
7 U.S. Code § 1627c

Local agriculture market program

(a) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Beginning farmer or rancher

The term “beginning farmer or rancher” has the meaning given the term in section 1991(a) of this title.

(2) Direct producer-to-consumer marketing

The term “direct producer-to-consumer marketing” has the meaning given the term “direct marketing from farmers to consumers” in section 3002 of this title.

(3) Family farm

The term “family farm” has the meaning given the term in section 1632a(a) of this title.

(4) Food council

The term “food council” means a food policy council or food and farm system network, as determined by the Secretary, that—

(A) represents—

- (i) multiple organizations involved in the production, processing, and consumption of food; and
- (ii) local, Tribal, or State governments; and

(B) addresses food and farm-related issues and needs within city, county, State, Tribal region, multicounty region, or other region designated by the food council or food system network.

(5) Majority-controlled producer-based business venture

(A) In general

The term “majority-controlled producer-based business venture” means a venture greater than 50 percent of the ownership and control of which is held by—

- (i) 1 or more producers; or
- (ii) 1 or more entities, 100 percent of the ownership and control of which is held by 1 or more producers.

(B) Entity described

For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term “entity” means—

- (i) a partnership;
- (ii) a limited liability corporation;
- (iii) a limited liability partnership; and
- (iv) a corporation.

(6) Mid-tier value chain

The term “mid-tier value chain” means a local or regional supply network that links independent producers

with businesses and cooperatives that market value-added agricultural products in a manner that—

- (A) targets and strengthens the profitability and competitiveness of small and medium-sized farms and ranches that are structured as a family farm; and
- (B) obtains agreement from an eligible agricultural producer group, farmer or rancher cooperative, or majority-controlled producer-based business venture that is engaged in the value chain on a marketing strategy.

(7) Partnership

The term “partnership” means a partnership entered into under an agreement between—

- (A) 1 or more eligible partners (as defined in subsection (e)(1)); and
- (B) 1 or more eligible entities (as defined in subsection (e)(1)).

(8) Program

The term “Program” means the Local Agriculture Market Program established under subsection (b).

(9) Regional food chain coordination

The term “regional food chain coordination” means coordination and collaboration along the supply chain to increase connections between producers and markets.

(10) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(11) Socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher

The term “socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher” has the meaning given the term in section 2003(e) of this title.

(12) Value-added agricultural product

The term “value-added agricultural product” means any agricultural commodity or product that—

- (A)
 - (i) has undergone a change in physical state;
 - (ii) was produced in a manner that enhances the value of the agricultural commodity or product, as demonstrated through a business plan that shows the enhanced value, as determined by the Secretary;
 - (iii) is physically segregated in a manner that results in the enhancement of the value of the agricultural commodity or product;
 - (iv) is a source of farm- or ranch-based renewable energy, including E-85 fuel; or
 - (v) is aggregated and marketed as a locally produced agricultural food product; and
- (B) as a result of the change in physical state or the manner in which the agricultural commodity or product was produced, marketed, or segregated—
 - (i) the customer base for the agricultural commodity or product is expanded; and
 - (ii) a greater portion of the revenue derived from the marketing, processing, or physical segregation of the agricultural commodity or product is available to the producer of the commodity or product.

(13) Veteran farmer or rancher

The term “veteran farmer or rancher” has the meaning given the term in section 2279(a) of this title.

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