(e), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 945; Pub. L. 105-185, title V, §531, June 23, 1998, 112 Stat. 580; Pub. L. 106-224, title I, §147, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 393.)

AMENDMENTS

2000—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 106-224, §147(a), in introductory provisions, substituted “years the following:” for “years—”, in subpar. (A), substituted “The” for “the” and a period for “; and” at end, in subpar. (B), substituted “Premium” for “premium”, and added subpars. (C) and (D).

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 106-224, §147(b), in introductory provisions, substituted “including the following:” for “including—”, in subpar. (A), substituted “Premium” for “premium” and a period for the semicolon at end, in subpar. (B), substituted “Administrative” for “administrative” and a period for “; and” at end, in subpar. (C), substituted “All” for “all”, and added subpars. (D) and (E).

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 106-224, §147(c)(1), substituted “Policy consideration and implementation” for “Research and development expenses” in heading.

Subsec. (b)(2)(A). Pub. L. 106-224, §147(c)(2), substituted “may use” for “may pay from”, struck out “research and development expenses of the Corporation” before “, but not to exceed”, substituted “, to pay the following:” for period at end, and added cls. (i) and (ii).

Subsec. (b)(2)(B). Pub. L. 106-224, §147(c)(3), struck out “research and development” after “the limitation on”.

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 106-224, §147(d), substituted “income,” for “income and” and inserted “, and civil fines collected under section 1515(h) of this title” before “, to be available”.

1998—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 105-185, §531(1)(A), added par. (1) and struck out heading and text of former par. (1). Text read as follows: “There are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 1995 through 2001 such sums as are necessary to cover—

“(A) the salaries and expenses of the Corporation; and

“(B) the administrative and operating expenses of the Corporation for the sales commissions of agents.”

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 105-185, §531(1)(B)(i), inserted “for each of the 1999 and subsequent reinsurance years” after “are necessary to cover” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (a)(2)(A). Pub. L. 105-185, §531(1)(B)(ii), added subpar. (A) and struck out former subpar. (A) which read as follows: “in the case of each of the 1995 through

1997 reinsurance years, the administrative and operating expenses of the Corporation for the sales commissions of agents, consistent with subsection (b)(1) of this section; and”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 105-185, §531(2), added subsec. (b) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (b). Text read as follows:

“(1) ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING EXPENSES.—In the case of each of the 1995 through 1997 reinsurance years, the Corporation is authorized to pay from the insurance fund established under subsection (c) of this section, the administrative and operating expenses of an approved insurance provider, including expenses covered by subsection (a)(1)(B) of this section.

“(2) OTHER EXPENSES.—The Corporation is authorized to pay from the insurance fund established under subsection (c) of this section—

“(A) all other expenses of the Corporation (other than expenses covered by subsection (a)(1) of this section), including all premium subsidies and indemnities;

“(B) in the case of each of the 1995 through 1997 reinsurance years, all administrative and expense reimbursements due under a reinsurance agreement with an approved insurance provider; and

“(C) to the extent necessary, expenses incurred by the Corporation to carry out research and development.”

1996—Subsec. (a)(2)(C). Pub. L. 104-127, §193(e)(1), struck out subpar. (C) which read as follows: “payments for noninsured assistance losses under section 1519 of this title.”

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 104-127, §193(e)(2)(A), struck out subpar. (A) designation and heading “In general”, substituted “In the case of each” for “Except as provided in subparagraph (B), in the case of each”, and struck out heading and text of subpar. (B). Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “In the case of the 1997 reinsurance year, the amount of the payments from the insurance fund established under subsection (c) of this section for the expenses of the Corporation for the sales commissions of agents may not exceed 8.5 percent of the total amount of premiums paid for additional coverage for the 1997 reinsurance year.”

Subsec. (b)(2)(A). Pub. L. 104-127, §193(e)(3), struck out “, noninsured assistance benefits,” after “all premium subsidies”.

Subsec. (b)(2)(B). Pub. L. 104-127, §193(e)(2)(B), struck out “subject to paragraph (1)(B),” before “in the case of each”.

1994—Pub. L. 103-354 amended section generally, substituting subsecs. (a) to (c) for former subsecs. (a) to (d) relating to authorization of appropriations to cover operating and administrative costs of Corporation, issuance of regulations, emergency funding, and borrowing authority.

1985—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 99-198 struck out provision that Secretary’s authority to use the funds of Commodity Credit Corporation for purposes of this subsection would expire one year after date on which that authority was first used.

1981—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 97-11 designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

1980—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 96-365, §109, substituted appropriations authorization of necessary sums for former limitation of \$12,000,000 for each fiscal year beginning after June 30, 1938; included as costs agents’ and brokers’ commissions, interest on Treasury notes and other obligations, partial premium payments by the Corporation, and the direct cost of loss adjusters for crop inspections and loss adjustments and authorized payment of these costs from premium income and other Corporation funds and restoration of such payments through subsequent year appropriations; prescribed limitation on employment of additional personnel except during emergencies; and deleted provisions for for consideration as being nonadministrative or nonoperating expenses such expenses as related to purchase, transportation, handling, or sale of the agricultural commodity and the direct cost of loss adjust-

ers for crop inspections and loss adjustments and provision for use of premium income for administrative and operating costs within limits prescribed in applicable appropriations.

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 96-365, §110, added subsecs. (c) and (d).

1956—Subsec. (a). Act Aug. 3, 1956, added to list of costs which may be considered as nonadministrative or nonoperating, the direct cost of loss adjusters for crop inspections and loss adjustment, and authorized use of premium income for administrative and operating costs within limits prescribed by applicable appropriation.

1941—Subsec. (a). Act June 21, 1941, substituted “the agricultural commodity” for “wheat”, and “\$12,000,000” for “\$6,000,000”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105-185 effective July 1, 1998, see section 537 of Pub. L. 105-185, set out as a note under section 1506 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-354 effective Oct. 13, 1994, and applicable to provision of crop insurance under Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) beginning with 1995 crop year, with such Act, as in effect on the day before Oct. 13, 1994, to continue to apply with respect to 1994 crop year, see section 120 of Pub. L. 103-354, set out as a note under section 1502 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Section 109 of Pub. L. 96-365 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective Oct. 1, 1980.

Section 110 of Pub. L. 96-365 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective Oct. 1, 1980.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Administration of program of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation transferred to Secretary of Agriculture by 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §501, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7877, 60 Stat. 1100. See note set out under section 1503 of this title.

Wartime consolidation of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation into Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration, see note set out under section 1503 of this title.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Act Dec. 23, 1944, ch. 713, §6, 58 Stat. 920, provided an additional appropriation not to exceed \$3,000,000 to be available for the fiscal year 1945 to carry out the provisions of this chapter for the fiscal years 1943 and 1944.

§ 1517. Separability

The sections of this chapter and subdivisions of sections are declared to be separable, and in the event any one or more sections or parts of the same of this chapter be held to be unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of other sections or parts of sections of this chapter.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §517, 52 Stat. 77.)

§ 1518. “Agricultural commodity” defined

“Agricultural commodity”, as used in this chapter, means wheat, cotton, flax, corn, dry beans, oats, barley, rye, tobacco, rice, peanuts, soybeans, sugar beets, sugar cane, tomatoes, grain sorghum, sunflowers, raisins, oranges, sweet corn, dry peas, freezing and canning peas, forage, apples, grapes, potatoes, timber and forests, nursery crops, citrus, and other fruits and vegetables, nuts, tame hay, native grass, aquacultural species (including, but not limited

to, any species of finfish, mollusk, crustacean, or other aquatic invertebrate, amphibian, reptile, or aquatic plant propagated or reared in a controlled or selected environment), or any other agricultural commodity, excluding stored grain, determined by the Board, or any one or more of such commodities, as the context may indicate.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §518, as added June 21, 1941, ch. 214, §9, 55 Stat. 256; amended Dec. 23, 1944, ch. 713, §4, 58 Stat. 919; Aug. 25, 1949, ch. 512, §9, 63 Stat. 665; Pub. L. 96-365, title I, §111, Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1319; Pub. L. 102-237, title VI, §601(6), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1878; Pub. L. 103-354, title I, §119(f)(3), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3208; Pub. L. 106-224, title I, §132(b), June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 386.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A former section 1518, act Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §518, 52 Stat. 77, was transferred to section 1519 of this title at the time of the renumbering of such section 518 of act Feb. 16, 1938, as section 519 by act June 21, 1941, ch. 214, §9, 55 Stat. 256.

AMENDMENTS

2000—Pub. L. 106-224 struck out “livestock and” before “stored grain” and “under subsection (a) or (m) of section 1508 of this title” after “by the Board”.

1994—Pub. L. 103-354 substituted “(m)” for “(k)” after “subsection (a) or”.

1991—Pub. L. 102-237 substituted “subsection (a) or (k)” for “subsection (a) or (i)”.

1980—Pub. L. 96-365 extended definition of “agricultural commodity” to include tomatoes, grain sorghum, sunflowers, raisins, oranges, sweet corn, dry peas, freezing and canning peas, forage, apples, grapes, nursery crops, and aquacultural species as illustrated but not limited, excluded livestock and stored grain, substituted “sugar cane” for “sugarcane”, and inserted reference to subsec. (i) of section 1508 of this title.

1949—Act Aug. 25, 1949, amended section to correct a clerical error in citation of “subsection (a) of section 1508”.

1944—Act Dec. 23, 1944, increased scope of definition of “agricultural commodity” from “wheat or cotton” to include all crops now set out.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 106-224 effective Oct. 1, 2000, see section 171(b)(1)(A) of Pub. L. 106-224, set out as a note under section 1501 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-354 effective Oct. 13, 1994, and applicable to provision of crop insurance under Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) beginning with 1995 crop year, with such Act, as in effect on the day before Oct. 13, 1994, to continue to apply with respect to 1994 crop year, see section 120 of Pub. L. 103-354, set out as a note under section 1502 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-365 effective Sept. 26, 1980, see section 112 of Pub. L. 96-365, set out as a note under section 1504 of this title.

§ 1519. Repealed. Pub. L. 104-127, title I, § 196(j), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 950

Section, act Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §519, formerly §518, 52 Stat. 77; renumbered §519, June 21, 1941, ch. 214, §9, 55 Stat. 256; amended Oct. 13, 1994, Pub. L. 103-354, title I, §111, 112, 108 Stat. 3199, 3202, related to noninsured crop disaster assistance program. See section 7333 of this title.

§ 1520. Producer eligibility

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a producer shall not be denied insurance under this chapter if—

(1) for purposes of catastrophic risk protection coverage, the producer is a “person” (as defined by the Secretary); and

(2) for purposes of any other plan of insurance, the producer is 18 years of age and has a bona fide insurable interest in a crop as an owner-operator, landlord, tenant, or sharecropper.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §520, as added Pub. L. 92-357, July 28, 1972, 86 Stat. 501; amended Pub. L. 103-354, title I, §113, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3203.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-354 substituted “Producer eligibility” for “Persons under twenty-one years of age” in section catchline and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be denied insurance under this chapter solely on the ground that he is under twenty-one years of age if such person is (1) over eighteen years of age, and (2) has a bona fide insurable interest in a crop as an owner-operator, landlord, tenant or sharecropper: *Provided*, That any such person who enters into a Federal Crop Insurance contract shall be subject to the same legal liability and have the same legal rights with respect to such contract as any person over the age of twenty-one years.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-354 effective Oct. 13, 1994, and applicable to provision of crop insurance under Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) beginning with 1995 crop year, with such Act, as in effect on the day before Oct. 13, 1994, to continue to apply with respect to 1994 crop year, see section 120 of Pub. L. 103-354, set out as a note under section 1502 of this title.

§ 1521. Ineligibility for catastrophic risk and non-insured assistance payments

If the Secretary determines that a person has knowingly adopted a material scheme or device to obtain catastrophic risk, additional coverage, or noninsured assistance benefits under this chapter to which the person is not entitled, has evaded this chapter, or has acted with the purposes of evading this chapter, the person shall be ineligible to receive all benefits applicable to the crop year for which the scheme or device was adopted. The authority provided by this section shall be in addition to, and shall not supplant, the authority provided by section 1506(n) of this title.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §521, as added Pub. L. 103-354, title I, §114, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3203.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 13, 1994, and applicable to provision of crop insurance under Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) beginning with 1995 crop year, with such Act, as in effect on the day before Oct. 13, 1994, to continue to apply with respect to 1994 crop year, see section 120 of Pub. L. 103-354, set out as an Effective Date of 1994 Amendment note under section 1502 of this title.

§ 1522. Research and development**(a) Definition of policy**

In this section, the term “policy” means a policy, plan of insurance, provision of a policy or plan of insurance, and related materials.

(b) Reimbursement of research, development, and maintenance costs**(1) Research and development reimbursement**

The Corporation shall provide a payment to reimburse an applicant for research and development costs directly related to a policy that is—

(A) submitted to the Board and approved by the Board under section 1508(h) of this title for reinsurance; and

(B) if applicable, offered for sale to producers.

(2) Existing plans

The Corporation shall reimburse costs associated with research and development costs directly related to a policy that was approved by the Board prior to June 20, 2000.

(3) Marketability

The Corporation shall approve a reimbursement under paragraph (1) or (2) only after determining that the policy is marketable based on a reasonable marketing plan, as determined by the Board.

(4) Maintenance payments**(A) Requirement**

The Corporation shall reimburse maintenance costs associated with the annual cost of underwriting for a policy described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(B) Duration

Payments with respect to maintenance costs may be provided for a period of not more than four reinsurance years subsequent to Board approval for payment under this subsection.

(C) Options for maintenance

On the expiration of the 4-year period described in subparagraph (B), the approved insurance provider responsible for maintenance of the policy may—

(i) maintain the policy and charge a fee to approved insurance providers that elect to sell the policy under this subsection; or

(ii) transfer responsibility for maintenance of the policy to the Corporation.

(D) Fee**(i) Amount**

Subject to approval by the Board, the amount of the fee that is payable by an approved insurance provider that elects to sell the policy shall be an amount that is determined by the approved insurance provider maintaining the policy.

(ii) Approval

The Board shall approve the amount of a fee determined under clause (i) for maintenance of the policy unless the Board determines that the amount of the fee—

(I) is unreasonable in relation to the maintenance costs associated with the policy; or

(II) unnecessarily inhibits the use of the policy.

(5) Treatment of payment

Payments made under this subsection for a policy shall be considered as payment in full by the Corporation for the research and development conducted with regard to the policy and any property rights to the policy.

(6) Reimbursement amount

The Corporation shall determine the amount of the payment under this subsection for an approved policy based on the complexity of the policy and the size of the area in which the policy or material is expected to be sold.

(c) Research and development contracting authority

(1) Authority

The Corporation may enter into contracts to carry out research and development to—

(A) increase participation in States in which the Corporation determines that—

(i) there is traditionally, and continues to be, a low level of Federal crop insurance participation and availability; and

(ii) the State is underserved by the Federal crop insurance program;

(B) increase participation in areas that are underserved by the Federal crop insurance program; and

(C) increase participation by producers of underserved agricultural commodities, including specialty crops.

(2) Underserved agricultural commodities and areas

(A) Authority

The Corporation may enter into contracts under procedures prescribed by the Corporation with qualified persons to carry out research and development for policies that promote the purposes of paragraph (1).

(B) Consultation

Before entering into a contract under subparagraph (A), the Corporation shall consult with groups representing producers of agricultural commodities that would be served by the policies that are the subject of the research and development.

(3) Qualified persons

A person with experience in crop insurance or farm or ranch risk management (including a college or university, an approved insurance provider, and a trade or research organization), as determined by the Corporation, shall be eligible to enter into a contract with the Corporation under this subsection.

(4) Types of contracts

A contract under this subsection may provide for research and development regarding new or expanded policies, including policies based on adjusted gross income, cost-of-production, quality losses, and an intermediate base program with a higher coverage and cost than catastrophic risk protection.

(5) Use of resulting policies

The Corporation may offer any policy developed under this subsection that is approved by the Board.

(6) Research and development priorities

The Corporation shall establish as one of the highest research and development priorities of the Corporation the development of a pasture, range, and forage program.

(7) Study of multiyear coverage

(A) In general

The Corporation shall contract with a qualified person to conduct a study to determine whether offering policies that provide coverage for multiple years would reduce fraud, waste, and abuse by persons that participate in the Federal crop insurance program.

(B) Report

Not later than 1 year after June 20, 2000, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the results of the study conducted under subparagraph (A).

(8) Contract for revenue coverage plans

The Corporation shall enter into a contract for research and development regarding one or more revenue coverage plans that are designed to enable producers to take maximum advantage of fluctuations in market prices and thereby maximize revenue realized from the sale of an agricultural commodity. A revenue coverage plan may include the use of existing market instruments or the development of new market instruments. Not later than 15 months after June 20, 2000, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the results of the contract entered into under this paragraph.

(9) Contract for cost of production policy

(A) Authority

The Corporation shall enter into a contract for research and development regarding a cost of production policy.

(B) Research and development

The research and development shall—

(i) take into consideration the differences in the cost of production on a county-by-county basis; and

(ii) cover as many commodities as is practicable.

(10) Relation to limitations

A policy developed under this subsection may be prepared without regard to the limitations of this chapter, including—

(A) the requirement concerning the levels of coverage and rates; and

(B) the requirement that the price level for each insured agricultural commodity must equal the expected market price for the agricultural commodity, as established by the Board.

(d) Partnerships for risk management development and implementation

(1) Purpose

The purpose of this subsection is to authorize the Corporation to enter into partnerships

with public and private entities for the purpose of increasing the availability of loss mitigation, financial, and other risk management tools for producers, with a priority given to risk management tools for producers of agricultural commodities covered by section 7333 of this title, specialty crops, and underserved agricultural commodities.

(2) Authority

The Corporation may enter into partnerships with the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, the Agricultural Research Service, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, and other appropriate public and private entities with demonstrated capabilities in developing and implementing risk management and marketing options for producers of specialty crops and underserved agricultural commodities.

(3) Objectives

The Corporation may enter into a partnership under paragraph (2)—

(A) to enhance the notice and timeliness of notice of weather conditions that could negatively affect crop yields, quality, and final product use in order to allow producers to take preventive actions to increase end product profitability and marketability and to reduce the possibility of crop insurance claims;

(B) to develop a multifaceted approach to pest management and fertilization to decrease inputs, decrease environmental exposure, and increase application efficiency;

(C) to develop or improve techniques for planning, breeding, planting, growing, maintaining, harvesting, storing, shipping, and marketing that will address quality and quantity challenges associated with year-to-year and regional variations;

(D) to clarify labor requirements and assist producers in complying with requirements to better meet the physically intense and time-compressed planting, tending, and harvesting requirements associated with the production of specialty crops and underserved agricultural commodities;

(E) to provide assistance to State foresters or equivalent officials for the prescribed use of burning on private forest land for the prevention, control, and suppression of fire;

(F) to provide producers with training and informational opportunities so that the producers will be better able to use financial management, crop insurance, marketing contracts, and other existing and emerging risk management tools; and

(G) to develop other risk management tools to further increase economic and production stability.

(e) Funding

(1) Reimbursements

Of the amounts made available from the insurance fund established under section 1516(c) of this title, the Corporation may use to provide reimbursements under subsection (b) of this section not more than \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 and 2002 and not more than \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2003 and each subsequent fiscal year.

(2) Contracting

(A) Authority

Of the amounts made available from the insurance fund established under section 1516(c) of this title, the Corporation may use to carry out contracting and partnerships under subsections (c) and (d) of this section not more than \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2003 and not more than \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 and each subsequent fiscal year.

(B) Underserved States

Of the amount made available under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year, the Corporation shall use not more than \$5,000,000 for the fiscal year to carry out contracting for research and development to carry out the purpose described in subsection (c)(1)(A) of this section.

(3) Unused funding

If the Corporation determines that the amount available to provide either reimbursement payments or contract payments under this section for a fiscal year is not needed for such purposes, the Corporation may use the excess amount to carry out another function authorized under this section.

(4) Prohibited research and development by Corporation

(A) New policies

Notwithstanding subsection (d) of this section, on and after October 1, 2000, the Corporation shall not conduct research and development for any new policy for an agricultural commodity offered under this chapter.

(B) Existing policies

Any policy developed by the Corporation under this chapter before that date may continue to be offered for sale to producers.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §522, as added Pub. L. 106-224, title I, §131, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 379.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 2000, see section 171(b)(1)(A) of Pub. L. 106-224, set out as an Effective Date of 2000 Amendment note under section 1501 of this title.

REIMBURSEMENT REGULATIONS

Pub. L. 107-20, title II, §2103, July 24, 2001, 115 Stat. 165, provided that:

“(a) Not later than August 1, 2001, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation shall promulgate final regulations to carry out section 522(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 522(b) [1522(b)]), without regard to—

“(1) the notice and comment provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code;

“(2) the Statement of Policy of the Secretary of Agriculture effective July 24, 1971 (36 Fed. Reg. 13804), relating to notices of proposed rulemaking and public participation in rulemaking; and

“(3) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction Act’).

“(b) In carrying out this section, the Corporation shall use the authority provided under section 808 of title 5, United States Code.

“(c) The final regulations promulgated under subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of publication of the final regulations.”

§ 1523. Pilot programs**(a) General provisions****(1) Authority**

Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Corporation may conduct a pilot program submitted to and approved by the Board under section 1508(h) of this title, or that is developed under subsection (b) of this section or section 1522 of this title, to evaluate whether a proposal or new risk management tool tested by the pilot program is suitable for the marketplace and addresses the needs of producers of agricultural commodities.

(2) Private coverage

Under this section, the Corporation shall not conduct any pilot program that provides insurance protection against a risk if insurance protection against the risk is generally available from private companies.

(3) Covered activities

The pilot programs described in paragraph (1) may include pilot programs providing insurance protection against losses involving—

- (A) reduced forage on rangeland caused by drought or insect infestation;
- (B) livestock poisoning and disease;
- (C) destruction of bees due to the use of pesticides;
- (D) unique special risks related to fruits, nuts, vegetables, and specialty crops in general, aquacultural species, and forest industry needs (including appreciation);
- (E) after October 1, 2001, wild salmon, except that—
 - (i) any pilot program with regard to wild salmon may be carried out without regard to the limitations of this chapter; and
 - (ii) the Corporation shall conduct all wild salmon programs under this chapter so that, to the maximum extent practicable, all costs associated with conducting the programs are not expected to exceed \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2002 and each subsequent fiscal year.

(4) Scope of pilot programs

The Corporation may—

- (A) approve a pilot program under this section to be conducted on a regional, State, or national basis after considering the interests of affected producers and the interests of, and risks to, the Corporation;
- (B) operate the pilot program, including any modifications of the pilot program, for a period of up to 4 years;
- (C) extend the time period for the pilot program for additional periods, as determined appropriate by the Corporation; and
- (D) provide pilot programs that would allow producers—
 - (i) to receive a reduced premium for using whole farm units or single crop units of insurance; and
 - (ii) to cross State and county boundaries to form insurable units.

(5) Evaluation**(A) Requirement**

After the completion of any pilot program under this section, the Corporation shall

evaluate the pilot program and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the operations of the pilot program.

(B) Evaluation and recommendations

The report shall include an evaluation by the Corporation of the pilot program and the recommendations of the Corporation with respect to implementing the program on a national basis.

(b) Livestock pilot programs**(1) Definition of livestock**

In this subsection, the term “livestock” includes, but is not limited to, cattle, sheep, swine, goats, and poultry.

(2) Programs required

Subject to paragraph (7), the Corporation shall conduct two or more pilot programs to evaluate the effectiveness of risk management tools for livestock producers, including the use of futures and options contracts and policies and plans of insurance that protect the interests of livestock producers and that provide—

- (A) livestock producers with reasonable protection from the financial risks of price or income fluctuations inherent in the production and marketing of livestock; or
- (B) protection for production losses.

(3) Purpose of programs

To the maximum extent practicable, the Corporation shall evaluate the greatest number and variety of pilot programs described in paragraph (2) to determine which of the offered risk management tools are best suited to protect livestock producers from the financial risks associated with the production and marketing of livestock.

(4) Timing

The Corporation shall begin conducting livestock pilot programs under this subsection during fiscal year 2001.

(5) Relation to other limitations

Any policy or plan of insurance offered under this subsection may be prepared without regard to the limitations of this chapter.

(6) Assistance

As part of a pilot program under this subsection, the Corporation may provide reinsurance for policies or plans of insurance and subsidize the purchase of futures and options contracts or policies and plans of insurance offered under the pilot program.

(7) Private insurance

No action may be undertaken with respect to a risk under this subsection if the Corporation determines that insurance protection for livestock producers against the risk is generally available from private companies.

(8) Location

The Corporation shall conduct the livestock pilot programs under this subsection in a number of counties that is determined by the Cor-

poration to be adequate to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the feasibility, effectiveness, and demand among producers for the risk management tools evaluated in the pilot programs.

(9) Eligible producers

Any producer of a type of livestock covered by a pilot program under this subsection that owns or operates a farm or ranch in a county selected as a location for that pilot program shall be eligible to participate in that pilot program.

(10) Limitation on expenditures

The Corporation shall conduct all livestock programs under this chapter so that, to the maximum extent practicable, all costs associated with conducting the livestock programs (other than research and development costs covered by section 1522 of this title) are not expected to exceed the following:

(A) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 and 2002.

(B) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.

(C) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 and each subsequent fiscal year.

(c) Revenue insurance pilot program

(1) In general

Subject to section 1522(e)(4) of this title, the Secretary shall carry out a pilot program in a limited number of counties, as determined by the Secretary, for crop years 1997 through 2001, under which a producer of wheat, feed grains, soybeans, or such other commodity as the Secretary considers appropriate may elect to receive insurance against loss of revenue, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) Administration

Revenue insurance under this subsection shall—

(A) be offered through reinsurance arrangements with private insurance companies;

(B) offer at least a minimum level of coverage that is an alternative to catastrophic crop insurance;

(C) be actuarially sound; and

(D) require the payment of premiums and administrative fees by an insured producer.

(d) Premium rate reduction pilot program

(1) Purpose

The purpose of the pilot program established under this subsection is to determine whether approved insurance providers will compete to market policies or plans of insurance with reduced rates of premium, in a manner that maintains the financial soundness of approved insurance providers and is consistent with the integrity of the Federal crop insurance program.

(2) Establishment

(A) In general

Beginning with the 2002 crop year, the Corporation shall establish a pilot program under which approved insurance providers may propose for approval by the Board policies or plans of insurance with reduced rates of premium—

(i) for one or more agricultural commodities; and

(ii) within a limited geographic area, as proposed by the approved insurance provider and approved by the Board.

(B) Determination by Board

The Board shall approve a policy or plan of insurance proposed under this subsection that involves a premium reduction if the Board determines that—

(i) the interests of producers are adequately protected within the pilot area;

(ii) rates of premium are actuarially appropriate, as determined by the Board;

(iii) the size of the proposed pilot area is adequate;

(iv) the proposed policy or plan of insurance would not unfairly discriminate among producers within the proposed pilot area;

(v) if the proposed policy or plan of insurance were available in a geographic area larger than the proposed pilot area, the proposed policy or plan of insurance would—

(I) not have a significant adverse impact on the crop insurance delivery system;

(II) not result in a reduction of program integrity;

(III) be actuarially appropriate; and

(IV) not place an additional financial burden on the Federal Government; and

(vi) the proposed policy or plan of insurance meets other requirements of this chapter determined appropriate by the Board.

(C) Time limitations and procedures

The time limitations and procedures of the Board established under section 1508(h) of this title shall apply to a proposal submitted under this subsection.

(e) Adjusted gross revenue insurance pilot program

(1) In general

The Corporation shall carry out, through at least the 2004 reinsurance year, the adjusted gross revenue insurance pilot program in effect for the 2002 reinsurance year.

(2) Additional counties

(A) In general

In addition to counties otherwise included in the pilot program, the Corporation shall include in the pilot program for the 2003 reinsurance year at least 8 counties in the State of California and at least 8 counties in the State of Pennsylvania.

(B) Selection criteria

In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Corporation shall work with the respective State Departments of Agriculture to establish criteria to determine which counties to include in the pilot program.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, §523, as added Pub. L. 106-224, title I, §132(a), June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 383; amended Pub. L. 107-171, title X, §10004, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 487.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 107-171 added subsec. (e).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 2000, see section 171(b)(1)(A) of Pub. L. 106-224, set out as an Effective Date of 2000 Amendment note under section 1501 of this title.

§ 1524. Education and risk management assistance

(a) Education assistance

(1) In general

Subject to the amounts made available under paragraph (4)—

(A) the Corporation shall carry out the program established under paragraph (2); and

(B) the Secretary, acting through the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, shall carry out the program established under paragraph (3).

(2) Education and information

The Corporation shall establish a program under which crop insurance education and information is provided to producers in States in which (as determined by the Secretary)—

(A) there is traditionally, and continues to be, a low level of Federal crop insurance participation and availability; and

(B) producers are underserved by the Federal crop insurance program.

(3) Partnerships for risk management education

(A) Authority

The Secretary, acting through the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, shall establish a program under which competitive grants are made to qualified public and private entities (including land grant colleges, cooperative extension services, and colleges or universities), as determined by the Secretary, for the purpose of educating agricultural producers about the full range of risk management activities, including futures, options, agricultural trade options, crop insurance, cash forward contracting, debt reduction, production diversification, farm resources risk reduction, and other risk management strategies.

(B) Basis for grants

A grant under this paragraph shall be awarded on the basis of merit and shall be subject to peer or merit review.

(C) Obligation period

Funds for a grant under this paragraph shall be available to the Secretary for obligation for a 2-year period.

(D) Administrative costs

The Secretary may use not more than 4 percent of the funds made available for grants under this paragraph for administrative costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this paragraph.

(4) Funding

From the insurance fund established under section 1516(c) of this title, there is transferred—

(A) for the education and information program established under paragraph (2), \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and each subsequent fiscal year; and

(B) for the partnerships for risk management education program established under paragraph (3), \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and each subsequent fiscal year.

(b) Agricultural management assistance

(1) Authority

The Secretary shall provide financial assistance to producers in the States of Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Maine, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

(2) Uses

A producer may use financial assistance provided under this subsection to—

(A) construct or improve—

- (i) watershed management structures; or
- (ii) irrigation structures;

(B) plant trees to form windbreaks or to improve water quality;

(C) mitigate financial risk through production or marketing diversification or resource conservation practices, including—

- (i) soil erosion control;
- (ii) integrated pest management;
- (iii) organic farming; or

(iv) to develop and implement a plan to create marketing opportunities for the producer, including through value-added processing;

(D) enter into futures, hedging, or options contracts in a manner designed to help reduce production, price, or revenue risk;

(E) enter into agricultural trade options as a hedging transaction to reduce production, price, or revenue risk; or

(F) conduct any other activity relating to an activity described in subparagraphs (A) through (E), as determined by the Secretary.

(3) Payment limitation

The total amount of payments made to a person (as defined in section 1308(5)¹ of this title) under this subsection for any year may not exceed \$50,000.

(4) Commodity Credit Corporation

(A) In general

The Secretary shall carry out this subsection through the Commodity Credit Corporation.

(B) Funding

(i) In general

Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), the Commodity Credit Corporation shall make available to carry out this subsection not less than \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year.

(ii) Exception

For each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007, the Commodity Credit Corporation

¹ See References in Text note below.

shall make available to carry out this subsection \$20,000,000.

(iii) Certain uses

Of the amounts made available to carry out this subsection for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007 the Commodity Credit Corporation shall use not less than—

(I) \$14,000,000 to carry out subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (2) through the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

(II) \$1,000,000 to provide organic certification cost share assistance through the Agricultural Marketing Service; and

(III) \$5,000,000 to conduct activities to carry out subparagraph (F) of paragraph (2) through the Risk Management Agency.

(Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, title V, § 524, as added Pub. L. 106-224, title I, § 133, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 387; amended Pub. L. 107-171, title II, § 2501, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 263; Pub. L. 108-199, div. A, title VII, § 769, Jan. 23, 2004, 118 Stat. 40.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 1308(5) of this title, referred to in subsec. (b)(3), was redesignated section 1308(e) by Pub. L. 107-171, title I, § 1603(b)(1), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 214.

AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (b)(4)(B)(i). Pub. L. 108-199, § 769(1), substituted “clauses (ii) and (iii)” for “clause (ii)”.

Subsec. (b)(4)(B)(iii). Pub. L. 108-199, § 769(2), added cl. (iii).

2002—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107-171 added subsec. (b) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (b). Text read as follows:

“(1) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary shall provide cost share assistance to producers, in a manner determined by the Secretary, in not less than 10, nor more than 15, States in which participation in the Federal crop insurance program is historically low, as determined by the Secretary.

“(2) **USES.**—A producer may use cost share assistance provided under this subsection to—

“(A) construct or improve—

“(i) watershed management structures; or

“(ii) irrigation structures;

“(B) plant trees to form windbreaks or to improve water quality;

“(C) mitigate financial risk through production diversification or resource conservation practices, including—

“(i) soil erosion control;

“(ii) integrated pest management; or

“(iii) transition to organic farming;

“(D) enter into futures, hedging, or options contracts in a manner designed to help reduce production, price, or revenue risk;

“(E) enter into agricultural trade options as a hedging transaction to reduce production, price, or revenue risk; or

“(F) conduct any other activity related to the activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (E), as determined by the Secretary.”

“(2) **PAYMENT LIMITATION.**—The total amount of payments made to a person (as defined in section 1308(5) of this title) under this subsection for any year may not exceed \$50,000.

“(3) **COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall carry out this subsection through the Commodity Credit Corporation.

“(B) **FUNDING.**—The Commodity Credit Corporation shall make available to carry out this subsection

\$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and each subsequent fiscal year.”

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 2000, see section 171(b)(1)(A) of Pub. L. 106-224, set out as an Effective Date of 2000 Amendment note under section 1501 of this title.

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Sec.

1551.

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SUBCHAPTER V—SALE OF UNCERTIFIED SEED OF PROTECTED VARIETY

1611.

Illegal sales of uncertified seed.

§ 1551. Short title

This chapter may be cited as the “Federal Seed Act.”