

responsible for Marketing and Regulatory Programs. The title of this position was changed from "Assistant Secretary" to "Under Secretary" by the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (Pub. L. 105-277). References in 7 CFR 2.22 and 2.80 references to statutes repealed by the Plant Protection Act (Title IV, Pub. L. 106-224, 114 Stat. 438, 7 U.S.C. 7701-7772) are removed. The delegations of authority for outreach and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers under 7 U.S.C. 2279 have been revised to reflect the fact that this authority has been removed from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and that the authority to enter into contracts and other agreements pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2279 has been transferred from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Office of Outreach to the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service. The reservations of authority by the Secretary in 7 CFR 2.22(b)(2) related to animal and plant health inspection are amended to update the authority citations.

Additional changes have been made to the REE mission area delegations to reflect the repeal of authorities, to consolidate some paragraphs, and to clarify the delegation regarding the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Program.

#### Classification

Finally, this rule relates to internal agency management. Accordingly, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553, notice of proposed rulemaking and opportunity for comment are not required, and this rule may be made effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. This rule also is exempt from the provisions of Executive Orders 12866 and 12988. This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act, Pub. L. 96-354, and the Small Business Regulatory Fairness Enforcement Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, and thus is exempt from the provisions of those Acts.

This rule contains no information collection or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

#### List of Subjects

##### 7 CFR Part 1

Administrative practice and procedure, Authority delegations

(Government agencies), Equal access to justice.

##### 7 CFR Part 2

Authority delegations (Government agencies).

##### 7 CFR Part 15

Administrative practice and procedure, Authority delegations (Government agencies), Civil rights, Nondiscrimination.

##### 7 CFR Part 15f

Administrative practice and procedure, Authority delegations (Government agencies), Civil rights.

##### 7 CFR Part 371

Authority delegations (Government agencies).

■ Accordingly, Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as set forth below:

#### PART 1—ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

■ 1. The authority for Part 1 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 301, unless otherwise noted. Subpart J also issued under 5 U.S.C. 504(c)(1).

■ 2. Revise § 1.189 to read as follows:

##### § 1.189 Delegations of authority.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the Secretary of Agriculture delegates to the Judicial Officer authority to take final action on matters pertaining to the Act in proceedings covered by these rules. The Secretary by order may delegate authority to take final action on matters pertaining to the Act in particular cases to other subordinate officials or bodies.

(b)(1) The Secretary of Agriculture delegates to the Director of the National Appeals Division authority to take final actions on matters pertaining to the Act for proceedings under 7 CFR part 11.

(2) With respect to proceedings covered under § 1.183(b)(1)(ii) of this part, the Board of Contract Appeals is authorized by statute (41 U.S.C. 607) to take final action.

#### PART 2—DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY BY THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT

■ 1. The authority for Part 2 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 6912(a)(1); 5 U.S.C. 301; Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953; 3 CFR 1949-1953 Comp., p. 1024.

#### Subpart C—Delegations of Authority to the Deputy Secretary, the Under Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries

■ 2.-3. Revise § 2.4 to read as follows:

##### § 2.4 General officers.

The work of the Department is under the supervision and control of the Secretary who is assisted by the following general officers: the Deputy Secretary, the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services; the Under Secretary for Rural Economic and Community Development; the Under Secretary for Food Safety; the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services; the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment; the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics; the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs; the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations; the Assistant Secretary for Administration; the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights; the General Counsel; the Inspector General; the Chief Financial Officer; the Chief Information Officer; the Judicial Officer; the Director, Office of Budget and Program Analysis; the Chief Economist; the Director, National Appeals Division; and the Director of Communications.

■ 4. Amend § 2.16 to add paragraphs (a)(1)(xxv), (a)(1)(xxvi), (a)(2)(xiv), (a)(2)(xv), (a)(3)(xliii), and (a)(3)(xliv) to read as follows:

##### § 2.16 Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

(a) \* \* \*

(1) \* \* \*

(xxv) Administer all programs of the Commodity Credit Corporation that provide assistance with respect to the production of agricultural commodities, including disaster assistance and the domestic marketing of such commodities, except as may otherwise be reserved by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(xxvi) Administer the following provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 with respect to functions otherwise delegated to the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services:

(A) The equitable relief provisions of section 1613 (7 U.S.C. 7996).

(B) The tracking of benefits under section 1614 (7 U.S.C. 7997).

(C) The development of a plan and related report to coordinate land retirement and agricultural working land conservation programs under section 2005 (16 U.S.C. 3801 note).

\* \* \* \* \*

(2) \* \* \*

(xiv) Administer programs for Apple Loans and Emergency Loans for Seed