§ 1524. Education and risk management assistance

(a) Education assistance

(1) In general

Subject to the amounts made available under paragraph (5)—

(A) the Corporation shall carry out the program established under paragraph (2); and

(B) the Secretary, acting through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, 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 National Institute of Food and Agriculture, 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) Requirements

In carrying out the programs established under paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary shall place special emphasis on risk management strategies, education, and outreach specifically targeted at—

(A) beginning farmers or ranchers;

(B) legal immigrant farmers or ranchers that are attempting to become established producers in the United States;

(C) socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers;

(D) farmers or ranchers that—

(i) are preparing to retire; and

(ii) are using transition strategies to help new farmers or ranchers get started; and
(E) new or established farmers or ranchers that are converting production and marketing systems to pursue new markets.

(5) 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, Hawaii, 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) of this title) (before the amendment made by section 1703(a) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008) 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 clause (ii), 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 certain fiscal years
For each of fiscal years 2008 through 2014, the Commodity Credit Corporation shall make available to carry out this subsection $15,000,000.

(C) Certain uses

Of the amounts made available to carry out this subsection for a fiscal year, the Commodity Credit Corporation shall use not less than—

(i) 50 percent to carry out subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (2) through the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

(ii) 10 percent to provide organic certification cost share assistance through the Agricultural Marketing Service; and

(iii) 40 percent to conduct activities to carry out subparagraph (F) of paragraph (2) through the Risk Management Agency.

Footnotes

1 See References in Text note below.


References in Text

Section 1308 (5) of this title, which required the Secretary to issue regulations defining “person”, referred to in subsec. (b)(3), was redesignated section 1308 (e) and amended by section 1603(b)(1) of Pub. L. 107–171. Section 1308 was subsequently amended by section 1603 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Pub. L. 110–246, to strike out subsec. (e) and add a new subsec. (a)(4) defining “person”. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 does not contain a section 1703 (a).

Codification


Amendments


Subsec. (a)(4), (5). Pub. L. 110–246, § 12026(2), (3), added par. (4) and redesignated former par. (4) as (5).


Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 110–246, § 1603(g)(3), inserted “(before the amendment made by section 1703(a) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008)” after “section 1308 (5) of this title)”.

Subsec. (b)(4)(B)(i). Pub. L. 110–246, § 2801(b)(1), substituted “Except as provided in clause (ii)” for “Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii)”.

Subsec. (b)(4)(B)(ii). Pub. L. 110–246, § 2801(b)(2), added cl. (ii) and struck out former cls. (ii) and (iii) which related to exception for fiscal years 2003 through 2007 and minimum amounts to carry out certain uses.


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 of 2008 Amendment

Amendment by section 7511(c)(2) of Pub. L. 110–246 effective Oct. 1, 2009, see section 7511(c) of Pub. L. 110–246, set out as a note under section 1522 of this title.

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.