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REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
UNITED STATES SENATE

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Agricultural Program Evaluation
Laws And Studies B-161740

BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES

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090772

NOV. 23, 1973



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

B-161740

The Honorable Herman E. Talmadge
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture
and Forestry
United States Senate

R Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is our report in response to your letter of September 14, 1972, requesting GAO to initiate a process of helping the Committee in its oversight responsibilities. As a beginning effort, we were requested to identify agricultural reports required by law, indicate for selected major programs whether evaluations had been conducted, and provide a list of scheduled GAO agricultural program evaluations.

This initial evaluation data base could provide a basis for future Committee activities. Such activities might include developing new language for laws specifying to the administering agency what program results should be evaluated and reported. This could be helpful to the Committee in its oversight responsibilities.

We do not plan to distribute this report further unless you agree or publicly announce its contents.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James B. Peets".

Comptroller General
of the United States

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ABBREVIATIONS

ASCS	Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
EMS	Export Marketing Service
FHA	Farmers Home Administration
FNS	Food and Nutrition Service
GAO	General Accounting Office
LITE	Legal Information Thru Electronics
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
OPE	Office of Planning and Evaluation
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

D I G E S T

WHY THE REVIEW WAS MADE

In response to a request from the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, GAO identified agriculture, forestry, and rural development laws that require reports and also indicated for each law whether evaluation-type reports were required.

GAO was asked to identify evaluation studies conducted by the Department of Agriculture and GAO in the past 3 years for major agricultural programs; to report on Agriculture's program planning, budgeting, and evaluation activities; and to provide a list of GAO-planned reviews of agricultural program results.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

A total of approximately 400 citations (sections of laws), relating to agriculture and forestry, require reports from various sources--Agriculture and other departments--that go to Congress, as well as other Government officials. Of

the total, 183 citations are considered significant to the Committee.

Of these, 45, or 24 percent of the total, include language indicating that the report should contain information on program evaluation. (See pp. 5 to 8.)

A list of 21 major programs was developed. Agriculture has made program evaluations for 12 of the 21 major programs in the past 3 years. Five have legal requirements for program evaluations and Agriculture has made them. GAO has reviewed program results for four of these major programs over this 3-year period. (See pp. 9 and 10.)

GAO currently has underway six self-initiated reviews of program results related to Agriculture. (See pp. 11 and 12.)

It appears that Agriculture has a centralized system for program analysis, evaluation, planning, and budgeting. The degree to which the system is used to assess alternative courses of action was not reviewed. (See pp. 13 and 14.)

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This review was made in response to the September 14, 1972, request from the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry as an initial effort in using the services of GAO to help the Committee in its oversight responsibilities. (See app. VI.) In accordance with the Chairman's letter and subsequent discussions with the Committee staff, our review included the items summarized below.

1. An identification of agricultural reports required by law.
2. The development of a list of major agricultural programs indicating for each program
 - whether the agency had made evaluation studies in the past 3 years,
 - whether the agency had continuing activities of program analysis, evaluation, and budgeting,
 - whether GAO had made evaluation studies in the past 3 years, and
 - whether the program had built-in legal evaluation provisions.
3. A list of GAO-planned evaluations.

More details on each item of the request are provided at the beginning of each chapter of the report.

Since this report deals with technical matters, it is important to define the major concepts and terms involved.

GAO has a classification for reviews closely related to program evaluations termed "program results reviews"; it is defined as follows.

"Review of results of Government programs and activities are concerned with what program objectives have been established, what has been

or is being accomplished, and the extent to which objectives established in statutes and implementing regulations are being achieved."

This definition was used in responding to items 2(c) and 3 of the request.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) definition of program evaluation is:

"Program evaluation means the formal systematic assessment of the actual performance of ongoing programs in meeting the goals of USDA missions, achieving program objectives, and serving specified target groups. It is concerned with measuring the effects and benefits flowing from program and their costs. It examines the extent to which program activities have been carried out in relation to the opportunities that have the most favorable benefit/cost ratios or otherwise maximize the beneficial effects in relation to cost."

We considered this an acceptable definition and asked USDA officials to use this definition in preparing their response to the pertinent parts of item 2 of the request.

USDA furnished comments pertaining to matters included in this report by letter of July 23, 1973. (See app. VII.)

CHAPTER 2

REPORTS REQUIRED BY LAW

Item 1 of the Committee's request reads:

"(1) I would appreciate your reviewing all of the reports required by law affecting agriculture, forestry, and rural development, and other matters listed in Senate rules as falling within the jurisdiction of this Committee, and providing me with a list of such required reports, indicating for each, the reporting date, citation of the law requiring the report, the purpose of the report, and whether or not the report contains evaluative data or material of the kind discussed in your letter."

After consulting with the Committee, we decided to identify all laws requiring reports and to list for each significant report citation:

- required reporting date,
- purpose of the report,
- citation of the law, and
- whether the law indicates reporting of program evaluation.

Appendix I outlines the detailed approach used to obtain this information. Appendixes II, III, and IV list the above information for each citation.

A total of approximately 400 citations (sections of the laws) relating to agriculture and forestry require reports from all sources--USDA and other departments--that go to the Congress, as well as other officials. Of the total, 183 citations are considered significant to the Committee. (See app. I for selection criteria.) Of the significant citations, 45, or 24 percent of the total, include evaluation-type language.

In title 7 (agriculture) of the United States Code before 1970, only 5 citations required program evaluation; since 1970 there are 12 citations which require such evaluation. Also, legislation relative to agriculture in the broader sense (agriculture-related laws found in all the other titles of the United States Code, excluding title 7) requires a greater number of evaluation reports (28 citations) than does title 7 (agriculture) legislation (5 citations). This indicates the recent trend for increased evaluation requirements and the greater concentration of requirements in agriculture-related laws not codified in title 7.

One example of a recent law which includes language requiring reporting on program evaluation is the Rural Development Act of 1972. Section 603(b)(4) reads as follows:

"(b) The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized and directed to provide leadership and coordination within the executive branch and shall assume responsibility for coordinating a nationwide rural development program utilizing the services of executive branch departments and agencies and the agencies, bureaus, offices, and services of the Department of Agriculture in coordination with rural development programs of State and local governments. In carrying out this responsibility the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish employment, income, population, housing, and quality of community services and facilities goals for rural development and report annually prior to September 1 to Congress on progress in attaining such goals. The Secretary is authorized to initiate or expand research and development efforts related to solution of problems of rural water supply, rural sewage and solid waste management, rural housing, and rural industrialization."

Additionally, section 603(c)(2) requires the Secretary of Agriculture to report on progress of the section and to make appropriate recommendations.

Section 603 of the Rural Development Act includes what GAO considers to be some of the basic elements of evaluation language.

- Provisions requiring the agency to develop specific goals for the program enacted.
- Provisions requiring the agency to report on a regular basis (usually annually) progress in attaining stated goals.
- Provision for recommending changes or additional legislative action to improve the program on the basis of evaluation results.

Also, a USDA list of 77 reports submitted on a regular basis to the Congress was reviewed, 43 of which were identified as being required by law. Eleven of these required reports were readily available and were reviewed by us. The results of this review are summarized in table 1, which compares the legal requirement for evaluation with the evaluation content of the report submitted. Table 1 shows that 7 of the 11 reports reviewed contain evaluation-type data but that none of the reports reviewed could be considered to be primarily evaluations.

Table 1--Review of Selected Reports Required by Law

<u>Report title</u>	<u>Statute requiring report</u>	<u>Does statute indicate evaluation required?</u>		<u>Is report an evaluation?</u>		<u>Reason for classification of report</u>
		<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
Focatallico River Basin Study, West Va. Sept. 1972	16 U.S.C. 1009	X		X		Primarily preproject analysis.
Notes on Sedimentation Activities, calendar year 1970	42 U.S.C. 1962 a(3)		X	X		Provides some statistics on program output. (Report does not appear to clearly match legislative subject area.)
Rural Environment Assistance Report Agricultural Conservation Program, May 1971	16 U.S.C. 590i	X		X		Provides some statistics on program output.
Orderly Liquidation of Stocks of Agricultural Commodities Held by Commodity Credit Corporation, May 1972	7 U.S.C. 1851	X		X		Provides some statistics on program output.
Annual Report on the National Forest Reservation Commission	16 U.S.C. 513			X		Provides some statistics on output.
Status of Research Facilities	7 U.S.C. 390(i)	X		X		A list of grant amounts.
Title I, Public Law 480 Agreements With Foreign Governments	7 U.S.C. 1703	X		X		Terms of agreement.
Report on Special Limitations And Hire of Equipment From Employees	16 U.S.C. 502	X		X		Lists of purchases and acquisitions.
Information and Technical Assistance Delivered by the Department of Agriculture in Fiscal year 1972	Public Law 91-524, sec. 901 (d)	X		X		Some measures of output-- number of publications distributed and number of television presentations delivered.
Financial and Technical Assistance Provided by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Housing and Urban Development for Nonmetropolitan Planning Districts in Fiscal year 1972	Public Law 91-524 sec. 901(c)	X		X		Report states "progress * * * as to their efforts" as measured by, for example, funding, programs, regional council man-hours.
The Location of New Federal Offices and Other Facilities	Public Law 91-524, amended by Public Law 92-419, sec. 601	X		X		Some measures of output-- number of facilities located, number of employees at facilities, reasons for selecting facility location.

^aThis report provides data which could be used in evaluation.

CHAPTER 3

EVALUATION OF MAJOR PROGRAMS

Item 2(a), (c) and (d) of the Committee's request reads:

"(2) Please develop, in consultation with the Committee staff, a list of the major programs and the laws authorizing them which affect agriculture, forestry, and rural development; and with respect to each such program, please indicate:

"(a) whether the Executive department or agency administering such program has conducted a special evaluation study within the past three years;

* * * * *

"(c) whether the General Accounting Office has made a program evaluation study within the past three years;

"(d) whether the program or the laws pertaining thereto have built-in program evaluation provisions of the kind suggested by your letter."

After consulting with Committee staff, we developed a list of major programs. We solicited lists of program evaluations from USDA, the Office of Planning and Evaluation (OPE), the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), and the line agency responsible for the program. We also compiled a list of GAO program results reviews. Table 2 contains a list of major programs and whether evaluation studies have been conducted by USDA within the past 3 years. Item 2(b) of the request is not included in table 2 but is covered in chapter 5.

Table 2 shows the results of our analysis of USDA evaluations by OIG, OPE, and the four line agencies responsible for the programs. USDA has evaluated 12 of the 21 major programs in the past 3 years. The authorizing laws require evaluations for 5 of the 21 major programs--3 housing programs, a water and sewer program, and the Upland Cotton Program. USDA has made evaluations of all programs for which evaluations are required by law. GAO has evaluated four of these programs during this 3-year period--Feed Grains and Products, Rural Environmental Assistance, Low Income Housing, and Moderate Income Housing.

Table 2--Major Programs: Evaluation Requirements in Laws
and Evaluations by USDA

	Authorizing legislation	Agency program evaluations (note a)		Law(s) indicate evaluation	
		No	Yes	No	Yes
Supply adjustment and related activities:					
Feed Grains and Products Programs (ASCS) (note b)	Title V, 84 Stat. 1368-1371		X	X	
Wheat and Products Program (ASCS)	Title IV, 84 Stat. 1362-1368		X	X	
Upland Cotton Programs (ASCS)	Title VI, 84 Stat. 1371-1379		X		X (note c)
Dairy Products Programs (ASCS)	Sec. 202 and 203, 84 Stat. 1361		X	X	
Wool Program (ASCS)	Title III, 84 Stat. 1362	X		X	
Sugar Act Program (ASCS)	7 U.S.C. 1101 Public Law 92-138		X	X	
Cropland Conversion Program (ASCS)	Title VIII, 84 Stat. 1379-1381		X	X	
Disaster relief:					
Emergency Loans Program (FHA) (note d)	Sec. 232, 84 Stat. 1753	X		X	
Credit assistance for family farms:					
Farm Storage and Drying Equipment Loan Program (ASCS) (note a)	Sec. 4h and 5b, CCC Charter Act of 1949, as amended	X		X	
Assistance for friendly developing countries (Public Law 480):					
Public Law 480, Title I (EMS) (note e)	Title VII, 84 Stat. 1379		X	X	
Public Law 480, Title II (EMS)	Title VII, 84 Stat. 1379	X		X	
Financial assistance for exports:					
Barter Programs (EMS)	CCC Act 49 Sec. 5d and f	X		X	
Export Payments Programs (EMS)	15 U.S.C. 714c Sec. 407	X		X	
Export Payments for Tobacco (ASCS)	15 U.S.C. 7146	X		X	
Food stamp assistance:					
Food Stamp Program (FNS) (note f)	7 U.S.C. 2025		X	X	
Cash for food assistance for school children:					
Special Milk Programs (FNS)	42 U.S.C. 1772		X	X	
Housing assistance:					
Low Income Housing Program (FHA)	Sec. 502(a)(1)(b) (note g)		X		X (note h)
Moderate Income Housing Program (FHA)	Sec. 502(a)(1)(b)		X		X (note h)
Rural Rental Housing Program (FHA)	Sec. 515(b)(5)		X		X (note h)
Central water and sewer systems:					
Water and Sewer Loan and Development Loan Grant Program (FHA)	Public Law 92-419		X		X
Land and water resource improvement:					
Rural Environmental Assistance Program (ASCS)	16 U.S.C. 590		X	X	

^aExcludes research studies conducted by Economic Research Service not identified by the program agency

^bAgricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

^cEvaluation authorized in Public Law 91-524 sec. 609

^dFarmers Home Administration

^eExport Marketing Service

^fFood and Nutrition Service

^gHousing Act of 1949

^hEvaluation authorized in Public Law 92-419 sec. 603(b)(4)

CHAPTER 4

SCHEDULED GAO REVIEWS

Item 3 of the request states:

"(3) Please provide me with a list of reviews of laws and programs scheduled by the General Accounting Office, on the initiative of the Comptroller General which will provide the cost effectiveness and other evaluative materials mentioned in your letter, with respect to Agriculture, forestry and rural development."

GAO is making ongoing self-initiated program results reviews on:

- Reforestation and timber-stand improvement.
- Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management timber-salvage program.
- Adequacy of FHA's and other agencies' data on needs for water and sewer facilities.
- Certification of State meat inspection programs.
- Commodity exchange authority.
- Effectiveness of agriculture attaches.

Major lines of effort that are planned will concentrate on the following issues over the next year:

- Effectiveness of Federal programs designed to develop rural areas.
- Role of farm programs in maintaining balanced supply of agriculture commodities and promoting the well-being of farmers.
- Effectiveness of Federal efforts to insure that safe food products are provided to consumers at fair and competitive prices.

- Effectiveness of Federal efforts to manage, conserve, and develop the Nation's natural resources.
- Effectiveness of Federal efforts to alleviate hunger and improve nutrition.

CHAPTER 5

CONTINUING PROGRAM EVALUATION¹

Item 2(b) of the request asks GAO to indicate:

"Whether the administering agency conducts a continuing program analysis, evaluation, planning, and budgeting activity relative to its implementation of the program."

The approach in this section was to review statements, directives, regulations, and descriptive materials relative to planning and budgeting systems and to hold meetings with USDA officials having responsibility for operating the systems.

The major programs fall in the purview of four agencies: Farmers Home Administration (FHA), Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), and Export Marketing Service (EMS). FHA, ASCS, and EMS do not have significant evaluation activities of a continuing nature.

However, USDA indicates that FHA has placed new emphasis on program evaluation and increased the evaluation staff and its functions and that ASCS has, in addition to the evaluation staff which we interviewed, an internal consultant staff engaged in evaluation. FNS has a fairly sizable program of in-depth evaluations, but there is little indication that such evaluation efforts are conducted on a systematic basis.

USDA appears to have the necessary elements for centralized and continuous planning and budgeting: organization and staffing have been provided; and a program and budget review committee has been established. USDA also has a formal detailed schedule for developing program and financial plans for fiscal years 1971 to 1978. Recently the Office of Planning and Evaluation established a schedule of program evaluations "designed to provide systematically for an evaluation of each operating program over a cycle of years."

¹This chapter is based largely on a report, "The USDA Planning and Budgeting System," by our consultant.

In addition, the Office of Information is developing a performance measurement system. One of the objectives for this system is:

"To provide managers with periodic and timely information on progress toward defined USDA goals, and objectives as a function of resources consumed."

In summary, it appears that USDA has a basic Department-wide system for continuing program analysis, evaluation, planning, and budgeting. We did not attempt to assess the degree to which the system was used to evaluate alternative courses of action. The four individual agencies responsible for the major programs collect fundamental statistics on a recurring basis. Generally, they appear not to have systematic schedules of evaluations as part of program management and operations.

METHOD OF SEARCHING FOR LAWS REQUIRING REPORTS

We searched all laws to assemble the tables on laws requiring reports. First, the laws were divided into two groups: (1) those public laws passed on or before January 18, 1970, and (2) those passed after January 18, 1970. (See p. 18.)

The first group of laws are codified (1964 ed., supp. V, U.S.C.) and are on the computer tapes of the Air Force's Legal Information Thru Electronics (LITE) system. Through the LITE system, title 7 of the United States Code was searched using the keyword "report" or any of the related words listed on page 18. These same keywords in combination with the keyword "agriculture" or any of the agriculture-related words listed were used to search the rest of the titles.

The second group of laws (not included in the LITE system at the time of the search) were examined as follows: Laws passed by the 2d session of the 91st Congress and the 1st session of the 92d Congress were searched in the Index to Public Laws prepared by GAO's Office of the General Counsel. All laws under the heading "Agriculture" or any of the agriculture-related subject headings listed on page 18 were examined for margin or subheading references to "report" or its synonyms. The Index to Public Laws for the 2d session of the 92d Congress was not published at the time of the search, so all the laws passed at that session were reviewed to determine which laws dealt with agriculture or related topics. The agriculture laws found were also examined for margin and subheading references to "report" or its synonyms.

It is possible the search may have missed a few relevant citations requiring reports. (For example, some temporary laws are never codified.) Because of this, we verified the results by checking against two other lists of reports required by law: One was "Reports To Be Made To Congress" (H. Doc. 92-221); the other was a "Compilation of Recurring Reports to be Submitted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to Congress" (a list prepared by USDA for GAO). The verification produced two significant citations not identified by the search of the laws; it also revealed that the search had identified several citations not on the two above lists. Consequently, the lists of laws in the tables that follow are considered quite comprehensive.

APPENDIX I

It is important to note the search did not distinguish wording with respect to the requirement for submitting the report. Although most citations used expressions, such as "a report shall be made," "a report shall be required," "the Secretary * * * is directed to report," a few citations provided the officer responsible for reporting with discretion by using an expression, such as "as he may deem necessary."

Another qualification of the search is that it does not fully distinguish whether the citations are within the jurisdiction of the Committee. However, most of the laws cited, particularly the citations in title 7 and the recent public laws, were probably under the jurisdiction of the Committee. Although related to agriculture, several of the citations in the other titles probably are not within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

The search identified approximately 400 separate citations containing the word "report" or one of its synonyms. Of these citations, about 42 percent were deleted because they did not really indicate the reporting or transmission of agricultural related information; for example, one deleted citation (7 U.S.C. 2232) authorizes stenographic reporting services. Of the remaining citations, 39 (see app.V) require either unique specialized reports or internal book-keeping reports. One (7 U.S.C. 6i) requires brokers to keep books and records and make any reports required. These citations were not considered of primary significance to the Committee's oversight of these programs. This leaves 183 significant citations. The following information is provided for each:

- The citation.
- The citation subject area.
- Report subject or purpose.
- The reporting date.
- Indication of an evaluation report.

The criterion for determining that a citation refers to program evaluation is a reference to providing information on program output. Following are examples of such reference.

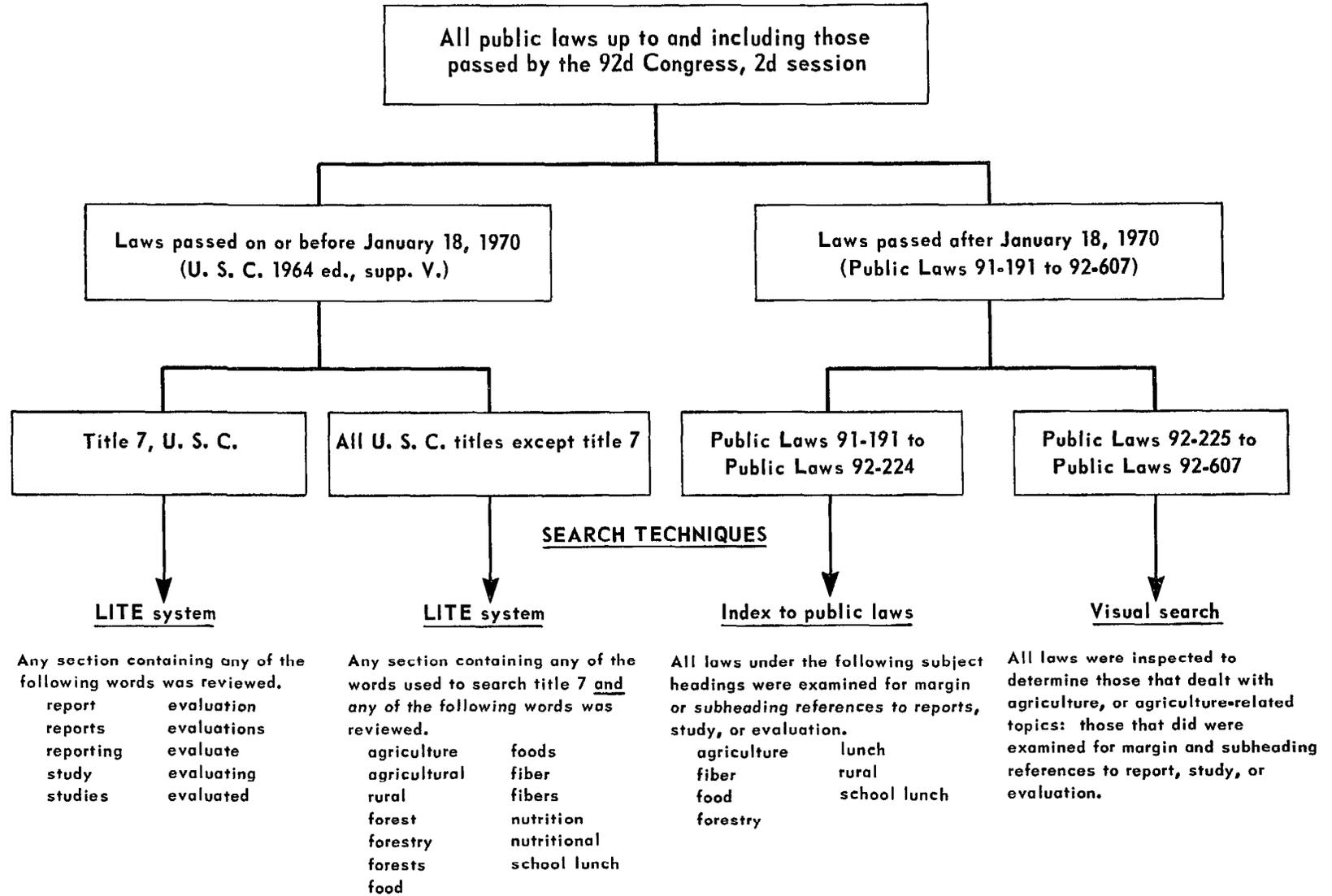
- Progress toward meeting needs.
- Evaluating effectiveness.
- Results of programs.

Appraisal of effectiveness.

Contribution toward achieving purpose of act.

Citations requiring recommendations but not back up analysis or requiring projections and analysis of future conditions have not been listed as evaluations.

Appendix II provides information on title 7 citations; appendix III, information on all titles in the United States Code except for title 7; and appendix IV, information in citations from recent public laws not codified or computerized in LITE.



LAWS REQUIRING REPORTS--UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 7

<u>Citation</u>	<u>Subject area</u>	<u>Report subject or purpose</u>	<u>Reporting date</u>	<u>Evaluation indicated</u>
7 U.S.C. 12	Commodity exchanges	Report on marketing conditions, supply and demand	-	No
7 U.S.C. 305	Agricultural colleges	Report on progress of each college	Annually	Yes
7 U.S.C. 308	Agricultural colleges	Report on sale of scrip	Annually	No
7 U.S.C. 324	Agricultural colleges	Amounts received and disbursed	Annually by September 1	No
7 U.S.C. 325	Agricultural colleges	Receipts and expenditures of funds	Annually	Yes
7 U.S.C. 344	Cooperative Agriculture Extension	Amounts received and disbursed	Annually on or about Jan. 1	No
7 U.S.C. 345	Cooperative Agriculture Extension	Receipts and expenditures of funds	Annually on or about Jan. 1	No
7 U.S.C. 346	Cooperative Agriculture Extension	State ineligibility	When appropriate	No
7 U.S.C. 361c	Agriculture Experiment Stations	Receipts and expenditures of funds	Annually by Sept. 1	No
7 U.S.C. 390	Agriculture Experiment Stations	Receipts and expenditures of funds	Annually by Sept. 1	No
7 U.S.C. 3901	Agriculture Experiment Stations	Payments, facilities and withholding of funds	Annually during 1st. Sess. of Cong.	No
7 U.S.C. 391	Bureau of Animal Industry	Condition of domestic animals and poultry	-	No
7 U.S.C. 411a	Crop reports	Printing and distribution of monthly crop reports	Monthly by 12th day	No
7 U.S.C. 418	Agriculture Experiment Station	Report on work and expenditures	Annually	No
7 U.S.C. 439b	Operation of Government-owned alcohol plants	Discontinuance of alcohol plants	When appropriate	No
7 U.S.C. 453(b)3	Division of Cooperative Marketing	Analyses of representative cooperative association	When advisable	No
7 U.S.C. 475	Cotton crop reports	Condition and progress of harvesting cotton crop	Monthly from August to December	No
7 U.S.C. 476	Cotton	Acreage of cotton planted	Annually by July 12	No

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<u>Citation</u>	<u>Subject area</u>	<u>Report subject or purpose</u>	<u>Reporting date</u>	<u>Evaluation indicated</u>
7 U.S.C. 501	Tobacco	Tobacco statistics	Quarterly and annually	No
7 U.S.C. 613	Commodity benefits	Such reports as may be necessary if the President terminates this title	As necessary	No
7 U.S.C. 902	Rural electrification	Reports on condition and progress of rural electrification	-	Yes
7 U.S.C. 910	Rural electrification	Report of activities	Annually by Jan. 20	No
7 U.S.C. 951	Peanuts	Peanut statistics	Monthly or as otherwise prescribed	No
7 U.S.C. 1158(a)	Sugar	Such reports as may be necessary during suspension of sugar quotas	As necessary	No
7 U.S.C. 1314c (i)(2)	Tobacco	A report on experience and operation of the program including recommendations for modification and alternatives	January 1, 1966	No
7 U.S.C. 1373	Quota administration	Report such information and records as necessary	-	No
7 U.S.C. 1379h	Wheat marketing allocation	Report such information and records as necessary	-	No
7 U.S.C. 1441 Note	Basic agricultural commodities	Special cotton research program	Annually	No
7 U.S.C. 1446(a)a	Dairy products	Amount of dairy products given to Veterans Administration	Semiannually	No
7 U.S.C. 1446a(b)	Dairy products	Amount of dairy products given to the Army	Semiannually	No
7 U.S.C. 1508(a)	Crop insurance	Results of crop insurance program on each commodity insured	Annually	Yes
7 U.S.C. 1513	Crop insurance	GAO audit of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation's financial transactions	Annually	No
7 U.S.C. 1642	Stabilization of international wheat market	Report such information as the President may require	From time to time	No

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APPENDIX II

<u>Citation</u>	<u>Subject area</u>	<u>Report subject or purpose</u>	<u>Reporting date</u>	<u>Evaluation indicated</u>
7 U.S.C. 1703	Agriculture trade development	Review of sales agreements to "friendly countries"	Periodically	No
7 U.S.C. 1704(k)(4)	Agricultural trade development	Extent, uses, and effects of excesses of foreign currency	As often as necessary	Yes
7 U.S.C. 1704a	Agricultural trade development	Any agreement for the use of foreign currencies	60 days after the agreement	No
7 U.S.C. 1736b	Agricultural trade development	Progress of each county with which agreements are in effect	Annually by April 1	No
7 U.S.C. 1851(b)	Surplus commodity disposal	Quantities of surplus commodities and methods of disposition	Annually	No
7 U.S.C. 1905	Humane methods of livestock slaughter	Recommendations on new methods of livestock slaughter	Annually	No
7 U.S.C. 2019(e)	Food stamps	Reports and other information as may be required	Time to time	No
7 U.S.C. 2025(a)	Food stamps	A report setting forth operations and projecting needs	Annually by Jan. 20	No
7 U.S.C. 2105(c)	Cotton research	Reports necessary to effecting, administering or enforcing this chapter	Whenever required	No
7 U.S.C. 2106(f)	Cotton research	Receipt and disbursement of funds	Time to time	No
7 U.S.C. 2106(g)	Cotton research	Accounting for funds received and expended	-	No
7 U.S.C. 2113	Cotton research	Information relevant to certification	-	No
7 U.S.C. 2207	Functions of the Secretary, Agriculture	General report of secretary's acts and special reports on particular subjects	Annually	No
7 U.S.C. 2208	Functions of the USDA	Render accounts of the expenditure of all money	-	No
7 U.S.C. 2209	Functions of the USDA	Furnish proper vouchers and accounts of the sums appropriated	-	No

LAWS REQUIRING REPORTS--UNITED STATES CODE, EXCLUDING TITLE 7

<u>Citation</u>	<u>Subject area</u>	<u>Report subject or purpose</u>	<u>Reporting date</u>	<u>Evaluation indicated</u>
5 U.S.C. 2952	Annual report	Annual Report to the Congress	Annually	No
12 U.S.C. 1141c	Agricultural marketing	Crop prices; supply and demand	-	No
12 U.S.C. 1701y	National housing	Report on activities of foundations	Not later than 120 days after close of fiscal year	No
12 U.S.C. 1715z	Cooperative housing association	Report on income levels	Semiannually	No
12 U.S.C. 1715z-1	Cooperative housing activities	Report on income levels	Semiannually	No
15 U.S.C. 42	Cotton statistics	Report on number of bales	At several prescribed dates each year	No
13 U.S.C. 44	Cotton statistics	Foreign consumption of cotton	-	No
13 U.S.C. 45	Cotton statistics	Ginned cotton and and cotton crops	Simultaneously with above reports on 13 U.S.C. 42 and 13 U.S.C. 44	No
15 U.S.C. 714k	Commodity Credit Corporation	The business of the Corporation	Annually	No
15 U.S.C. 1023	Council of Economic Advisers	Economic report	Annually	Yes
15 U.S.C. 1454	Fair packaging and labeling program	Voluntary product standards	Promptly	No
15 U.S.C. 1514	Function of Department of Commerce	Food and supplies sold to employees of Government agencies	Annually	No
16 U.S.C. 167	Glacier National Park	Timber evaluation factors	-	No
16 U.S.C. 460 1-17	Outdoor recreation	Extent to which program conforms with State plans	-	No
16 U.S.C. 502	National forests	A statement of rentals	Annually near end of fiscal year	No
16 U.S.C. 505a	National forests	Interchange of lands	-	No
16 U.S.C. 513	National forests	Operation and expenditures of National Forest Reservation Commission	Annually, not later than the first Monday in December	No
16 U.S.C. 515	National forests	Examination of forestry land	-	No

<u>Citation</u>	<u>Subject area</u>	<u>Report subject or purpose</u>	<u>Reporting date</u>	<u>Evaluation indicated</u>
16 U.S.C. 568	Forest products	Price trends of forest products	Within one year from 5-28-56	No
16 U.S.C. 570	Streamflow protection	Report on public lands valuable for streamflow	-	No
16 U.S.C. 590(i)	Soil conservation	Expenditures and obligations of Soil Conservation Service	Annually	No
16 U.S.C. 590z-1	Water conservation	Cost and feasibility of water conservation	-	No
16 U.S.C. 590z-3	Water conservation	Materials supplied after release of a report	-	No
16 U.S.C. 663	Wildlife conservation	Acquisition of land and water	-	No
16 U.S.C. 695q	Game preserves	Clear Lake National Wildlife Refuge	-	No
16 U.S.C. 744	Fish propagation	On diminution of food fishes	Annually	No
16 U.S.C. 757b	Anadromous fisheries and Great Lakes fisheries	Engineering and biological surveys	-	No
16 U.S.C. 825j	Electric energy	Results of investigation	-	No
16 U.S.C. 831m	Tennessee Valley Authority	Reports on costs of operation -	Annually	No
16 U.S.C. 1008	Watersheds	Report on wildlife resources	-	No
16 U.S.C. 1009	Watersheds	Report on improvements	-	No
16 U.S.C. 1132	Wilderness areas	Suitability for preservation	10 years from Sept. 3, 1964	No
16 U.S.C. 1336	Wilderness areas	Status of wilderness systems	Opening of each session	No
16 U.S.C. 1244	National Scenic Trail	Scenic trail proposals	Time to time	No
16 U.S.C. 1275	Wild and scenic rivers	Report on proposals for additions to system	Time to time	No
16 U.S.C. 1276	Wild and scenic rivers	Report on designated rivers	10 years from Oct. 2, 1968	No
16 U.S.C. 1278	Wild and scenic rivers	Report on recommending authorization of water resource projects	At time of recommendation	No
19 U.S.C. 1318	Emergencies	Report on actions Taken	-	No

<u>Citation</u>	<u>Subject area</u>	<u>Report subject or purpose</u>	<u>Reporting date</u>	<u>Evaluation indicated</u>
19 U.S.C. 1354	Tariffs	Report on trade agreement	-	No
20 U.S.C. 241e	Financial assistance to education	Report on education achievement	Annually	Yes
20 U.S.C. 241f	Financial assistance to education	Effectiveness evaluation	Periodic	Yes
20 U.S.C. 887	Dropout prevention	Effectiveness evaluation	Annually	Yes
20 U.S.C. 1009	Higher education	Administration and effectiveness of community service grants	Annually commencing Mar. 31, 1967	Yes
20 U.S.C. 1244	Vocational education	Administration and operation	Annually	Yes
20 U.S.C. 1391	Vocational education	Sums appropriate to evaluate curriculum	-	Yes
21 U.S.C. 119	Prevention of contagion	Report on the best methods to treat animals for disease	-	Yes
21 U.S.C. 130	Prevention of contagion	Report on controlling communicable animal diseases	-	No
21 U.S.C. 346a	Food and drugs	Report on safety of pesticides	-	No
21 U.S.C. 348	Food additives	Report on safety	-	No
21 U.S.C. 360b	New animal drugs	Report on drug safety and effectiveness	-	No
21 U.S.C. 376	Food color addition	Committee recommendations	-	No
21 U.S.C. 454	Poultry inspection	Report on requirement and enforcement	At least annually after Aug. 18, 1968	Yes
21 U.S.C. 470	Poultry inspection	Report on slaughter of poultry	Annually	Yes
21 U.S.C. 620	Meat inspection	Report on administration of this section	No later than March 1 of each year	No
21 U.S.C. 661	Meat inspection	Report on requirement and enforcement of act	Annually	Yes
21 U.S.C. 691	Meat inspection	Report on slaughter of animals	Annually	Yes
22 U.S.C. 262a	International bureaus	Contribution to international organization	Annually	No
22 U.S.C. 2103	Institutional health research and reports	Report on activities of this section	Beginning of each session	No

<u>Citation</u>	<u>Subject area</u>	<u>Report subject or purpose</u>	<u>Reporting date</u>	<u>Evaluation indicated</u>
22 U.S.C. 2200	Foreign assistance	Report on result of pilot programs	Before Jan. 15, 1972	Yes
22 U.S.C. 2220	Food production targets and reports	Detailed report on food production	Each fiscal year	Yes
22 U.S.C. 2370	Foreign assistance	Report on assistance to Communist countries	Promptly	No
22 U.S.C. 2384	Foreign assistance	Evaluations by the Inspector General	-	Yes
22 U.S.C. 2775	Foreign military	Report on sales	Semiannually	No
25 U.S.C. 146	Report on Indians receiving food	Number of Indians receiving food, etc.	-	No
25 U.S.C. 271	Instructors for Indians	Report on proceeding adopted	Annually	No
25 U.S.C. 564w-1	Klamath Indian Forest	Report on appraisals	-	No
25 U.S.C. 621	Pueblo and Canoncito Navajo	Report on boundaries of Indian lands	-	No
26 U.S.C. 4817	Regulatory taxes	Report on manufactured butter	Time to time	No
26 U.S.C. 4876	Regulatory taxes	Report on result of investigation of cotton futures	Time to time	No
29 U.S.C. 2	Labor statistics	Changes in employment	Once a month	No
29 U.S.C. 4	Labor statistics	General condition	At intervals of not less than 2 years	Yes
31 U.S.C. 665	Appropriation	Report on deficiency or supplemental estimates	Immediately	No
33 U.S.C. 701b-7	Flood control	A supplemental review of flood control waterways	-	No
33 U.S.C. 702j	Flood control	Survey of projects for flood control on Mississippi River	-	Yes
33 U.S.C. 1153	Water pollution program	Report on water storage	-	No
36 U.S.C. 278	Future Farmers of America	Board of Director's annual report	Annually	No
40 U.S.C. 435	Rural rehabilitation projects	Progress of liquidation of rural rehabilitation projects	Semiannually	No
42 U.S.C. 1441b	Inadequate housing	A report that sets forth a plan to eliminate all sub-standard housing	Jan. 15, 1969	No

APPENDIX III

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

<u>Citation</u>	<u>Subject area</u>	<u>Report subject or purpose</u>	<u>Reporting date</u>	<u>Evaluation indicated</u>
42 U.S.C. 1441c	Inadequate housing	Progress in replacing substandard housing and rehabilitating housing	Jan. 15, 1970 and annually thereafter until 1979	Yes
42 U.S.C. 1476(b)	Farm housing	Research and technical studies of construction of adequate farm dwellings	-	No
42 U.S.C. 1476(c)	Farm housing	Study and analysis of adequacy of farm housing	-	Yes
42 U.S.C. 1476(d)	Farm housing	Authorization for research and study programs	-	No
42 U.S.C. 1476(e)	Farm housing	Estimates of national farm housing needs	-	Yes
42 U.S.C. 1863(g)	National Science Foundation	Assessment, progress, and direction of scientific research	No later than Jan. 31 of each year	Yes
42 U.S.C. 1962a-3	Water resources planning	Review plans of any river basin commission for the effects on development of agriculture	-	Yes
42 U.S.C. 2808	Community Action Programs	Evaluating a community action program	-	Yes
42 U.S.C. 2925(b)	Economic opportunity	Description of the current plan	Annually	No
42 U.S.C. 2902(d)	Economic opportunity	Evaluation of programs for loans to small businesses	Annually	Yes
42 U.S.C. 2932(a)	Economic opportunity	Evaluating day care projects	-	Yes
42 U.S.C. 2932(e)	Economic opportunity	Evaluating day care program	-	Yes
42 U.S.C. 3183(a)(8)	Economic development	Studies of the resources of the region	-	No
42 U.S.C. 3183(a)(9)	Economic development	Program effectiveness in the region	-	Yes
42 U.S.C. 3272(1)	Soil information	Classification studies and reports	-	No
42 U.S.C. 3608(d)	Fair housing	Report on discriminatory housing practices	-	No
42 U.S.C. 4231(b)	Intergovernmental cooperation	Evaluating State and local government economic development objectives	-	Yes

APPENDIX III

<u>Citation</u>	<u>Subject area</u>	<u>Report subject or purpose</u>	<u>Reporting date</u>	<u>Evaluation indicated</u>
42 U.S.C. 4341	Environmental policy	Status, condition, and review of environmental quality	Annually	Yes
43 U.S.C. 485h(a)	Reclamation and irriga- tion	Investigation of construction of new projects	-	No
43 U.S.C. 1396(d)	Administration of public lands	Final report (no reference to what the report should contain)	-	No
46 U.S.C. 1122b	Merchant Marine	Promoting mobile trade fair to show and sell agricul- tural products	Annually	No
46 U.S.C. 1241(b)(2)	Shipping	Tonnage approved under Public Law 400	Annually	No
50 U.S.C. App. 2403(a)(1)	Export regulation	Control of exports	Quarterly	No

LAWS REQUIRING REPORTS--RECENT PUBLIC LAWS

<u>Citation</u>	<u>Subject area</u>	<u>Report subject or purpose</u>	<u>Reporting date</u>	<u>Evaluation indicated</u>
Public Law 91-248 sec. 7	School lunch	Average number of children receiving free and reduced-price lunches	Monthly	No
Public Law 91-248 sec. 9	School lunch	Study of operation of school lunch and child nutrition programs	Annually	Yes
Public Law 91-378 sec. 3(a)(5)	Youth Conservation Corps	Report on most feasible and efficient method of initiating a cost-sharing youth conservation program	Annually Aug. 13, 1971	No
Public Law 91-378 sec. 4	Youth Conversation Corps	Contribution of program in achieving summer employment for American youth	Annually	Yes
Public Law 91-524 sec. 609	Price support of cotton	Amounts, purposes, and uses of funds and basis of State participation	Annually	Yes
Public Law 91-524 sec. 901(c)	Rural development	Assistance provided to States in planning development of rural multicounty areas	Annually	No
Public Law 91-524 sec. 901(d)	Rural development	Information and technical assistance to small communities and less populated areas in regard to rural development	Annually by Sept. 1	No
Public Law 91-524 sec. 901(e)	Rural development	Availability of Government services to rural areas	Annually by Sept. 1	No
Public Law 91-524 sec. 901(f)	Rural development	Use of Farm Credit Administration to fulfill rural financial assistance requirements	July 1, 1971	No
Public Law 91-540 sec. 11	Horse protection	Enforcement of this act's provisions for the protection of horses	Every 2 years	No
Public Law 91-579 sec. 22	Animal welfare	Identify all licensed research facilities and exhibitors and all the investigations and inspections made	Annually by Mar. 31	No
Public Law 91-597 sec. 26(a)(1)	Egg products inspection	Egg and egg product operations and produce inspections	Annually by Mar. 1	Yes
Public Law 91-597 sec. 26(a)(2)	Egg products inspection	Information of the certification, location, inspection, and total volume of imports and exports of eggs and egg products	Annually by Mar. 1	No
Public Law 92-12 sec. 2	Rural telephone bank	Administration of the rural telephone bank	Annually	Yes

<u>Citation</u>	<u>Subject area</u>	<u>Report subject or purpose</u>	<u>Reporting date</u>	<u>Evaluation indicated</u>
Public Law 92-12 sec. 2	Rural telephone bank	Status of capitalization of the rural telephone bank	July 1, 1975	No
Public Law 92-153 sec. 2	School lunch	Needs for additional funds for school breakfast and nonfood assistance programs	Immediately upon enactment of law	No
Public Law 92-181 sec. 5.18(3)	Farm credit	Condition of the Farm Credit System	Annually	Yes
Public Law 92-181 sec. 5.20	Farm credit	Audit and examination of each institution, bank, and production credit association of the Farm Credit System	Annually	Yes
Public Law 92-195 sec. 10	Protection of wild horses and burros	Summary of administration, operation, and costs of protecting wild horses and burros	Biannually	No
Public Law 92-331 sec. 1	Cotton crop reports	Condition and progress of harvesting the cotton crop	6 times a year during cotton harvesting season	No
Public Law 92-385 sec. 3	Disaster relief	Propose legislation to standardize disaster benefits, eliminate unnecessary administrative delays, and prevent misuse of benefits	Jan. 1, 1973	No
Public Law 92-385 sec. 5	Disaster relief and emergency and housing loans	Propose legislation to adjust disaster benefits, improve program execution, and prevent misuse of benefits	Jan. 31, 1973	No
Public Law 92-419 sec. 124(1)	Consolidated Farmers Home Administration	Experience of using contracts for services connected with Farmers Home Administration loans	Prior to June 30, 1974	No
Public Law 92-419 sec. 302	Farm tenants	Inventory of conditions of natural resources	At least every 5 years	No
Public Law 92-419 sec. 403	Rural community fire protection	Contributions of the rural fire protection program toward achieving the purpose of this title	By Aug. 30, 1974	Yes
Public Law 92-419 sec. 506	Small farm research and education	Reasons for a State being found ineligible for entitled funds	-	No
Public Law 92-419 sec. 601	Rural development	Location of Federal facilities in defined rural areas	Annually by Sept. 1	No
Public Law 92-419 sec. 603(b)	Coordination of rural development activities	Progress in attaining such goals for rural development as established by the Secretary of Agriculture	Annually by Sept. 1	Yes
Public Law 92-421 sec. 3	National forest reforestation	Use of funds and progress toward completion of reforestation	Annually	Yes

<u>Citation</u>	<u>Subject area</u>	<u>Report subject or purpose</u>	<u>Reporting date</u>	<u>Evaluation indicated</u>
Public Law 92-433 sec. 6(e)	School lunch	Survey of States' and school districts' unmet equipment needs	June 30, 1973	No
Public Law 92-433 sec. 9	Special supplemental food program	Evaluation of the program to provide needy pregnant women and infants with supplemental foods	Oct. 1, 1973 (preliminary); Mar. 30, 1974 (final)	Yes
Public Law 92-521 sec. 4	Wilderness areas	Suitability of areas for preservation as a wilderness	Before Oct. 21, 1977	No
Public Law 92-528	Wilderness areas	Suitability of areas for preservation as a wilder- ness	-	No
Public Law 92-597 sec. 5	Youth Conversation Corps	Joint report detailing the activities of Youth Con- servation Corps	Annually	No

CITATIONS ON SPECIAL OR INTERNAL REPORTS

7 U.S.C. 6f	12 U.S.C. 301
7 U.S.C. 6g	12 U.S.C. 1843
7 U.S.C. 6i	
7 U.S.C. 7	
7 U.S.C. 7a	16 U.S.C. 476
7 U.S.C. 9	16 U.S.C. 5766
7 U.S.C. 87e	
7 U.S.C. 97	20 U.S.C. 18
7 U.S.C. 135b	
7 U.S.C. 135d	21 U.S.C. 374
7 U.S.C. 193	21 U.S.C. 375
7 U.S.C. 224	
7 U.S.C. 227	25 U.S.C. 475a
7 U.S.C. 264	
7 U.S.C. 323	33 U.S.C. 466g
7 U.S.C. 4991	
7 U.S.C. 503	
7 U.S.C. 608c(7)(c)(III)	Public Law 91-670, sec. 308(j)
7 U.S.C. 610h	Public Law 91-671, sec. 6(e)(4)
7 U.S.C. 618b	Public Law 92-143
7 U.S.C. 915	Public Law 92-516, sec. 6(d)
7 U.S.C. 953	
7 U.S.C. 1599	
7 U.S.C. 1600	
7 U.S.C. 1981(d)(4)	
7 U.S.C. 2106(a)(3)	

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 14, 1972

The Honorable Elmer B. Staats
Comptroller General of the U. S.
General Accounting Office
Washington, D. C. 20548

Dear Mr. Comptroller General:

Thank you for your letter of August 11, 1972.

As Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry I welcome your initiative with respect to analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of the application, administration, and execution of the laws enacted by the Congress.

We are particularly interested in utilizing your expanded services to provide the Committee with specific studies to determine "whether programs are achieving the results intended by the authorizing legislation" and with assistance in analyzing such studies furnished by Federal agencies to the Congress.

I note, particularly, your comments about Executive reports required by law. Frankly, I have not been satisfied with the reports we have been getting.

I have been especially disappointed by the low quality of Executive reports submitted pursuant to Title IX of the Agricultural Act of 1970. I will welcome any help you can give us concerning them. The reports have not been submitted on time; they contain neither results ("outputs") nor comprehensive "needs" data, both of which are needed if program results (outputs) are to be used correctly to evaluate laws and programs in terms of alternative ways of achieving such objectives (inputs). Enclosed is an exchange of correspondence in regard to one of the reports required by Title IX which illustrates some of the problems this Committee has had in obtaining timely evaluation.

As I understand Title IX, Section 901(a) states specifically the policy of Congress to give "highest" priority to rural development as a component of the balanced national growth policy established by the section.

The reports submitted pursuant to Title IX were intended to obtain reliable and useful evaluative material to determine whether or not the Executive Branch is, in fact, giving "highest priority" to "rural development".

So far the reports received have been far from adequate in this respect.

A similar situation exists with respect to other reports required by legislation within the jurisdiction of this Committee. For example, the annual report of the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration does not identifiably discuss relevant program evaluations and results of cost effectiveness studies in a way to enable us to satisfactorily determine whether or not the laws Congress has enacted are attaining their objectives and if alternative approaches might be more effective.

Your services in these matters will be valuable to the Committee as it seeks to discharge its oversight responsibilities. We shall plan to utilize your services to the fullest extent of your capabilities and available resources.

To initiate this process, I suggest the beginning efforts indicated below:

(1) I would appreciate your reviewing all of the reports required by law affecting agriculture, forestry, and rural development, and other matters listed in Senate rules as falling within the jurisdiction of this Committee, and providing me with a list of such required reports, indicating, for each, the reporting date, citation of the law requiring the report, the purpose of the report, and whether or not the report contains evaluative data or material of the kind discussed in your letter.

(2) Please develop, in consultation with the Committee staff, a list of the major programs and the laws authorizing them

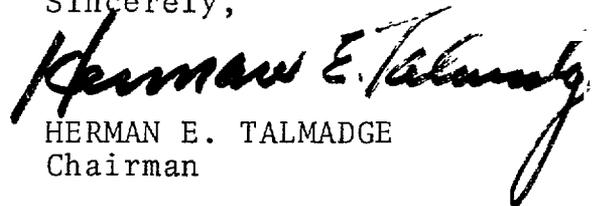
which affect agriculture, forestry, and rural development; and with respect to each such program please indicate:

- (a) whether the Executive department or agency administering such program has conducted a special program evaluation study within the past three years;
- (b) whether the administering agency conducts a continuing program analysis, evaluation, planning, and budgeting activity relative to its implementation of the program;
- (c) whether the General Accounting Office has made a program evaluation study within the past three years;
- (d) whether the program or the laws pertaining thereto have built-in program evaluation provisions of the kind suggested by your letter.

(3) Please provide me with a list of reviews of the laws and programs scheduled by the General Accounting Office, on the initiative of the Comptroller General, which will provide the cost effectiveness and other evaluative material mentioned in your letter, with respect to agriculture, forestry, and rural development.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,


HERMAN E. TALMADGE
Chairman

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D C 20250

July 23, 1973

Richard J. Woods
Assistant Director
Resources & Economic Development
Division
U. S. General Accounting Office
Room 6639-South Agriculture Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Woods:

We have reviewed your draft report on Agricultural Program Evaluation Laws and Studies. We have no major objections to the report, but offer the following comments, keyed to pages of the draft report.

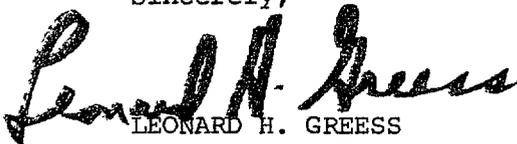
1. ^[8] Page 10 - The phrase "Terms of trade agreements" should be changed to "Terms of agreement."
2. ^[10] Page 13 - The third listing, "CCC Special Purchase Program (Dairy Products)," should be deleted. There is no requirement for reporting to Congress, and this program does not include dairy products. Therefore, the references to this program on pages 26 and 27 (7 U.S.C. 1446(a) a&b) should also be deleted.
3. ^[10] Page 14 - We suggest that you substitute "National School Lunch Program (F&NS)" for "Special Milk Programs (F&NS)." The National School Lunch Program is a much larger program, and there have been several studies of this program within the past three years that can properly be termed program evaluations. The enabling legislation does not contain a specific requirement for reporting to Congress.
4. ^[10] Page 15 - authorizing legislation for Low Income and Moderate Income Housing Programs is Section 502. Section 517 is authority for making and insuring loans out of the Rural Housing Insurance Fund.
5. ^[13] Page 18 - FHA has placed new emphasis on program evaluations and increased the evaluation staff and its functions. FHA is (a) participating in the comprehensive review of all

APPENDIX VII

housing programs requested by the President, (b) in the second year of a three-year evaluation contract with the Department's Economic Research Service, and (c) planning evaluations in its other programs.

- [13]
6. Page 18 - There are two groups in ASCS which are engaged in program evaluations:
- (a) The Program Evaluation and Appraisal Staff--development and analysis of future programs and the assessment of existing programs.
 - (b) Internal Consulting Staff--engaged in program operations evaluation and studies, and consults and advises management in improving program and cost effectiveness. With respect to program evaluations, the staff is responsible for reporting ASCS program evaluations underway or completed and management improvement activities. The staff neither conducts nor performs program evaluations.
- [20]
7. Page 25 - The report required by 7 U.S.C. 503 is a report made by tobacco producers (farmers) to the Secretary of Agriculture. There are several other such required reports (for cotton, sugar, etc.) not listed. We suggest that you delete the reference to 7 U.S.C. 503.
- [25]
8. Page 35 - The five reports listed as either "Foreign Assistance" or "Foreign Military" do not appear to be reports required of USDA. If these required reports were made, some other Department or Executive agency made them.
- [28]
9. Page 42 - The first two items appear to be duplicates.

Sincerely,



LEONARD H. GREESS
Acting Inspector General

GAO note: Page numbers in brackets correspond to pages in this report.