

(1) Advise the Secretary and General officers in the planning, development, and execution of Department policies and programs.

(2) Provide for the personal security of the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary.

(3) Serve as liaison official for the Department for all audits of USDA performed by the General Accounting Office.

(4) In addition to the above delegations of authority, the Inspector General, under the general supervision of the Secretary, has specific duties, responsibilities, and authorities pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, Pub. L. No. 95-452, 5 U.S.C. App.

(b) The following authority is reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture:

Approving the implementation in the Office of Inspector General of administrative policies or procedures that contravene standard USDA administrative policies as promulgated by the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

#### **§ 2.34 Director, National Appeals Division.**

The Director, National Appeals Division, under the general supervision of the Secretary, has specific duties, responsibilities, and authorities pursuant to subtitle H of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, Pub. L. No. 103-354, title II (7 U.S.C. 6991 *et seq.*), including:

(a) Deciding appeals from adverse decisions, made by an officer or employee of an agency of the Department designated by the Secretary, that are adverse to participants. The term "agency" shall include the following and any predecessor agency: the Farm Service Agency; the Commodity Credit Corporation (with respect to domestic programs); the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation; the Rural Housing and Community Development Service; the Rural Business and Cooperative Development Service; the Natural Resources Conservation Service; and a State, county, or area committee established under section 8(b)(5) of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act (16 U.S.C. 590h(b)(5)); and

(b) The authority to appoint such hearing officers and other employees as are necessary for the administration of the activities of the Division.

#### **§ 2.35 Judicial Officer.**

The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Judicial Officer: Pursuant to the provisions of the Act of April 4, 1940 (7 U.S.C. 450c-450g), and Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953 (5 U.S.C. App.), the Judicial Officer is hereby authorized to

act as final deciding officer in adjudication proceedings subject to 5 U.S.C. 556 and 557; in other adjudication proceedings which are or may be made subject to the "Rules of Practice Governing Formal Adjudicatory Proceedings Instituted by the Secretary Under Various Statutes" set forth in part 1, subpart H of this title; in adjudication proceedings under the "Rules of Practice Governing Cease and Desist Proceedings Under Section 2 of the Capper-Volstead Act" set forth in part 1, subpart I of this title; in rate proceedings under the Packers and Stockyards Act; in adjudication proceedings under the "Procedures Related to Administrative Hearings Under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986" set forth in part 1, subpart L of this title; in adjudication proceedings subject to the "Rules of Practice Governing the Adjudication of Sourcing Area Applications and Formal Review of Sourcing Areas Pursuant to the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*)" set forth in part 1, subpart M of this title; and in reparation proceedings under statutes administered by the Department. As used herein the term "Judicial Officer" shall mean any person or persons so designated by the Secretary of Agriculture. The provisions of this delegation shall not be construed to limit the authority of the Judicial Officer to perform any functions, in addition to those defined in the said Act of April 4, 1940, which from time to time may be assigned by the Secretary to him or her.

#### **§ 2.36 Director, Office of Communications.**

(a) *Delegations.* The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to Director, Office of Communications:

(1) *Related to public affairs.* (i) Advise and counsel general officers on public affairs matters to the Department.

(ii) Organize and direct the activities of a public affairs office to include press relations of the secretary of agriculture and other executive functions and services for general officers of the Department.

(2) *Related to information activities.*

(i) Advise the secretary and general officers in the planning, development, and execution of Department policies and programs.

(ii) Direct and coordinate the overall formulation and development of policies, programs, plans, procedures, standards and organization structures and staffing patterns for the information activities of the Department and its agencies, both in Washington and in the field.

(iii) Exercise final review and approval of all public information material prepared by the Department and its agencies and select the most effective method and audience for distributing this information.

(iv) Serve as the central public information authority in the USDA, with the authority to determine policy for all USDA communication activities and agency information activities in order to provide leadership and centralized operational direction for USDA and agency information activities so that all material shall effectively support USDA policies and programs, including the defense program.

(v) Serve as the central printing authority in the USDA, with authority to represent the USDA with Joint Committee on Printing of the Congress, the Government Printing Office, and other Federal and State agencies on information matters.

(vi) Cooperate with and secure the cooperation of commercial, industrial and other nongovernmental agencies and concerns regarding information work as required in the execution of the Department's programs.

(vii) Plan and direct communication research and training for the Department and its agencies.

(viii) Oversee general officers and agency heads in the development and implementation of information policies issued pursuant to the provisions of the "Freedom of Information Act" (5 U.S.C. 552) and the "Privacy Act" (5 U.S.C. 552a), and provide consultation regarding those policies.

(ix) Supervise and provide leadership and final clearance for the planning, production, and distribution of visual information material for the department and its agencies in Washington, D.C., and the field, and provide such information services as may be deemed necessary.

(x) Maintain overall responsibility and control over the preparation of the "Agricultural Decisions."

(xi) Administer, direct and coordinate publications and user fee authority granted under section 1121 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, as amended by section 1769 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2242a; and publish any appropriate regulations necessary to the exercise of this authority.

(b) [Reserved]

#### **Subpart E—Delegations of Authority by the Deputy Secretary**

##### **§ 2.37 Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization**

(a) *Delegations.* Pursuant to § 2.15, the following delegations of authority are