

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250**

<b>DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION</b>		<b>Number:</b> 1042-146
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Research, Education, and Economics Task Force	<b>Date</b> July 25, 2003	
	<b>OPI:</b> Agricultural Research Service	

1      **PURPOSE**

- a      The Research, Education, and Economics Task Force (Task Force) is hereby established pursuant to Sec. 7404 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-171.
- b      The Task Force shall evaluate the merits of establishing one or more National Institutes focused on disciplines important to the progress of food and agricultural science.

2      **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

- a      This Task Force is a statutory committee established by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.
- b      This Task Force will expire 1 year from the date of filing.
- c      Before appointing members of the Task Force, the Secretary shall consult with the National Academy of Sciences and the Office of Science and Technology Policy.
- d      To ensure that the recommendations of the Task Force have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the USDA, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

3      **OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

- a      The Task Force shall be composed of 8 members appointed by the Secretary. Members will serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.
- b      The Task Force members will have a broad-based background in plant, animal, and agricultural sciences research, food, nutrition, biotechnology, crop production methods, environmental science, or related disciplines;

and be familiar with the role and infrastructure used to conduct Federal and private research, including--

- (1) the Agricultural Research Service;
- (2) the National Institutes of Health;
- (3) the National Science Foundation;
- (4) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
- (5) the Department of Energy laboratory system; or
- (6) the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.

- d The Secretary shall appoint at least 6 members that are members of the private sector or come from institutions of higher education; and at least 3 members that have an extensive background and preeminence in the field of plant, animal, and agricultural sciences.
- e CHAIRPERSON- Of the members appointed, the Secretary shall designate a Chairperson that has significant leadership experience in educational and research institutions and in depth knowledge of the research enterprises of the United States.

#### 4 DUTIES

- a The specific responsibilities of the Task Force are to:  
  
conduct a review and evaluation of the merits of establishing one or more National Institutes (such as National Institutes for Plant and Agricultural Sciences) focused on disciplines important to the progress of food and agricultural sciences, and, if establishment of one or more National Institutes is recommended, provide further recommendations to the Secretary, including the structure for establishing each Institute, the multistate area location of each Institute, and the amount of funding necessary to establish each Institute.

#### 5 ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS

- a Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation. Reimbursement will be provided to members for their travel and per diem expenses at authorized Task Force meetings called by the Chairperson.
- b The operating cost of the Task Force is estimated to be \$100,000, though a limitation of \$499,000 has been authorized.

6 NUMBER OF MEETINGS

It is estimated that the Task Force will hold 4 meetings.

7 SUPPORT

- a The Task Force will report its findings from the review and evaluation to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, and the Secretary.
- b The Task Force reports to the Secretary through the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.
- c Administrative and financial support of the Task Force is provided through funds appropriated to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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