responsibilities granted the Chief Financial Officer by the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 (Pub. L. No. 101– 576), from any Federal, State, or local governmental entity.

- (11) To the extent and in such amounts as may be provided in advance by appropriations acts, entering into contracts and other arrangements with public agencies and with private persons for the preparation of financial statements, studies, analyses, and other services, and making such payments as may be necessary to carry out the duties and prerogatives of the Chief Financial Officer.
- (b) In addition to the above responsibilities, the following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Chief Financial Officer:
- (1) Designate the Department's Director of Finance and Comptroller of the Department Working Capital Fund.

(2) Establish Departmental policies, standards, techniques, and procedures applicable to all USDA agencies for the following areas:

(i) Development, maintenance, review and approval of all departmental, and review and approval of component agency, internal control, fiscal, financial management and accounting systems including the financial aspects of payroll and property systems;

(ii) Selection, standardization, and simplification of program delivery processes utilizing grants, cooperative agreements and other forms of Federal assistance:

(iii) Review and approval of Federal assistance, internal control, fiscal, accounting and financial management regulations and instructions proposed or issued by USDA agencies for conformity with Departmental requirements; and

(iv) Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 853a) as it relates to grants, loans, and licenses.

(3) Establish policies related to the Department Working Capital Fund.

- (4) Approve regulations, procedures and rates for goods and services financed through the Department Working Capital Fund which will impact the financial administration of the Fund.
- (5) Exercise responsibility and authority for operating USDA's Central Accounting System and related administrative systems including:
- (i) Management of the National Finance Center (NFC), which includes developing, maintaining, and operating manual and automated administrative and accounting systems for the USDA agencies related to the Central Accounting System, Departmentwide payroll and personnel information,

- statistics, administrative payments, billings and collections, and related reporting systems that are either requested by the agencies or required by the Department;
- (ii) Management of the NFC automated data processing and telecommunications systems and coordination with the Office of Information Resources Management to assure that the hardware and software located at the NFC will be integrated with and compatible with all other systems;
- (iii) Develop new or modified accounting systems and documentation supporting the Central Accounting System which includes working with USDA agencies to obtain General Accounting Office approval; and
- (iv) Review and approve the issuance of accounting and management instructions related to the operation of the NFC.
- (6) Provide management support services for the NFC, and by agreement with agency heads concerned, provide such services for other USDA tenants housed in the same facility. As used herein, such management support services shall include:
- (i) Personnel services, as listed in § 2.24(a)(5)(x), and organizational support services, with authority to take actions required by law or regulation to perform such services; and
- (ii) Procurement, property management, space management, communications, messenger, paperwork management, and related administrative services, with authority to take actions required by law or regulation to perform such services.
- (7) Exercise responsibility and authority for all matters related to the Department's accounting and financial operations including such activities as:
- (i) Financial administration, including accounting and related activities;
- (ii) Reviewing financial aspects of agency operations and proposals;
- (iii) Furnishing consulting services to agencies to assist them in developing and maintaining accounting and financial management systems and internal controls, and for other purposes consistent with delegations in paragraph (b)(2) of this section;
- (iv) Reviewing and monitoring agency implementation of Federal assistance policies;
- (v) Reviewing and approving agencies' accounting systems documentation including related development plans, activities, and controls;
- (vi) Monitoring agencies' progress in developing and revising accounting and

- financial management systems and internal controls;
- (vii) Evaluating agencies' financial systems to determine the effectiveness of procedures employed, compliance with regulations, and the appropriateness of policies and practices;
- (viii) Promulgation of Department schedule of fees and charges for reproductions, furnishing of copies and making searches for official records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552; and
- (ix) Monitoring USDA implementation of section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 853a) as it relates to grants, loans, and licenses.
- (8) Establish Department and approve component agency programs, policies, standards, systems, techniques and procedures to improve the management and operational efficiency and effectiveness of the USDA including:
- (i) Implementation of the policies and procedures set forth in OMB Circulars No. A–76: Performance of Commercial Activities, and No. A–117: Management Improvement and the Use of Evaluation in the Executive Branch;
- (ii) Increased use of operations research and management science in the areas of productivity and management; and
- (iii) All activities financed through the Department Working Capital Fund.
- (9) Designate the Commercial Industrial Officer for USDA.
- (10) Develop Departmental policies, standards, techniques, and procedures for the conduct of reviews and analysis of the utilization of the resources of State and local governments, other Federal agencies and of the private sector in domestic program operations.
- (11) Represent the Department in contacts with the Office of Management and Budget, General Services
 Administration, General Accounting
 Office, Department of the Treasury,
 Office of Personnel Management,
 Department of Health and Human
 Services, Department of Labor,
 Environmental Protection Agency,
 Department of Commerce, Congress of the United States, State and local governments, universities, and other public and private sector individuals, organizations or agencies on matters related to assigned responsibilities.
- (12) Maintain the Departmental inventory of commercial activities required by OMB Circular No. A–76 and provide Departmentwide technical assistance to accomplish Circular objectives.
- (13) Establish policies related to travel by USDA employees.