

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250**

**SECRETARY'S MEMORANDUM 1076-030
July 1, 2019**

Implementation of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018

1. PURPOSE

- a. The purpose of this Memorandum is to implement the provisions of the *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018*, Pub. L. 115-334, through the delegation of authorities and the establishment of the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production and the following positions: National Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator; Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator; Rural Health Liaison; Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison; and Food Access Liaison. This Memorandum also continues the authorization for the Office of Customer Experience (OCX), as initially authorized in Secretary's Memorandum 1076-022.
- b. The authorities delegated herein by reference to a section of the *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018* include delegations of both new provisions of law enacted by that section and amendments made by that section to existing Acts, to the extent authorities under such Acts are not covered by previously published delegations of authority.

2. CANCELLATION

This Secretary's Memorandum supersedes Secretary's Memorandum 1076-029, *Implementation of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018*, issued on June 25, 2019.

3. DELEGATIONS

I hereby delegate authorities vested in the Secretary of Agriculture by the *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018* to the Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and General Officers of the Department as identified in Column C of the attached section-by-section table of authorities. The Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and General Officers of the Department shall redelegate the authorities delegated herein to the agencies and offices of the Department as identified in Column D of the attached table. Where there is an assigned delegation in Column C, but no assigned re delegation in Column D, the Column C delegatee is authorized to redelegate that authority as appropriate.

4. ACTIONS ORDERED

a. Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

- (1) Establishment. As authorized by Section 12302 of the *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018*, there is hereby established in the Department an Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. The Director of the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production will report to the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- (2) Mission. The mission of the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production will be to encourage and promote urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural practices.
- (3) Responsibilities. The Director of the Office of Urban Agriculture, through the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) and the Chief, NRCS, will be delegated authority to carry out the duties set forth at 7 U.S.C. 6923(a), (c), and (d).

b. National Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator

- (1) Establishment. As authorized by Section 12304 of the *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018*, there is hereby established in the Department, within the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the position of National Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator. The National Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator will report to the Administrator of FSA.
- (2) Responsibilities. The National Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator, through the Under Secretary for FPAC and the Administrator, FSA, will be delegated authority to carry out the duties set forth in 7 U.S.C. 6934a, including the following:
 - (a) Advise the Secretary and coordinate activities of the Department on programs, policies, and issues relating to beginning farmers and ranchers;
 - (b) In consultation with the applicable State food and agriculture council, determine whether to approve state plans submitted under 7 U.S.C. 3319b(c)(3)(B);
 - (c) Develop and implement new strategies for outreach to beginning farmers and ranchers and to assist beginning farmers and ranchers with connecting to owners or operators that have ended, or expect to end within 5 years, actively owning or operating a farm or ranch;

- (d) Facilitating interagency and interdepartmental collaboration on issues relating to beginning farmers and ranchers; and
 - (e) Enter into contracts and cooperative agreements as described in 7 U.S.C. 6934a(b)(4).
- c. Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator
 - (1) Establishment. As authorized by Section 12305 of the *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018*, there is hereby established in the Department, within the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE), the position of Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator. The Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator will report to the Director, OPPE.
 - (2) Responsibilities. The Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator, through the Director, OPPE, will be delegated authority to carry out the duties set forth at 7 U.S.C. 6934b(b), and the authority to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements as described in 7 U.S.C. 6934b(c).
- d. Rural Health Liaison
 - (1) Establishment. As authorized by Section 12409 of the *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018*, there is hereby established in the Department, within the Rural Development mission area, the position of Rural Health Liaison. The Rural Health Liaison will report to the Under Secretary for Rural Development.
 - (2) Responsibilities. The Rural Health Liaison, through the Under Secretary for Rural Development, will be delegated authority to carry out the duties set forth at 7 U.S.C. 6946(b).
- e. Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison
 - (1) Establishment. As authorized by Section 12504 of the *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018*, there is hereby established in the Department, within the Office of the Chief Economist, the position of Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison. The Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison will report to the Chief Economist.
 - (2) Responsibilities. The Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison, through the Chief Economist, will be delegated authority to carry out the duties set forth at 7 U.S.C. 6924, including the authority to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements as set forth in 7 U.S.C. 6924(c).
- f. Food Access Liaison
 - (1) Establishment. As authorized by Section 12614 of the *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018*, there is hereby established in the Department, within the Food and

Nutrition Service (FNS), the position of Food Access Liaison. The Food Access Liaison will report to the Administrator of FNS.

- (2) Responsibilities. The Food Access Liaison, through the Under Secretary for the Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services and the Administrator, FNS, will be delegated authority to carry out the duties set forth at 7 U.S.C. 6925(b).

g. Office of Customer Experience

- (1) Continued establishment. As authorized under Section 4(a) of *Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953* (5 U.S.C. App.; 7 U.S.C. 2201 note), this Secretary's Memorandum continues the establishment of the OCX within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration (OASA). The head of OCX will report to the Deputy Secretary.
- (2) Responsibilities. OCX will continue to provide Departmentwide coordination for efforts to improve customer service. OCX will work with the mission areas and employee teams to build a culture of customer service within USDA through shared values built and celebrated by employees, uncovering opportunities for process improvements, and streamlining approaches for enhancing access to our services.

5. INCIDENTAL TRANSFERS

The Assistant Secretary for Administration and the Chief Financial Officer are authorized to approve such transfers of funds, personnel, employment authority, space, records, property, and incidentals as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Memorandum.

6. EXISTING DIRECTIVES

Prior delegations of authority, administrative regulations, and other directives not inconsistent with the provisions of this Memorandum shall remain in full force and effect.

7. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION

- a. The delegations of authority made herein are effective immediately and, except as provided in section 7b, shall remain in effect for 1 year from the effective date or until such earlier time as the Department's published delegations of authority have been revised to incorporate the provisions of this Memorandum. The actions in section 4g have a retroactive effect to February 2, 2019.
- b. Delegations of authority to conduct or prepare a one-time study, report, economic analysis, or similar activity shall remain in effect until such study, report, economic analysis, or similar activity is completed.

8. ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations used in the attached section-by-section table of authorities are as follows:

AMS	Agricultural Marketing Service
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
ARS	Agricultural Research Service
ERS	Economic Research Service
FAS	Foreign Agricultural Service
FNCS	Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
FNS	Food and Nutrition Service
FPAC	Farm Production and Conservation
FPAC BC	Farm Production and Conservation Business Center
FS	Forest Service
FSA	Farm Service Agency
FSIS	Food Safety and Inspection Service
MRP	Marketing and Regulatory Programs
NASS	National Agricultural Statistics Service
NIFA	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRE	Natural Resources and Environment
OASA	Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration
OASCR	Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
OBPA	Office of Budget and Program Analysis
OCE	Office of the Chief Economist
OCS	Office of the Chief Scientist
OFS	Office of Food Safety
OHRM	Office of Human Resources Management
OHS	Office of Homeland Security
OPMP	Office of Pest Management Policy
OPPE	Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement
OTR	Office of Tribal Relations
RBS	Rural Business-Cooperative Service
RD	Rural Development
REE	Research, Education, and Economics
RHS	Rural Housing Service
RMA	Risk Management Agency
RUS	Rural Utilities Service
TFAA	Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs
WAOB	World Agricultural Outlook Board

Attachment

/s/Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture

ATTACHMENT

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Section	Short Title	COLUMN C Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or General Officer Delegation	COLUMN D Agency or Staff Office Delegation
	TITLE I -- COMMODITIES		
	Subtitle B -- Marketing Loans		
1203	Economic adjustment assistance for textile mills	MRP	AMS
1204	Special competitive provisions for extra long staple cotton	MRP	AMS
	Subtitle D – Dairy Margin Coverage and Other Dairy Related Provisions		
1401	Dairy margin coverage	FPAC, REE	FSA, NASS
	Subtitle F – Noninsured Crop Assistance		
1601	Noninsured crop assistance program	FPAC	FSA, RMA
	Subtitle G -- Administration		
1705	Farm Service Agency accountability	FPAC	FSA
	TITLE II -- CONSERVATION		
	Subtitle B -- Conservation Reserve Program		
2202	Conservation reserve enhancement program	FPAC	FSA, NRCS
2204	Pilot Programs	FPAC	FSA, NRCS
	Subtitle C -- Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program		
2301	Repeal of conservation programs	FPAC	NRCS

Section	Short Title	COLUMN C Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or General Officer Delegation	COLUMN D Agency or Staff Office Delegation
2307	Conservation innovation grants and payments	FPAC	NRCS
2309	Grassland conservation initiative	FPAC	NRCS
	Subtitle D -- Other Conservation Programs		
2408	Feral swine eradication and control pilot program	FPAC, MRP	NRCS, APHIS
2409	Report on small wetlands	FPAC	NRCS
	Subtitle E -- Funding and Administration		
2501	Commodity Credit Corporation	FPAC	NRCS
2502	Delivery of technical assistance	FPAC, NRE	NRCS, FSA, FS
	TITLE III -- TRADE		
	Subtitle C -- Other Agricultural Trade Laws		
3307	International Agricultural Education Fellowship Program	TFAA	FAS
3308	International food security technical assistance	TFAA	FAS
3312	Foreign trade missions	TFAA, OPPE	FAS, OTR
	TITLE IV -- NUTRITION		
	Subtitle A -- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program		
4017	Assistance for community food projects	REE, FNCS	NIFA, FNS
4018	Emergency food assistance program	FNCS	FNS
4021	Public-private partnerships	FNCS, REE	FNS, NIFA
	Subtitle B -- Commodity Distribution Programs		

Section	Short Title	COLUMN C Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or General Officer Delegation	COLUMN D Agency or Staff Office Delegation
4104	Food donation standards	FNCS	FNS
	Subtitle C -- Miscellaneous		
4205	The Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program	FNCS, REE	FNS, NIFA
4206	Micro-grants for food security	MRP	AMS
4207	Buy American requirements	FNCS	FNS
4208	Healthy fluid milk incentives projects	FNCS	FNS
	TITLE V -- CREDIT		
	Subtitle D -- Miscellaneous		
5413	Reporting	FPAC	FSA
	TITLE VI -- RURAL DEVELOPMENT		
	Subtitle B -- Connecting Rural Americans to High Speed Broadband		
6212	Federal broadband program coordination	RD	RUS
6214	Rural broadband integration working group	RD	RUS
	Subtitle C -- Miscellaneous		
6302	Establishment of technical assistance program	RD, OPPE	RUS, RBS, RHS, OTR
6306	Council of Rural Community Innovation and Economic Development	RD	
	Subtitle D -- Additional Amendments to the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act		
6407	Emergency and imminent community water assistance grant program	RD	RUS

Section	Short Title	COLUMN C Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or General Officer Delegation	COLUMN D Agency or Staff Office Delegation
	Subtitle E -- Additional Amendments to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936		
6504	Extension of the rural economic development loan and grant program	RD	RUS
	TITLE VII -- RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND RELATED MATTERS		
	Subtitle A -- National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977		
7110	Next generation agriculture technology challenge	REE	NIFA
7116	Reports on disbursement of funds for agricultural research and extension at 1862 and 1890 land- grant colleges, including Tuskegee University	REE	NIFA
7117	Scholarships for students at 1890 institutions	REE, OPPE	NIFA
7120	New Beginning for Tribal Students	REE	NIFA
7121	Hispanic-serving institutions	REE	NIFA
7123	Partnerships to build capacity in international agricultural research, extension, and teaching	REE, TFAA	ARS, FAS
7126	Research equipment grants	REE	NIFA
7132	Agricultural advanced research and development authority pilot	REE	
	Subtitle B -- Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990		
7209	High-priority research and extension initiatives	REE	NIFA, OCS
7212	Urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production research, education, and extension initiative	REE	NIFA

Section	Short Title	COLUMN C Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or General Officer Delegation	COLUMN D Agency or Staff Office Delegation
7212(b)	Urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production research, education, and extension initiative	REE	NASS
7213	Centers of excellence at 1890 institutions	REE	NIFA
7215	National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse	REE	ARS, NIFA
	Subtitle C -- Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998		
7303	Support for research regarding diseases of wheat, triticale, and barley caused by <i>Fusarium graminearum</i> or by <i>Tilletia indica</i>	REE	NIFA
	Subtitle D -- Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008		
7401	Agricultural biosecurity communication center	REE	NIFA
7402	Assistance to build local capacity in agricultural biosecurity planning, preparation, and response	REE	NIFA
7413	Natural products research program	REE	NIFA
	Subtitle E -- Amendments to Other Laws		
7501	Critical Agricultural Materials Act	REE	NIFA
7503	Research Facilities Act	REE	NIFA
	Subtitle F -- Other Matters		
7602	Transfer of administrative jurisdiction over portion of Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland	REE	ARS
7603	Foundation for food and agriculture research	REE	ARS
7605(a)(4)	Legitimacy of industrial hemp research	REE	ERS
7607	Collection of data relating to the size and location of dairy farms	REE	ERS, NASS

Section	Short Title	COLUMN C Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or General Officer Delegation	COLUMN D Agency or Staff Office Delegation
7608	Agriculture innovation center demonstration program	RD	RBS
7610	Mechanization and automation for specialty crops	REE	ERS
7611(a)(2)	Experiences services program	REE	NIFA
7613	Review of land-grant time and effort reporting requirements	REE	NIFA
	TITLE VIII -- FORESTRY		
	Subtitle A -- Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978		
8102	State and private forest landscape-scale restoration program	NRE, FPAC	FS, NRCS
	Subtitle F -- Forest Management		
8611	Categorical exclusion for greater sage-grouse and mule deer habitat	NRE	FS
8621	Additional authority for sale or exchange of small parcels of National Forest System land	NRE	FS
8623	Authorization for lease of Forest Service sites	NRE	FS
8625	Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest land adjustment	NRE	FS
8626	Tennessee wilderness	NRE	FS
8627	Kisatchie National Forest land conveyance	NRE	FS
8628	Purchase of Natural Resources Conservation Service property, Riverside County, California	FPAC	NRCS
8629	Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program	NRE	FS
8630	Utility infrastructure rights-of-way vegetation management pilot program	NRE	FS
8631	Okhissa Lake rural economic development land conveyance	NRE	FS
8632	Remote sensing technologies	NRE	FS
8641	Definitions	NRE	FS

Section	Short Title	COLUMN C Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or General Officer Delegation	COLUMN D Agency or Staff Office Delegation
8642	Clarification of research and development program for wood building construction	NRE	FS
8643	Wood innovation grant program	NRE	FS
	Subtitle G -- Other Matters		
8702	Resource Advisory Committees	NRE	FS
8703	Tribal forest management demonstration project	NRE	FS
8705	Streamlining the Forest Service process for consideration of communications facility location applications	NRE	FS
8706	Report on wildfire, insect infestation, and disease prevention on Federal land	NRE	FS
8707	West Fork Fire Station	NRE	FS
	TITLE IX -- ENERGY		
9002	Biobased markets program	RD	RBS
9011	Carbon utilization and biogas education program	REE	NIFA
	TITLE X -- HORTICULTURE		
10102	Local agriculture market program	RD, MRP	RBS, AMS
10104	Organic certification	MRP	AMS
10109	Multiple crop and pesticide use survey	OCE	OPMP
10110	Report on the arrival in the United States of forest pests through restrictions on the importation of certain plants for planting	MRP, NRE	APHIS, FS
10111	Report on plant biostimulants	MRP, OCE	APHIS, OPMP
10113	Hemp production	MRP, FPAC	AMS, RMA

Section	Short Title	COLUMN C Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or General Officer Delegation	COLUMN D Agency or Staff Office Delegation
10115	FIFRA interagency working group	OCE	
10116	Study on methyl bromide use in response to an emergency event	OCE, REE	OPMP, ARS, NIFA, ERS
	TITLE XI -- CROP INSURANCE		
11102	Data collection	FPAC, REE	FSA, RMA, NASS
11103	Sharing of records	FPAC, REE	RMA, NASS
	TITLE XII -- MISCELLANEOUS		
	Subtitle A -- Livestock		
12103	Feasibility study on livestock dealer statutory trust	MRP	AMS
12105	National Aquatic Animal Health Plan	MRP	APHIS
12107	Report on FSIS guidance and outreach to small meat processors	OFS	FSIS
12108	Regional Cattle and Carcass Grading Correlation and Training Centers	MRP	AMS
	Subtitle B -- Agriculture and Food Defense		
12202	Office of Homeland Security	OASA	OHS
12203(b)	Agriculture and food defense	MRP	APHIS
12203(c)	Agriculture and food defense	REE	NIFA
12203(d)	Agriculture and food defense	REE	ARS
12204	Biological agents and toxins list	MRP	APHIS
	Subtitle C -- Historically Underserved Producers		
12301(a)	Farming opportunities training and outreach	OPPE	
12301(d)	Farming opportunities training and outreach	REE	NIFA
12302	Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production	FPAC	NRCS
12303	Tribal Advisory Committee	OPPE	OTR

Section	Short Title	COLUMN C Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or General Officer Delegation	COLUMN D Agency or Staff Office Delegation
12304	Beginning farmer and rancher coordination	FPAC	FSA
12305	Agricultural youth organization coordinator	OPPE	
	Subtitle D -- Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 Amendments		
12403(a)	Civil rights analyses	OASCR	
12409	Rural Health Liaison	RD	
12411	Office of the Chief Scientist	REE	OCS
	Subtitle E -- Other Miscellaneous Matters		
12502	Protecting animals with shelter	RD	RHS
12504	Establishment of food loss and waste reduction liaison	OCE	
12505	Report on business centers	OBPA	
12506	Report on personnel	OASA, OBPA	OHRM
12507	Report on absent landlords	REE	ERS
12508	Century farms program	FPAC	FPAC BC
12509	Report on importation of live dogs	MRP	APHIS
12510	Tribal Promise Zones	OPPE	
12511	Precision agriculture connectivity	FPAC	FSA
12512	Improvements to United States Drought Monitor	OCE	WAOB
12513	Dairy business innovation initiatives	MRP	AMS
12514	Report on funding for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and other extension programs	REE	NIFA
12518	Forest Service hire authority	NRE	FS
12519	Conversion authority	OASA	
12520	Authorization of protection operations for the Secretary of Agriculture and others	OASA	
	Subtitle F -- General Provisions		
12601	Baiting of migratory game birds	MRP	APHIS
12605	Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Development Trust Fund	REE	NIFA
12607(a)	Reports on land access and farmland ownership data collection	REE, OCE	ERS

Section	Short Title	COLUMN C Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or General Officer Delegation	COLUMN D Agency or Staff Office Delegation
12607(b)	Reports on land access and farmland ownership data collection	REE	NASS
12609	Commission on Farm Transitions -- Needs for 2050	OCE	
12612	National agriculture imagery program	FPAC	FSA
12613	Report on inclusion of natural stone products in Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996	MRP	AMS
12614	Establishment of food access liaison	FNCS	FNS
12615	Eligibility for operators on heirs property land to obtain a farm number	FPAC	FSA
12618	Data on conservation practices	FPAC, OCE	NRCS, FSA