

facilitating institutional participation in Department programs and activities and by encouraging minority students to pursue curricula that could lead to careers in the food and agricultural sciences.

(21) Administer the Department's EEO Program.

(22) Oversee and manage the EEO counseling function for the Department.

(23) Administer the discrimination appeals and complaints program for the Department, including all formal individual or group appeals, where the system provides for an avenue of redress to the Department level, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or other outside authority.

(24) Process formal EEO discrimination complaints by employees or applicants for employment.

(25) Investigate Department EEO and program discrimination complaints.

(26) Make final decisions, after legal sufficiency reviews by the Office of the General Counsel, or both EEO and program discrimination complaints, except in those cases where the Assistant Secretary has participated in the events that gave rise to the matter.

(27) Order such corrective measures in EEO complaints as may be considered necessary, including the recommendation for such disciplinary action as is warranted when an employee has been found to engage in a discriminatory practice.

(28) Provide liaison on EEO matters concerning complaints and appeals with the Department agencies and Department employees.

(29) Make final determinations, or enter into settlement agreements, after legal sufficiency reviews by the Office of the General Counsel, on discrimination complaints in conducted programs subject to the Equal Credit Opportunity Act. This delegation includes the authority to make compensatory damage awards whether pursuant to a final determination or in a settlement agreement under the authority of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the authority to obligate agency funds, including CCC and FCIC funds to satisfy such an award.

(30) Require corrective action on findings on discrimination on program complaints and recommend to the Secretary that relief be granted under 7 U.S.C. 6998(d), notwithstanding the finality of National Appeals Divisions decisions.

(31) Make final determinations in proceedings under part 15f of this title where review of an administrative law judge decision is undertaken.

(32) Provide civil rights and equal employment opportunity support services, with authority to take actions required by law or regulation to perform such services for:

(i) The Secretary of Agriculture.

(ii) The general officers of the Department.

(iii) The offices and agencies reporting to the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

(iv) Any other offices or agencies of the Department as may be agreed.

Subpart D—Delegations of Authority to Other General Officers and Agency Heads

■ 14. Add to § 2.29 new paragraphs (a)(11)(vii), (a)(11)(viii) and (a)(11)(ix) to read as follows:

§ 2.29 Chief Economist.

(a) * * *

(11) * * *

(vii) Establish guidelines for use in the Federal procurement of biobased products in consultation with the Administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency and General Services and the Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and establish, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, a voluntary "USDA Certified Biobased Product" labeling program (7 U.S.C. 8102).

(viii) Administer a competitive biodiesel fuel education grants program (7 U.S.C. 8104).

(ix) Implement a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Energy regarding cooperation in the application of hydrogen and fuel cell technology programs for rural communities and agricultural producers (7 U.S.C. 8107).

■ 15. Revise § 2.32 to read as follows:

§ 2.32 Director, Homeland Security Staff.

(a) The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary to the Director, Homeland Security Staff:

(1) Administer the Department Emergency Preparedness Program. This includes the:

(i) Coordination of the delegations and assignments made to the Department under the Defense Production Act, 50 U.S.C. App. 2061, *et seq.*, and the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121, *et seq.*, by Executive Orders 12148, "Federal Emergency Management," and 12919, "National Defense Industrial Resources Preparedness," and Executive Order 12656, November 18, 1988, "Assignment of Emergency Preparedness Responsibilities," or any

successor to these Executive Orders, to ensure that the Department has sufficient capabilities to respond to any occurrence, including natural disaster, military attack, technological emergency, or any other emergency.

(ii) Activation of the USDA incident management system and the Federal Response Plan responsibilities in the event of a major incident;

(iii) Establishment and oversight of a Departmentwide Incidence Command training program.

(iv) Development and promulgation of policies for the Department regarding emergency preparedness and national security, including matters relating to anti-terrorism and agriculture-related emergency preparedness planning both national and international; and guidance to USDA state and county emergency boards.

(v) Representation and liaison for the Department in contacts with other Federal entities and organizations, including the Office of Homeland Security (or successor organization), the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Security Council, the Office of Management and Budget, concerning matters of a national security, natural disaster, other emergencies, and agriculture-related international civil emergency planning and related activities, and as the primary USDA representative for anti-terrorism activities.

(vi) Development and submission of a coordinated budget request for homeland security.

(2) Serve as the USDA focal point to identify, receive, disseminate and store USDA intelligence requirements and convey information to the intelligence community.

(3) Serve as the primary point of contact for GAO and OIG audits of USDA homeland security activities.

(4) Coordinate interaction between Department agencies and private sector businesses and industries in emergency planning and public education under Department authorities delegated or assigned under the Federal Response Plan, the Defense Production Act 50 U.S.C. App. 2061, *et seq.*, and Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121, *et seq.*

(5) Serve as the document classification authority for the Department.

(6) Provide staff support to the USDA Homeland Security Council.

(b) [Reserved]

■ 16. Add to § 2.34 paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 2.34 Director, National Appeals Division

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