

HORTICULTURE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE TITLE  
SECTION BY SECTION

**Subtitle A – Honey and Bees**

Sec. 1. CONTINUATION OF CURRENT LOAN RATE FOR NONRECOURSE MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS FOR HONEY.

- Extends the current loan rate at \$0.60 per pound through 2012.

Sec. 2. ANNUAL REPORT ON RESPONSE TO HONEY BEE COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER.

- Requires the Secretary to submit a report to Congress on the investigation of honey bee colony collapse and strategies to reduce colony loss.

**Subtitle B – Horticulture Provisions**

Sec. 11. TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

- Makes nursery tree growers eligible under the Tree Assistance Program and future disaster assistance programs for which assistance is provided under that program.
- Clarifies that the \$75,000 limitation on assistance is per year.

Sec. 12. SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANTS.

- Continues the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program through 2012, and increases the levels of funding from \$20,000,000 in FY '08 to \$55,000,000 for FY '12 from the contingency reserve.

Sec. 13. INCREASED SECTION 32 FUNDS FOR PURCHASE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES TO SUPPORT DOMESTIC NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

- Increases the additional amounts of Section 32 funds dedicated to fruit, vegetable and nut purchases from \$190,000,000 in FY '08 to \$206,000,000 beginning in 2012.
- Expands the Secretary's purchase discretion to include value-added fruit, vegetable and nut products.

SEC. 14. QUALITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CLEMENTINES.

- Requires imports of clementines to comply with quality standards set by the domestic marketing order for clementines.

SEC. 15. IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD SAFETY PROGRAMS UNDER MARKETING ORDERS.

- Authorizes the implementation of quality-related food safety programs under specialty crop marketing orders.

SEC. 16. INCLUSION OF SPECIALTY CROPS IN CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE.

- Includes a census of specialty crops as part of the general census of agriculture.

SEC. 17. MATURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR HASS AVOCADOES.

- Requires the Secretary to issue regulations requiring all Hass avocados sold in the U.S. to meet a minimum maturity requirement.
- Allows for exceptions from this requirement for avocados intended for charities, relief agencies or processing.
- Uses existing inspectors that already inspect avocados under other orders. Also allows the Secretary to collect fees to pay for inspection activities.
- Imposes civil penalties of between \$5 and \$5,000 for each violation.
- Allows for the diversion of avocados that don't meet the maturity requirements.
- Authorizes appropriations for necessary sums.

SEC. 18. MUSHROOM PROMOTION, RESEARCH AND CONSUMER INFORMATION.

- Reflects the changed geographic distribution of mushroom growers and their productivity by combining the regions that are represented on the Board, and increasing the number of pounds required for representation in the region.
- Allows the development of good agricultural practices and good handling practices under the mushroom research and promotion order.

**Subtitle C – Pest and Disease Management.**

SEC. 21. THREAT IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION PROGRAM.

- Establishes a new program to determine and prioritize pest and disease threats to the domestic production of specialty crops.
- In conducting the program, the Secretary is directed to develop risk assessments, prioritize pest and disease threats, develop action plans, and implementing the action plans.
- The priority list and action plans shall be provided to Congress in an annual report.
- Authorizes appropriations for necessary sums.

SEC. 22. MULTI-SPECIES FRUIT FLY RESEARCH AND STERILE FLY PRODUCTION.

- Authorizes the construction of a warehouse and irradiation containment facility for fruit fly rearing and sterilization in Waimanalo, Hawaii.
- \$15,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for construction and \$1,000,000 for each fiscal year is authorized to be appropriated for facility maintenance.

SEC. 23. AUDIT-BASED APPROACH TO SPECIALTY CROP PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATION.

- Establishes a program for the distribution of funds through cooperative agreements with specialty crop growers, their representative organizations, and State and local agencies to develop audit-based certification procedures to protect against the spread of plant pests and diseases and to ease the interstate movement of plant and plant products.

- Authorizes appropriations for necessary sums.

**SEC. 24. EARLY PEST DETECTION AND SURVEILLANCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.**

- Authorizes the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with State Departments of Agriculture that conduct early pest detection and surveillance activities.
- Provides for auditing and reporting on the use of funds under the agreements.
- When allocating funds, the Secretary is permitted to consider certain factors which might increase that State's risk of pest and disease threats.
- States may enter into subagreements with political subdivisions that have legal authority to conduct pest and disease surveillance.
- The federal cost-share of carrying out activities under this section is not to exceed 50%, except where an increased federal share is necessary to assist an underserved area or to address a critical need.
- The funding of this program increases from \$5,000,000 for FY '08 to \$50,000,000 through FY '12 out of the contingent reserve.

**Subtitle D – Organic Agriculture.**

**SEC. 31. NATIONAL ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM.**

- Provides \$25,000,000 until expended for the national organic certification cost-share program.
- The federal share may not exceed 75% of the cost of certification, and the maximum amount a producer may receive is raised from \$500 to \$750.

**SEC. 32. ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND MARKET DATA.**

- Adds pricing of organic products as new data to be included in the ongoing collection of data on agriculture production and marketing.
- The data on organics under this section shall be collected to analyze crop loss risk of organic methods of production.

**Subtitle E - Miscellaneous Provisions.**

**SEC. 41. RESTORATION OF IMPORT AND ENTRY AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION FUNCTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**

- Repeals the transfer of APHIS import and inspection functions to the Department of Homeland Security made under the Department of Homeland Security Act of 2002 and requires the return of those functions to USDA.

**SEC. 42. GRANT PROGRAM TO IMPROVE THE MOVEMENT OF SPECIALTY CROPS.**

- The Secretary is authorized to make grants to State and local governments, grower cooperatives, and producer and shipper organizations to improve the cost-effective movement of specialty crops.
- The grant recipient must match the amount of funds received under this program.

- Authorizes appropriations for necessary sums.

SEC. 43. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR MARKET NEWS ACTIVITIES REGARDING SPECIALTY CROPS.

- Authorizes necessary funds through 2012 for specialty crop market news activities.

SEC. 44. CONTINGENT AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR THE FARMER'S MARKET PROMOTION PROGRAM.

- Provides funds for the Farmer's Market Promotion Program from the contingent reserve in the amounts of \$5,000,000 for FY '08-'10; and \$10,000,000 for FY '11-12.