

83-690 - Agricultural Act of 1954

[Act of August 28, 1954 (commonly known as the “Agricultural Act of 1954”)]

[As Amended Through P.L. 113–4, Effective March 7, 2013]

AN ACT To provide for greater stability in agriculture; to augment the marketing and disposal of agricultural products; and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

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TITLE I—SET ASIDE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

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SEC. 108. [7 U.S.C. 1748] ANNUAL REPORTS BY AGRICULTURAL ATTACHES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require appropriate officers and employees of the Department of Agriculture, including those stationed in foreign countries, to prepare and submit annually to the Secretary detailed reports that—

(1) document the nature and extent of—

(A) programs in such countries that provide direct or indirect government support for the export of agricultural commodities and the products thereof;

(B) other trade practices that may impede the entry of United States agricultural commodities and the products thereof into such countries; and

(C) where practicable, the average prices and costs of production in such countries for like commodities exported from the United States to such countries; and

¹⁻¹This table of contents is not part of the Act but is included for user convenience.

(2) identify opportunities for the export of United States agricultural commodities and the products thereof to such countries.

(b) DUTIES.—The Secretary shall—

(1) annually compile the information contained in reports prepared under subsection (a)—

(A) on a country by country basis; and

(B) on a commodity by commodity basis for exports of United States agricultural commodities, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, the export of which is hampered by an unfair trade practice. Where practicable, the report shall include a comparison of the average prices and costs of production for such commodities in the United States and in the importing countries for the previous crop year;

(2) in consultation with the agricultural technical advisory committees established under section 135(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155(c)), include in the compilation a priority ranking of those trade barriers identified in subsection (a) by commodity group;

(3) include in the compilation a list of actions undertaken to reduce or eliminate such trade barriers; and

(4) not later than January 15 of each year, make the compilation available to Congress, the agricultural policy advisory committee, and other interested parties.

(c) MEETING.—The Secretary and the United States Trade Representative shall convene a meeting, at least once each year, of the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee and the agricultural technical advisory committees to develop specific recommendations for actions to be taken by the Federal Government and private industry to—

(1) reduce or eliminate trade barriers or distortions identified in the annual reports required to be submitted under subsections (a) and (b); and

(2) expand United States agricultural export opportunities identified in such annual reports.

SEC. 109. [7 U.S.C. 1749] ATTACHE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.

The Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service shall establish a program within the Service that directs attaches of the Service who are reassigned from abroad to the United States, and other personnel of the Service, to visit and consult with producers and exporters of agricultural commodities and products and State officials throughout the United States concerning various methods to increase exports of United States agricultural commodities and products.”

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**TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 1949,
AS AMENDED, AND RELATED LEGISLATION**

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DOMESTIC DISPOSAL OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

SEC. 204. [7 U.S.C. 1446c] [* * *]

(c) In order to prevent the accumulation of excessive inventories of dairy products the Secretary of Agriculture shall undertake domestic disposal programs under authorities granted in the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 and the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, or as otherwise authorized by law.

TITLE VI—AGRICULTURAL ATTACHES

[FOREIGN MARKETS; COLLECTION OF INFORMATION]

SEC. 601. [7 U.S.C. 1761] For the purposes of encouraging and promoting the marketing of agricultural commodities of the United States and assisting American farmers, processors, distributors, and exporters to adjust their operations and practices to meet world conditions, the Secretary of Agriculture shall acquire information regarding the competition and demand for United States agricultural commodities, the marketing and distribution of said commodities in foreign countries and shall be responsible for the interpretation and dissemination of such information in the United States and shall make investigations abroad regarding the factors affecting and influencing the export of United States agricultural commodities, and shall conduct abroad any other activities including the demonstration of standards of quality for American agricultural commodities for which the Department of Agriculture now has or in the future may have such standards, as he deems necessary. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as prohibiting the Department of Agriculture from conducting abroad any activity for which authority now exists.

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Subtitle B—United States Agricultural Trade Offices

[AGRICULTURAL TRADE OFFICES]

SEC. 605A. [7 U.S.C. 1765a] (a) For the purpose of developing, maintaining, the Secretary of Agriculture, after consultation with the Secretary of State, shall establish not less than six nor more than twenty-five United States Agricultural Trade Offices in other nations.

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[FUNCTIONS]

SEC. 605B. [7 U.S.C. 1765b] The functions of each United States Agricultural Trade Office shall be to—

- (1) increase the effectiveness of agricultural export promotion efforts through consolidation of activities, providing services and facilities for foreign buyers and United States trade representatives, and coordination of market development activities sponsored by the Department of Agriculture;
- (2) establish goals by nation or region and agricultural commodity for developing, expanding, and maintaining markets for United States agricultural commodities;

(3) initiate programs to achieve the export marketing goals approved by the Department of Agriculture;

(4) maintain facilities for use by nonresident cooperators, private trade groups, and other individuals engaged in the import and export of United States agricultural commodities where the use of such facilities would aid in the conduct of market development activities, and cooperate, to the maximum extent practicable, with such cooperators, groups, and individuals to expand the level of United States agricultural exports;

(5) develop and maintain a current listing of trade, government, and other appropriate organizations for each agricultural commodity area and make such listing available to persons with a bona fide interest in exporting or importing United States agricultural commodities;

(6) originate and provide assistance for exhibits, sales teams, and other functions for the promotion of United States agricultural commodities;

(7) provide practical assistance for the use of the programs under the Food for Peace Act, the export credit sales program, the export incentives program, and related programs of the United States Government where use of such programs will serve as a market development tool for United States agriculture;

(8) supervise project agreements with United States cooperators, coordinate the activities of the United States Agricultural Trade Office with those of the cooperators, and submit annual recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on the efficacy of cooperator programs;

(9) publicize the services offered by the United States Agricultural Trade Office through advertisements in trade journals or by other appropriate means; and

(10) perform such other functions as the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of State, determines to be necessary and proper for achieving the purposes of this subtitle.