

## **§ 752.17**

any other program as provided in § 752.7(d);

(5) There has been a failure to comply with the prohibition against harvesting a crop from or grazing the designated acreage as provided in § 752.7(e);

(6) There has been a failure to comply with the provisions relating to haying the designated acreage during periods of severe drought as provided in § 752.7(f);

(7) There has been a failure to comply with the provisions relating to the harvesting of timber products as provided in § 752.7(g); or

(8) There has been a failure to comply with the provisions relating to tenants and sharecroppers as provided in § 752.12.

(b) The regulations governing the making of payments when there has been a failure to comply fully with the provisions of the program, part 791 of this chapter, are applicable to the WBP.

(c) The agreement shall be terminated in any case in which the failure to comply with the provisions of this part requires a refund or forfeiture of the entire annual payment under the agreement for the year and it is determined that the failure to comply is of such a nature as to warrant termination of the agreement. If an agreement is terminated, the persons signing the agreement shall forfeit all rights to further payments under the agreement and shall refund all payments received under the agreement.

### **§ 752.17 Actions defeating purposes of program.**

If the county committee with the concurrence of the State committee, or the State committee, finds that any person has taken any action which tends to defeat the purposes of the program, all or any part of the annual payment which otherwise would be due under the program may be withheld or be required to be refunded.

### **§ 752.18 Filing of false claims.**

The making of a fraudulent representation by a person in the payment documents or otherwise for the purpose of obtaining a payment from the county committee shall render the person liable, in addition to any liability under

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applicable Federal criminal and civil fraud statutes, for a refund of any payments received by such person as the result of the fraudulent representation.

### **§ 752.19 Depriving others of payments.**

If the State committee finds that any person has employed any scheme or device (including coercion, fraud, or misrepresentation) which deprives any other person of a payment to which such person is otherwise entitled under the program, the State committee may withhold or require a refund of all or any part of the program payment which otherwise would be due to the person who employed such scheme or device.

### **§ 752.20 Modification of an agreement.**

(a) Any reconstitution of farms shall be made in accordance with the regulations governing reconstitution of farms, part 719 of this chapter, as amended.

(b) If the farm is reconstituted because of purchase, sale, change of operation, or otherwise, the agreement shall be modified in accordance with instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator with respect to any reconstituted farm which contains all or any part of the original designated acreage. The modified agreement or agreements shall reflect the changes in the number of acres in any reconstituted farm, the designated acreage, interested persons, and division of payments. If persons who were not signatories to the original agreement are required to execute such modified agreement or agreements in accordance with the provisions of § 752.8, but such persons are not willing to become parties to the modified agreement or for any other reason a modified agreement is not executed, the agreement shall be terminated with respect to the designated acreage which is not continued in the program, and all unearned payments shall be forfeited or refunded to FSA. The annual payment for the year in which a reconstitution occurs shall not be considered earned unless the designated acreage is continued in the program and there is a compliance with the agreement for the full agreement year. The persons on the farm prior to the reconstitution who were signatories to the agreement

shall be jointly and severally responsible for refunding the unearned payments previously made.

(c) Except with respect to a farm which is reconstituted, if the ownership or operation of the farm changes in such a manner that the agreement no longer contains the signatures of persons required to sign the agreement in accordance with §752.8, the agreement shall be modified in accordance with instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator to reflect the new interested persons and new divisions of payments. If such persons are not willing to become parties to the modified agreement or for any other reason a modified agreement is not executed, the agreement shall be terminated and all unearned payments shall be forfeited or refunded. The annual payment for the year in which the change of ownership or operation occurs shall not be considered to have been earned unless the designated acreage is continued in the program and there is compliance with the agreement for the full agreement year. The persons on the farm prior to the change of ownership or operation who were signatories to the agreement shall be jointly and severally responsible for refunding the unearned payments previously made.

(d) The Deputy Administrator may authorize other agreement modifications which are determined to be desirable to carry out the purposes of the program or to facilitate its administration.

**§ 752.21 Termination of agreements.**

The Deputy Administrator may, by mutual agreement with the parties to the agreement, consent to the termination of an agreement where: (a) The operator of the farm is physically handicapped and could not reasonably be expected to comply with the terms and conditions of the agreement; (b) the operator is or was mentally unstable at the time of the signing of the agreement and could not reasonably be expected to comply with the terms and conditions of the agreement; (c) the parties to the agreement are unable to comply with the terms of the agreement as the result of conditions beyond their control; (d) compliance with the terms of the agreement would work a

severe hardship on the parties to the agreement; or (e) termination of the agreement would be in the public interest. If an agreement is terminated in accordance with the provisions of this section, the annual payment for the year in which the agreement is terminated shall not be considered to have been earned unless there is compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreement for the entire calendar year.

**§ 752.22 Transfer of interest in an agreement.**

(a) If a person acquires an interest in the designated acreage during the period covered by an agreement, such person may, with the consent of the other parties to the agreement and with approval of the county committee, become a party to the agreement and share in payments thereunder. A person, by becoming a party to the agreement, shall be jointly and severally responsible with the other signatories to the agreement for compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreement. In addition, such person shall be liable for any payment reductions or refunds which may be required as the result of the failure to comply with the terms and conditions of such agreement after becoming a party to the agreement.

(b) If a signatory to an agreement ceases to have an interest in the designated acreage, such person thereby ceases to be a party to the agreement. However, such person will not be relieved of any liability for deductions and refunds for failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the agreement while a party to the agreement.

**§ 752.23 Successors-in-interest.**

In case of death, incompetency, or disappearance of any person, any payment due shall be paid to the successor as determined in accordance with provisions of the regulations in part 707 of this chapter, as amended.

**§ 752.24 Agreement not in conformity with regulations.**

If, after an agreement is approved by the county committee, it is discovered