

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

SECRETARY'S MEMORANDUM 1076-014
August 3, 2016

Delegation of Authority for the Organic Certification Cost Share Programs

1. PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of this Memorandum is to transfer the delegation of authority to administer USDA's two Organic Certification Cost Share Programs from the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

2. ACTIONS ORDERED

- a The FSA Administrator is hereby delegated the authority to administer the Agricultural Management Assistance Organic Certification Cost Share Program, which is authorized under the Federal Crop Insurance Act, 7 U.S.C. § 1524(b)(4)(C)(ii), and the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program, which is authorized under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, as amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014, 7 U.S.C. § 6523 (together referenced as the "Organic Certification Cost Share Programs"). The FSA Administrator shall determine which organizational unit of FSA will administer both Organic Certification Cost Share Programs.
- b The delegation to the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs (7 C.F.R. § 2.22(a)(1)(viii)(DDD) and AMS Administrator (7 C.F.R. § 2.79(a)(8)(lxiv) to administer the Organic Certification Cost Share Programs is hereby revoked.
- c The delegation to the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (7 C.F.R. § 2.61(a)(18)) for 7 U.S.C. § 1524(b)(4)(C)(ii) is revoked.
- d The AMS Organic Cost Share Program Manager shall be reassigned to an organizational unit of FSA, as determined by the FSA Administrator.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION

This Memorandum is effective immediately and will remain in effect for one 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.

/s/Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture