

in the work of the United States Department of Agriculture; and for promotional items of nominal value relating to the United States Department of Agriculture Volunteer Programs.

(Pub. L. 104-180, title VII, §729, Aug. 6, 1996, 110 Stat. 1600.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 2272a, Pub. L. 102-142, title VII, §739, Oct. 28, 1991, 105 Stat. 915, authorized use of funds for incidental expenses and promotional items relating to volunteers on and after Oct. 28, 1991, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 104-127, title III, §336(f)(2), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1007.

#### § 2273. Local search and rescue operations

The Secretary of Agriculture may assist, through the use of Soil Conservation Service personnel, vehicles, communication equipment, and other equipment or materials available to the Secretary, in local search and rescue operations when requested by responsible local public authorities. Such assistance may be provided in emergencies caused by tornadoes, fires, floods, snowstorms, earthquakes, and similar disasters.

(Pub. L. 97-98, title XV, §1550, Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1344.)

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Dec. 22, 1981, see section 1801 of Pub. L. 97-98, set out as a note under section 4301 of this title.

#### § 2274. Firearm authority of employees engaged in animal quarantine enforcement

Any employee of the United States Department of Agriculture designated by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Attorney General of the United States may carry a firearm and use a firearm when necessary for self-protection, in accordance with rules and regulations issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Attorney General of the United States, while such employee is engaged in the performance of the employee's official duties to (1) carry out any law or regulation related to the control, eradication, or prevention of the introduction or dissemination of communicable disease of livestock or poultry into the United States or (2) perform any duty related to such disease control, eradication, or prevention, subject to the direction of the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 97-312, §1, Oct. 14, 1982, 96 Stat. 1461.)

#### § 2274a. Firearm authority of employees conducting field work in remote locations

On and after December 8, 2004, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to permit employees of the United States Department of Agriculture to carry and use firearms for personal protection while conducting field work in remote locations in the performance of their official duties.

(Pub. L. 108-447, div. A, title VII, §742, Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 2844.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

Pub.L. 108-199, div. A, title VII, §745, Jan. 23, 2004, 118 Stat. 37.

Pub.L. 108-7, div. A, title VII, §753, Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 45.

#### § 2275. Repealed. Pub. L. 101-624, title XV, § 1572(3), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3702

Section, Pub. L. 99-198, title XI, §1151, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1497, provided for trade consultation between the Foreign Agricultural Service and other Federal agencies. See section 5674 of this title.

#### § 2276. Confidentiality of information

##### (a) In general

In the case of information furnished under a provision of law referred to in subsection (d), neither the Secretary of Agriculture, any other officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture or agency thereof, nor any other person may—

(1) use such information for a purpose other than the development or reporting of aggregate data in a manner such that the identity of the person who supplied such information is not discernible and is not material to the intended uses of such information;

(2) disclose such information to the public, unless such information has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form that does not allow the identification of the person who supplied particular information; or

(3) in the case of information collected under the authority described in paragraph (12) or (13) of subsection (d), disclose the information to any person or any Federal, State, local, or tribal agency outside the Department of Agriculture, unless the information has been converted into a statistical or aggregate form that does not allow the identification of the person that supplied particular information.

##### (b) Duty of Secretary; immunity from disclosure; necessary consent

(1) In carrying out a provision of law referred to in subsection (d), no department, agency, officer, or employee of the Federal Government, other than the Secretary of Agriculture, shall require a person to furnish a copy of statistical information provided to the Department of Agriculture.

(2) A copy of such information—

(A) shall be immune from mandatory disclosure of any type, including legal process; and

(B) shall not, without the consent of such person, be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose in any action, suit, or other judicial or administrative proceeding.

##### (c) Violations; penalties

Any person who shall publish, cause to be published, or otherwise publicly release information collected pursuant to a provision of law referred to in subsection (d), in any manner or for any purpose prohibited in section<sup>1</sup> (a), shall be fined

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be "subsection".

not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.

**(d) Provisions of law references**

For purposes of this section, a provision of law referred to in this subsection means—

(1) the first section of the Act entitled “An Act authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to collect and publish statistics of the grade and staple length of cotton”, approved March 3, 1927 (7 U.S.C. 471) (commonly referred to as the “Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act”);

(2) the first section of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the collection and publication of statistics of tobacco by the Department of Agriculture”, approved January 14, 1929 (7 U.S.C. 501);

(3) the first section of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the collection and publication of statistics of peanuts by the Department of Agriculture”, approved June 24, 1936 (7 U.S.C. 951);

(4) section 203(g) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1622(g));

(5) section 526(a) of the Revised Statutes (7 U.S.C. 2204(a));

(6) the Act entitled “An Act providing for the publication of statistics relating to spirits of turpentine and resin”, approved August 15, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 2248);

(7) section 42 of title 13;

(8) section 4 of the Act entitled “An Act to establish the Department of Commerce and Labor”, approved February 14, 1903 (15 U.S.C. 1516);

(9) section 2 of the joint resolution entitled “Joint resolution relating to the publication of economic and social statistics for Americans of Spanish origin or descent”, approved June 16, 1976 (15 U.S.C. 1516a);

(10) section 3(e) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1642(e));

(11) section 2204g of this title;

(12) section 302 of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 1010a) regarding the authority to collect data for the National Resources Inventory; or

(13) section 10109 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018.

**(e) Information provided to Secretary of Commerce**

This section shall not prohibit the release of information under section 2204g(f)(2) of this title.

(Pub. L. 99–198, title XVII, §1770, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1657; Pub. L. 105–113, §4(a)(2), (b), Nov. 21, 1997, 111 Stat. 2276; Pub. L. 106–113, div. B, §1000(a)(3) [title III, §348], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1535, 1501A–207; Pub. L. 107–171, title II, §2004(b), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 236; Pub. L. 115–334, title X, §10109(d), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4907.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 10109 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, referred to in subsec. (d)(13), is section 10109 of Pub. L. 115–334, which relates to a multiple crop and pesticide use survey. Subsecs. (a) to (c) of section 10109 are not classified to the Code. Subsec. (d) of section 10109 amended this section.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115–334, §10109(d)(1)(A), inserted heading.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 115–334, §10109(d)(1)(B), substituted “paragraph (12) or (13) of subsection (d)” for “subsection (d)(12)”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 115–334, §10109(d)(2)(A), inserted heading.

Subsec. (d)(13). Pub. L. 115–334, §10109(d)(2)(B)–(D), added par. (13).

2002—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 107–171, §2004(b)(1), added par. (3).

Subsec. (d)(12). Pub. L. 107–171, §2004(b)(2), added par. (12).

1999—Subsec. (d)(10), (11). Pub. L. 106–113 added par. (10) and redesignated former par. (10) as (11).

1997—Subsec. (d)(10). Pub. L. 105–113, §4(a)(2), added par. (10).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 105–113, §4(b), added subsec. (e).

**§ 2277. Contracts by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for services to be performed abroad**

Funds available to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) under this and subsequent appropriations shall be available for contracting with individuals for services to be performed outside of the United States, as determined by APHIS to be necessary or appropriate for carrying out programs and activities abroad. Such individuals shall not be regarded as officers or employees of the United States under any law administered by the Office of Personnel Management.

(Pub. L. 102–142, title VII, §737, Oct. 28, 1991, 105 Stat. 915.)

**Editorial Notes**

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in the following prior appropriation act:

Pub. L. 101–506, title VI, §641, Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1350.

**§ 2278. Consistency with international obligations of United States**

**(a) In general**

Prior to the promulgation of, or amendment to, any order or plan under a research and promotion program relating to research and promotion of any agricultural commodity or product, after November 28, 1990, where such order or plan would provide for an assessment on imports, the Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with the United States Trade Representative regarding the consistency of the provisions of the order or plan with the international obligations of the United States.

**(b) Compliance with U.S. international obligations**

The Secretary of Agriculture shall take all steps necessary and appropriate to ensure that any order or plan or amendment to such order or plan, and the implementation and enforcement of any order or plan or amendment to such order or plan, or program as it relates to imports is nondiscriminatory and in compliance with the international obligations of the United States, as interpreted by the United States Trade Representative.