

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1319

To provide for the reorganization of the United States Department of
Agriculture.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 1993

Mr. GLICKMAN (for himself, Mr. FAWELL, and Mr. PORTER) introduced the
following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To provide for the reorganization of the United States
Department of Agriculture.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1993”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

TITLE I—REORGANIZATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS OPERATION
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Sec. 101. Department of Agriculture.

Sec. 102. Secretary of Agriculture.

- Sec. 103. Office of the Secretary of Agriculture.
- Sec. 104. Executive Secretariat.
- Sec. 105. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.
- Sec. 106. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Programs.
- Sec. 107. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.
- Sec. 108. Under Secretary of Agriculture for International Programs.
- Sec. 109. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment.
- Sec. 110. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Consumer and Marketing Services.
- Sec. 111. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research.
- Sec. 112. Assistant Secretaries of Agriculture.
- Sec. 113. General Counsel.
- Sec. 114. Inspector General.
- Sec. 115. Chief Clerk.

TITLE II—REORGANIZATION OF THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO FARMERS

- Sec. 201. Establishment of the farm services administration.
- Sec. 202. Consolidation of field offices of the department of agriculture.
- Sec. 203. Reorganization of local and county committee system.
- Sec. 204. Application of farm program appeals system.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 301. Reductions in the headquarters office of the department of agriculture.
- Sec. 302. Paperwork reduction.
- Sec. 303. Sense of congress.
- Sec. 304. Conforming amendments and repeals.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Department of Agriculture workforce
 4 has grown to become the third largest civilian
 5 workforce in the United States with offices in all but
 6 six percent of the counties in the country.

7 (2) The farm population of the United States
 8 represents less than three percent of the total popu-
 9 lation of the country and only sixteen percent of all
 10 counties in the country are farming counties.

1 (3) The ratio of Department of Agriculture em-
2 ployees to farms is more than double what it was 30
3 years ago.

4 (4) The Department of Agriculture maintains a
5 field office system that costs over \$1000 per farm
6 per year to operate for a total cost of approximately
7 \$2.4 billion annually.

8 (5) The growth in the number of employees and
9 offices of the Department of Agriculture is due in
10 part to the increasing complexity of farm programs
11 and is an ineffective use of Federal resources.

12 (6) The reorganization and streamlining of the
13 Department of Agriculture is necessary to save Fed-
14 eral resources and more efficiently serve the needs of
15 farmers and rural America.

16 **TITLE I—REORGANIZATION OF**
17 **THE HEADQUARTERS OPER-**
18 **ATION OF THE DEPARTMENT**
19 **OF AGRICULTURE**

20 **SEC. 101. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (7 U.S.C. 2201-**
21 **2203).**

22 (a) EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.—The Department of
23 Agriculture shall be an executive department of the United
24 States Government at the seat of the Government.

1 (b) PURPOSES.—The general design and duties of the
2 Department shall be to acquire and to diffuse among the
3 people of the United States useful information on subjects
4 connected with agriculture, rural development, aqua-
5 culture, and human nutrition, in the most general and
6 comprehensive sense of those terms, and to procure, prop-
7 agate, and distribute among the people new and valuable
8 seeds and plants.

9 (c) COMPOSITION.—The Department shall be com-
10 posed of the following:

- 11 (1) The Office of the Secretary of Agriculture.
- 12 (2) The Commodity Credit Corporation.
- 13 (3) The Farm Services Administration.
- 14 (4) The Rural Development Administration.
- 15 (5) The Rural Electrification Administration.
- 16 (6) The Foreign Agricultural Service.
- 17 (7) The Office of International Cooperation and
18 Development.
- 19 (8) The Soil Conservation Service.
- 20 (9) The Forest Service.
- 21 (10) The Food and Nutrition Service.
- 22 (11) The Human Nutrition Information Serv-
23 ice.
- 24 (12) The Agricultural Marketing Service.

1 (13) The Animal and Plant Health Inspection
2 Service.

3 (14) The Federal Grain Inspection Service.

4 (15) The Food Safety and Inspection Service.

5 (16) The Packers and Stockyards Administra-
6 tion.

7 (17) The Agricultural Research Service.

8 (18) The Cooperative State Research Service.

9 (19) The National Agricultural Library.

10 (20) The World Agricultural Outlook Board.

11 (21) The Economic Research Service.

12 (22) The National Agricultural Statistics Serv-
13 ice.

14 (23) Such other offices, agencies, and activities
15 as may be established or designated by law or by the
16 President.

17 (24) All offices, agencies, activities under the
18 control or supervision of an agency or office named
19 in paragraphs (1) through (23).

20 (d) SEAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall pro-
21 cure a proper seal, with such suitable inscriptions and de-
22 vices as the Secretary may approve, to be known as the
23 official seal of the Department of Agriculture, and to be
24 kept and used to verify official documents, under such
25 rules and regulations as the Secretary may prescribe.

1 **SEC. 102. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE (7 U.S.C. 2202–2209).**

2 (a) DEPARTMENT HEAD.—The head of the Depart-
3 ment of Agriculture is the Secretary of Agriculture. The
4 Secretary shall serve as the principal assistant to the
5 President in all matters relating to the Department.

6 (b) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary shall be ap-
7 pointed by the President, by and with the advice and con-
8 sent of the Senate.

9 (c) GENERAL DUTIES.—

10 (1) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—The Secretary
11 of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all infor-
12 mation concerning agriculture, rural development,
13 aquaculture, and human nutrition which can be ob-
14 tained—

15 (A) by means of books and correspondence;

16 (B) by practical and scientific experiments,
17 accurate records of which experiments shall be
18 preserved;

19 (C) by the collection of statistics; and

20 (D) by any other appropriate means.

21 (2) PLANTS AND SEEDS.—The Secretary shall
22 collect new and valuable seeds and plants and shall
23 test, by cultivation, the value of such of them as
24 may require such tests. The Secretary shall propa-
25 gate such seeds and plants as may be worthy of

1 propagation and shall distribute them among agri-
2 culturists.

3 (3) ADVISORY DUTIES.—The Secretary shall
4 advise the President, other members of the Cabinet,
5 and the Congress on policies and programs designed
6 to improve the quality of life for people living in the
7 rural and nonmetropolitan regions of the United
8 States.

9 (4) RESEARCH REGARDING RURAL CONDI-
10 TIONS.—The Secretary may initiate or expand re-
11 search and development efforts related to solution of
12 problems of rural water supply, rural sewage and
13 solid waste management, rural housing, rural indus-
14 trialization, and technology appropriate to small-
15 and moderate-sized family farming operations, and
16 any other problem that the Secretary may determine
17 has an effect upon the economic development or the
18 quality of life in rural areas.

19 (d) CUSTODY OF PROPERTY AND RECORDS.—The
20 Secretary shall have charge, in the building and premises
21 appropriated to the Department, of the library, furniture,
22 fixtures, records, and other property appertaining to it,
23 or acquired for use in its business.

24 (e) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall annually submit
25 a general report in writing to the President of the activi-

1 ties of the Department, in which the Secretary may rec-
2 ommend the publication of papers forming parts of or ac-
3 companying the report. The Secretary shall also make spe-
4 cial reports on particular subjects whenever required to
5 do so by the President or either House of Congress, or
6 when the Secretary considers shall a report to be nec-
7 essary.

8 (f) USE AND ACCOUNTING OF FUNDS.—The Sec-
9 retary shall direct and superintend the expenditure of all
10 money appropriated to the Department and render ac-
11 counts thereof. The Secretary shall furnish proper vouch-
12 ers and accounts for the sums appropriated for the De-
13 partment of Agriculture to the General Accounting Office.

14 **SEC. 103. OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTION.—There is in
16 the Department of Agriculture an Office of the Secretary
17 of Agriculture. The function of the Office is to assist the
18 Secretary in carrying out the duties and responsibilities
19 of the Secretary and to carry out such other duties as may
20 be prescribed by law. The Office of the Secretary shall
21 be responsible for overall leadership of the Department.

22 (b) COMPOSITION.—The Office of the Secretary of
23 Agriculture is composed of the following:

- 24 (1) The Executive Secretariat.
- 25 (2) The Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

1 (3) The Under Secretary of Agriculture for
2 Farm Programs.

3 (4) The Under Secretary of Agriculture for
4 Rural Development.

5 (5) The Under Secretary of Agriculture for
6 International Programs.

7 (6) The Under Secretary of Agriculture for
8 Natural Resources and Environment.

9 (7) The Under Secretary of Agriculture for
10 Consumer and Marketing Services.

11 (8) The Under Secretary of Agriculture for Re-
12 search.

13 (9) The Assistant Secretaries of Agriculture.

14 (10) The Chief Financial Officer of the Depart-
15 ment of Agriculture.

16 (11) The General Counsel of the Department of
17 Agriculture.

18 (12) The Inspector General of the Department
19 of Agriculture.

20 (13) Such other offices and officials as may be
21 established by law or the Secretary of Agriculture
22 may establish or designate in the Office.

1 **SEC. 104. EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is in the Office of the
3 Secretary of Agriculture an Executive Secretariat to be
4 headed by the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

5 (b) DUTIES.—

6 (1) ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT.—The
7 Executive Secretariat shall consolidate into one place
8 all department-wide administrative and managerial
9 activities, such as personnel, information, and finan-
10 cial systems, including the administrative functions
11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

12 (2) PUBLIC AFFAIRS.—The Executive Secretar-
13 iat shall be responsible for public affairs, including
14 media relations, throughout the Department and the
15 congressional liaison and intergovernmental affairs
16 of each agency and office of the Department.

17 (3) ADJUDICATIONS AND APPEALS.—The Exec-
18 utive Secretariat shall oversee adjudicatory agencies
19 and functions of the Department, including the Na-
20 tional Appeals Division to hear appeals related to all
21 farmer services programs.

22 **SEC. 105. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE (7 U.S.C.**
23 **2210–2211).**

24 (a) APPOINTMENT.—There is a Deputy Secretary of
25 Agriculture, appointed from civilian life by the President,
26 by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

1 (b) DUTIES.—The Deputy Secretary shall perform
2 such duties and exercise such powers as the Secretary of
3 Agriculture may prescribe. The Deputy Secretary may ex-
4 ercise the functions and perform the duties of the first
5 assistant of the Secretary of Agriculture within the mean-
6 ing of section 3345 of title 5, United States Code.

7 (c) PRECEDENCE.—The Deputy Secretary takes
8 precedence in the Department of Agriculture immediately
9 after the Secretary of Agriculture.

10 **SEC. 106. UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR FARM**
11 **PROGRAMS (7 U.S.C. 2211a).**

12 (a) APPOINTMENT.—There is an Under Secretary of
13 Agriculture for Farm Programs, appointed from civilian
14 life by the President, by and with the advice and consent
15 of the Senate.

16 (b) DUTIES.—The Under Secretary of Agriculture
17 for Farm Programs shall have jurisdiction for all pro-
18 grams of the Department of Agriculture providing direct
19 assistance to farmers, including farm price and income
20 support and farm financing, crop insurance, and technical
21 assistance provided under the Farm Services Administra-
22 tion.

1 **SEC. 107. UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR**
2 **RURAL DEVELOPMENT (7 U.S.C. 2211b).**

3 (a) APPOINTMENT.—There is an Under Secretary of
4 Agriculture for Rural Development, appointed from civil-
5 ian life by the President, by and with the advice and con-
6 sent of the Senate.

7 (b) DUTIES.—The Under Secretary of Agriculture
8 for Rural Development shall have jurisdiction for all pro-
9 grams of the Department of Agriculture related to rural
10 development, including those programs in the Rural Devel-
11 opment Administration and Rural Electrification Adminis-
12 tration and the housing, community facilities, and busi-
13 ness and industry loan programs of the Farmers Home
14 Administration.

15 **SEC. 108. UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR**
16 **INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS.**

17 (a) APPOINTMENT.—There is an Under Secretary of
18 Agriculture for International Programs, appointed from
19 civilian life by the President, by and with the advice and
20 consent of the Senate.

21 (b) DUTIES.—The Under Secretary of Agriculture
22 for International Programs shall oversee the trade policy
23 and export programs of the Department of Agriculture
24 under the Foreign Agricultural Service and Office of
25 International Cooperation and Development.

1 **SEC. 109. UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR NATU-**
2 **RAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT.**

3 (a) APPOINTMENT.—There is an Under Secretary of
4 Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment, ap-
5 pointed from civilian life by the President, by and with
6 the advice and consent of the Senate.

7 (b) DUTIES.—The Under Secretary of Agriculture
8 for Natural Resources and Environment shall have juris-
9 diction for programs of the Department of Agriculture re-
10 lating to natural resources, conservation, and the environ-
11 ment generally. The Under Secretary shall have jurisdic-
12 tion over the Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service,
13 conservation cost share programs of the Agricultural Con-
14 servation and Stabilization Service, and natural resource
15 programs of the Extension Service. The Under Secretary
16 shall also have responsibility for energy and pesticide pro-
17 grams of the Department.

18 **SEC. 110. UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR**
19 **CONSUMER AND MARKETING SERVICES.**

20 (a) APPOINTMENT.—There is an Under Secretary of
21 Agriculture for Consumer and Marketing Services, ap-
22 pointed from civilian life by the President, by and with
23 the advice and consent of the Senate.

24 (b) DUTIES.—The Under Secretary of Agriculture
25 for Consumer and Marketing Services shall have jurisdic-
26 tion over the food and nutrition, inspection, and marketing

1 programs of the Department of Agriculture. This jurisdic-
2 tion shall include nutrition programs, food stamps, meat
3 and grain inspection, marketing programs, and the
4 consumer assistance programs of the Extension Service.

5 **SEC. 111. UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RE-**
6 **SEARCH.**

7 (a) APPOINTMENT.—There is an Under Secretary of
8 Agriculture for Research, appointed from civilian life by
9 the President, by and with the advice and consent of the
10 Senate.

11 (b) DUTIES.—The Under Secretary of Agriculture
12 for Research shall have jurisdiction over all research ef-
13 forts and economic analysis of the Department of Agri-
14 culture.

15 **SEC. 112. ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF AGRICULTURE (7**
16 **U.S.C. 2212–2212c).**

17 (a) APPOINTMENT.—There are seven Assistant Sec-
18 retaries of Agriculture, appointed from civilian life by the
19 President, by and with the advice and consent of the Sen-
20 ate.

21 (b) DUTIES.—The Assistant Secretaries shall per-
22 form such duties and exercise such powers as the Sec-
23 retary of Defense may prescribe.

1 **SEC. 113. GENERAL COUNSEL.**

2 (a) APPOINTMENT.—There is a General Counsel of
3 the Department of Agriculture, appointed from civilian life
4 by the President, by and with the advice and consent of
5 the Senate.

6 (b) CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER.—The General Counsel
7 is the chief legal officer of the Department of Agriculture
8 and shall perform such functions as the Secretary of Agri-
9 culture may prescribe.

10 **SEC. 114. INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

11 (a) APPOINTMENT.—There is an Inspector General
12 of the Department of Agriculture, who is appointed as pro-
13 vided in section 3 of the Inspector General Act of 1978
14 (Public Law 95–452; 5 U.S.C. App. 3).

15 (b) DUTIES.—The Inspector General shall be respon-
16 sible for oversight of the Department of Agriculture. The
17 Inspector General performs the duties, has the responsibil-
18 ities, and exercises the powers specified in the Inspector
19 General Act of 1978.

20 **SEC. 115. CHIEF CLERK (7 U.S.C. 2215).**

21 The Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint a chief
22 clerk.

1 **TITLE II—REORGANIZATION OF**
2 **THE PROVISION OF SERVICES**
3 **TO FARMERS**

4 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FARM SERVICES ADMIN-**
5 **ISTRATION.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT; ADMINISTRATION.—There is
7 established in the Department of Agriculture the Farm
8 Services Administration, which shall be headed by an Ad-
9 ministrator appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The
10 position of Administrator shall be a Senior Executive Serv-
11 ice position, and the rate of basic pay for the Adminis-
12 trator shall be set as provided in subchapter VIII of chap-
13 ter 53 of title 5, United States Code.

14 (b) PURPOSE OF ADMINISTRATION.—The purpose of
15 the Farm Services Administration is to provide a single
16 agency to administer all programs and activities of the De-
17 partment of Agriculture that serve farmers in order to en-
18 sure more effective, efficient, and economical administra-
19 tion of those programs and activities and to eliminate du-
20 plication.

21 (c) CONSOLIDATION OF EXISTING AGENCIES.—Dur-
22 ing the five-year period beginning on the date of the enact-
23 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall con-
24 solidate into the Farm Services Administration the follow-
25 ing agencies of the Department of Agriculture:

1 (1) The Agricultural Stabilization and Con-
2 servation Service.

3 (2) The Extension Service.

4 (3) The farmer lending programs of the Farm-
5 ers Home Administration established in section 331
6 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
7 Act (7 U.S.C. 1981).

8 (4) The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation
9 established in section 503 of the Federal Crop In-
10 surance Act (7 U.S.C. 1503).

11 (d) EFFECT OF CONSOLIDATION.—Upon consolida-
12 tion of an agency referred to in subsection (c), all pro-
13 grams and activities previously administered by that agen-
14 cy shall be administered by the Farm Services Administra-
15 tion. The assets, contracts, property, records, and employ-
16 ees of that agency, and the unexpended balances of any
17 appropriations available to that agency, relating to those
18 programs and activities shall be transferred to the Farm
19 Services Administration. Any reference to that agency or
20 the head of that agency in any law, regulation, or order
21 shall be considered to be a reference to the Farm Services
22 Administration or the Administrator, as the case may be.

23 (e) CERTAIN PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES TO THE
24 RURAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION.—Notwith-
25 standing subsection (d), if the Secretary of Agriculture de-

1 terminates that a program or activity of an agency referred
2 to in subsection (c) or other agency of the Department
3 of Agriculture is not directly related to farmer services or
4 would be more appropriate for administration by the Rural
5 Development Administration established in section 364 of
6 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
7 U.S.C. 2006f), the Secretary may transfer administration
8 of that program or activity to the Rural Development Ad-
9 ministration. Programs and activities transferred under
10 this subsection shall include—

11 (1) programs of the Soil Conservation Service
12 involving watershed districts;

13 (2) real estate loan authorities under sections
14 302 through 310D of the Consolidated Farm and
15 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922–1934); and

16 (3) the activities of the Rural Electrification
17 Administration under the Rural Electrification Act
18 of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.).

19 **SEC. 202. CONSOLIDATION OF FIELD OFFICES OF THE DE-**
20 **PARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**

21 (a) DISTRICT OFFICES.—In lieu of county field of-
22 fices for the Farm Services Administration, the Secretary
23 of Agriculture shall establish offices in administrative dis-
24 tricts consisting of more than one county in a State or
25 parts of different counties, except, at the discretion of the

1 Secretary and according to guidelines provided for in sub-
2 section (c) such offices may encompass only one county
3 under conditions which warrant. In establishing such dis-
4 tricts, the Secretary shall consider the number of farmers
5 to be served by such district in a State, the area to be
6 covered by a district, and the cost of operating a district
7 compared to the value of the benefits to be provided
8 through the district office.

9 (b) OFFICES TO REPLACE EXISTING COUNTY OF-
10 FICES.—As the district offices are established under sub-
11 section (a), they shall replace the county or other local
12 offices of the agencies being consolidated under section
13 201. The replacement of offices shall be completed by the
14 end of the five-year period beginning on the date of the
15 enactment of this Act.

16 (c) PERSONNEL ADJUSTMENTS.—In the event the re-
17 organization of offices required under this section result
18 in lower personnel needs, the Secretary shall give first pri-
19 ority to achieving those levels through attrition rather
20 than other reductions in force.

21 (d) GUIDELINES.—Before establishing district offices
22 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall publish guide-
23 lines of the criteria to be used in determining the size of
24 administrative areas to be covered by district offices. The
25 criteria shall include the number of farms and farmers in

1 each administrative area, the geographic size of each ad-
2 ministrative area, the amount and kind of crops grown
3 in each administrative area, the likely inconvenience to
4 farmers of the size of the administrative area, the ability
5 of the proposed office to service efficiently the administra-
6 tive area, the ability of farmers in the administrative area
7 to utilize user-friendly application processes for the pro-
8 grams administered by the office, and the extent to which
9 the Secretary has eased paperwork burdens on farmers to
10 be served by the administrative area. The guidelines estab-
11 lished shall be subject to public comment before final im-
12 plementation.

13 **SEC. 203. REORGANIZATION OF LOCAL AND COUNTY COM-**
14 **MITTEE SYSTEM.**

15 (a) DISTRICT COMMITTEES.—In carrying out the du-
16 ties of the Farm Services Administration, the Adminis-
17 trator shall use the services of district committees selected
18 pursuant to this subsection. Each district established
19 under section 202 shall have one district committee con-
20 sisting of at least three members elected to three-year
21 terms in a district-wide election to be held every third
22 year. Only farmers within a district who are producers
23 who participate or cooperate in programs administered
24 within their district shall be eligible for nomination and
25 election to the district committee for that district. Only

1 farmers who are participating or cooperating producers
2 within a district shall be eligible to vote in the election
3 in that district. Each district committee shall meet once
4 each year and shall receive compensation for such meeting
5 by the Secretary at not less than the level in effect on
6 December 31, 1985. The committee may meet without
7 compensation at such additional times during the year as
8 may be necessary.

9 (b) SUBCOMMITTEES.—A district committee may es-
10 tablish subcommittees with responsibility to act for the
11 committee with respect to particular programs or activities
12 of the Farm Services Administration.

13 (c) DISTRICT COMMITTEES TO REPLACE EXISTING
14 COMMITTEES.—A district committee shall replace any
15 local committee or county committee established under
16 section 8(b) of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allot-
17 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 590h(b) for an area served by the
18 district committee. The replacement of committees shall
19 be completed by the end of the five-year period beginning
20 on the date of the enactment of this Act. The Secretary
21 of Agriculture shall also eliminate during that period the
22 use of local administrative areas established under that
23 section. Any reference in any law, regulation, or order to
24 a local or county committee replaced under this subsection
25 or a local administrative area terminated under this sub-

1 section shall be considered to be a reference to a district
2 committee or district, as the case may be.

3 **SEC. 204. APPLICATION OF FARM PROGRAM APPEALS SYS-**
4 **TEM.**

5 Section 426 of the Agricultural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C.
6 1433e) shall apply to any program or activity adminis-
7 tered by the Farm Services Administration.

8 **TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS**
9 **PROVISIONS**

10 **SEC. 301. REDUCTIONS IN THE HEADQUARTERS OFFICE OF**
11 **THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**

12 (a) REDUCTIONS.—During the five-year period begin-
13 ning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
14 of Agriculture shall reduce the number of employees in
15 the headquarters office of the Department of Agriculture
16 by an amount commensurate with the reductions in the
17 workforce of the Department of Agriculture as a result
18 of the consolidation of county offices under section 202.

19 (b) USE OF ATTRITION.—In making the reductions
20 required by subsection (a), the Secretary of Agriculture
21 shall give first priority to achieving them through attrition
22 rather than other reductions in force.

23 **SEC. 302. PAPERWORK REDUCTION.**

24 (a) CENTRALIZED INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The Sec-
25 retary of Agriculture shall establish a centralized data sys-

1 tem within the Farm Services Administration for informa-
2 tion regarding services provided to farmers and informa-
3 tion required of farmers for participation in the programs
4 administered by the Farm Services Administration.

5 (b) ELIMINATION OF DUPLICATION.—As part of the
6 reorganization of the Department of Agriculture required
7 by this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall examine all
8 forms, application, and other information requests re-
9 quired to be submitted by farmers in programs and activi-
10 ties to be administered by the Farm Services Administra-
11 tion in order to eliminate duplication and save time for
12 farmers.

13 (c) USER-FRIENDLY APPLICATION PROCESS.—As
14 part of the reorganization of the Department of Agri-
15 culture required by this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture
16 shall establish a system for allowing farmers to enroll in
17 programs administered by the Farm Services Administra-
18 tion with one, user-friendly, application process that may
19 be completed and filed with the Farm Services Adminis-
20 tration electronically, by facsimile, by mail, or other means
21 as the Secretary determines appropriate to ease the paper-
22 work burden on farmers.

23 **SEC. 303. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

24 It is the sense of Congress that one of the primary
25 goals of future farm legislation should be to reduce the

1 complexity of farm programs, to simplify the administra-
2 tion of and compliance with their requirements, and to
3 ease the paperwork burdens on farmers.

4 **SEC. 304. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS AND REPEALS.**

5 (a) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED PROVISIONS.—The fol-
6 lowing provisions of law are repealed:

7 (1) Sections 520, 523, 525, 526, 528, 529, and
8 3677 of the Revised Statutes of the United States
9 (7 U.S.C. 2201, 2204, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2215).

10 (2) The first section and sections 2 and 4 of
11 the Act entitled “An Act to enlarge the powers and
12 duties of the Department of Agriculture and to cre-
13 ate an Executive Department to be known as the
14 Department of Agriculture.”, approved February 9,
15 1889 (7 U.S.C. 2202, 2212).

16 (3) The last undesignated paragraph under the
17 heading “DIVISION OF SEEDS” of the Act entitled
18 “An Act making appropriations for the Department
19 of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June thirti-
20 eth, eighteen hundred and ninety-five.”, approved
21 August 8, 1894 (28 Stat. 272; 7 U.S.C. 2203).

22 (4) The last semicolon and all that follows
23 through “the Commissioner of Agriculture” in the
24 undesignated paragraph under the paragraph des-
25 igned as “Salaries and expenses Bureau of Animal

1 Industry:” under the heading “MISCELLANEOUS” of
2 the Act entitled “An Act making an appropriation
3 for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year
4 ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety,
5 and for other purposes”, approved March 2, 1889
6 (25 Stat. 840; 7 U.S.C. 2205).

7 (5) The last semicolon and all that follows
8 through “the Commissioner of Agriculture” in the
9 undesignated paragraph under the paragraph des-
10 ignated as “SALARIES AND EXPENSES, BUREAU OF
11 ANIMAL INDUSTRY:” under the heading “MIS-
12 CELLANEOUS” of the Act entitled “An Act making
13 appropriation for the Department of Agriculture for
14 fiscal year ending June thirtieth, anno Domini eight-
15 een hundred and ninety-one”, approved July 14,
16 1890 (25 Stat. 840; 7 U.S.C. 2205).

17 (6) Section 2 under the heading “CONTINGENT
18 EXPENSES” of the Act entitled “An Act making an
19 appropriation for the Agricultural Department for
20 the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hun-
21 dred and eighty-six, and for other purposes.”, ap-
22 proved March 3, 1885 (23 Stat. 356; 7 U.S.C.
23 2209).

24 (7) The undesignated paragraph under the
25 heading “SALARIES” under the heading “OFFICE

1 OF THE SECRETARY” of the Act entitled “An
2 Act making appropriations for the Department of
3 Agriculture and for the Farm Credit Administration
4 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1935, and for
5 other purposes.”, approved March 26, 1934 (48
6 Stat. 467; 7 U.S.C. 2210).

7 (8) The joint resolution entitled “A joint resolu-
8 tion to define the status of the Under Secretary of
9 Agriculture, and for other purposes.”, approved
10 June 5, 1939 (53 Stat. 809; 7 U.S.C. 2211).

11 (9) Section 501(a) of Public Law 95-501 (7
12 U.S.C. 2211a).

13 (10) The first paragraph designated “OFFICE
14 OF THE SECRETARY:” under the heading “DE-
15 PARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE” of the Act en-
16 titled “An Act making appropriations for the De-
17 partment of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending
18 June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and seven.”, ap-
19 proved June 30, 1906 (34 Stat. 670; 7 U.S.C.
20 2212).

21 (11) Section 604(a) of Public Law 92-419 (7
22 U.S.C. 2212a).

23 (12) Section 2 of Public Law 94-561 (7 U.S.C.
24 2212b).

1 (13) Section 8(a) of Public Law 97–325 (7
2 U.S.C. 2212c).

3 (14) Section 301 of the Act entitled “An Act to
4 adjust the rates of compensation of the heads of the
5 executive departments and of certain other officials
6 of the Federal Government, and for other purposes,
7 approved July 31, 1956 (70 Stat. 742; 7 U.S.C.
8 2214).

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1410A of
10 the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and
11 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3125a) is amended
12 by striking “established pursuant to section 520 of the
13 Revised Statutes (7 U.S.C. 2201)”.

14 (c) COMPENSATION OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS.—
15 Section 5314 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

16 (1) by striking “Under Secretary of Agriculture
17 for International Affairs and Commodity Pro-
18 grams.”;

19 (2) by striking “Under Secretary of Agriculture
20 for Small Community and Rural Development.”; and

21 (3) by inserting after “Deputy Director of the
22 Office of Personnel Management.” the following new
23 undesignated paragraphs:

24 “Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Pro-
25 grams.

1 “Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural De-
2 velopment.

3 “Under Secretary of Agriculture for Inter-
4 national Programs.

5 “Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural
6 Resources and Environment.

7 “Under Secretary of Agriculture for Consumer
8 and Marketing Services.

9 “Under Secretary of Agriculture for Re-
10 search.”.

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