

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

March 7, 1972.

SECRETARY'S MEMORANDUM NO. 1769

Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees

1. Departmental Committees. There is a continuing need for estimates and projections of basic data regarding supply, utilization, prices and program effects to be used on a Departmentwide basis for budgetary purposes and for appraising and administering present or proposed programs. In response to this need, Secretary's Memorandum No. 1530, March 15, 1963, authorized establishment of a Departmental committee for each price supported commodity, and others as needed. That Memorandum was revised and superseded by Secretary's Memorandum No. 1614, April 12, 1967, to clarify the operating procedures and specify in more detail the responsibilities assigned. Secretary's Memorandum No. 1674 dated December 1, 1969, was necessitated by the reorganization of the Department with respect to activities relating to export sales and international development, the establishment of a new agency in connection therewith, the Export Marketing Service, the reduction in size of the Staff Economists Group and the reorganization of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

2. Organization. (a) For CCC price supported commodities and major products thereof: Commodity estimates committees shall be composed of one member from each of the following agencies of the Department: Economic Research Service, Export Marketing Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, and Foreign Agricultural Service. Each committee shall be chaired by the ASCS member who shall also act as secretary of the committee. To provide data for budget estimates and other purposes, at least two meetings for the preparation of detailed calculations of program costs and expenditures shall be scheduled each calendar year--around June 1 and November 1. Additional meetings will be scheduled as required.

(b) For other commodities: On each commodity for which the Consumer and Marketing Service, the Food and Nutrition Service or the Export Marketing Service recommends a program, an ad hoc commodity estimates committee shall be established. Each committee shall be chaired by the C&MS member who shall also act as secretary of the committee, and shall be composed of members of appropriate agencies designated above in 2(a).

(c) Committee procedure: The chairman of each committee shall call meetings of his committee and to the extent possible provide members with at least two days' notice of committee meetings. He shall inform

COMMITTEES (Commodity Estimates Interagency)

committee members of the agenda, making available or requesting background data and other relevant materials previously prepared by the designated agencies for review by the committee. The chairman is empowered to appoint subcommittees.

3. Duties. (a) The committees shall appraise and review basic data and make estimates as a basis for projecting supply, utilization and prices for major commodities, including the effects of new program proposals on acreage, yield, production, imports, domestic utilization, price, price support programs, carryover, exports and availabilities for export. Estimates agreed to by each committee will be official estimates of the Department regarding the effects of program proposals and changes, but will in no way restrict the formation of special study groups or performance of the duties of any agency of the Department associated with its assigned responsibilities.

(b) The following officials within the Department shall perform the duties and have the responsibilities as set forth below:

(1) The Director of Agricultural Economics shall be the clearing house in the Department for economic data, statistics and projections. He has a staff responsibility to see that the economic resources of all appropriate agencies in the Department are drawn upon in connection with economic policy decisions. Proposed decisions involving substantial economic policy implications shall be checked with him. At least two times each year (when detailed calculations of program costs and expenditures are required) shall provide committee chairmen with basic assumptions and background data regarding the overall economy and parity price projections for specific commodities.

(2) The Administrator of the Economic Research Service shall provide the commodity estimates committees with basic data and economic analyses for their consideration relating to acreage, yield, production, utilization, foreign trade, and supply and price estimates for each commodity.

(3) The Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service, coordinating with the Consumer and Marketing Service and the Export Marketing Service, shall provide the commodity estimates committees for their consideration with estimates of total exports and imports for each commodity.

(4) The Administrator of the Consumer and Marketing Service, in connection with programs administered by C&MS, shall supply the Foreign Agricultural Service with estimates of program exports and shall supply the commodity estimates committees directly with data regarding domestic program operations for which C&MS has jurisdiction.

(5) The General Sales Manager of the Export Marketing Service shall supply FAS and commodity estimates committees with basic data and estimates of programmed exports under PL-480 and of commercial exports under other programs administered by the EMS.

(6) The Administrator of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service shall supply the commodity estimates committees with data and analyses relating to the quantities and value of each commodity placed under price support, repayments, acquisitions and dispositions under existing and proposed programs, including program exports of tobacco, peanuts, tung oil and gum naval stores.

(7) The Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service shall supply the commodity estimates committees directly with data regarding domestic program operations for which FNS has jurisdiction.

Personnel from the Statistical Reporting Service shall, upon request, consult with and supply data to these committees.

4. Utilization of Estimates. Estimates of these interagency committees shall be used in (a) development of budgets and (b) the development, appraisal and administration of programs. The estimates shall serve as the basis for published statements, material provided the Congress, and testimony before the Congressional committees. Financial data or estimates prepared by these committees shall be furnished the Director of Budget and Finance. Committee members shall be responsible for providing their respective administrators with appraisals and reports prepared by the committees. All such material shall be identified as having been prepared by a particular committee.

5. Utilization of Committees. Requests for committee assistance shall be routed through the Administrator, ASCS or the Administrator, C&MS, whichever agency provides the committee chairman. Such requests may be initiated by an agency head within the Department, or by the Office of the Secretary.

6. Prior Memorandum Superseded. With this issuance, Secretary's Memorandum No. 1674 dated December 1, 1969, is hereby superseded.



Secretary of Agriculture