

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers

Report Run Date: 04/20/2024 05:53:13 AM

1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Minority
Farmers

**3b. GSA Committee
No.**

72334

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year? **5. Current Charter** **6. Expected Renewal Date** **7. Expected Term Date**

No 08/16/2022 08/16/2024

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year? **8b. Specific Termination Authority** **8c. Actual Term Date**

No

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year **10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?** **10b. Legislation Pending?**

Continue Not Applicable Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority **13. Effective Date** **14. Committee Type** **14c. Presidential?**

Section 14008 of the Food
Conservation, and Energy
Act of 2008, Pub. L. 110-246,
122 Stat. 1651. 06/18/2008 Continuing No

15. Description of Committee National Policy Issue Advisory
Board

16a. Total Number of Reports No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The purposes of the Committee are to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on the administration of outreach and assistance for the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Competitive Grants Program (2501 Program); and additional ways USDA can continue building an inclusive future with targeted outreach and assistance to minority farmers and ranchers; and way to increase participation of these sectors in USDA programs.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Committee is composed of 15 members and includes: not less than four socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers; not less than two representatives of nonprofit organizations with a history of working with socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers; not less than two civil rights professionals; and not less than two representatives of institutions of higher education with demonstrated experience working with socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. Committee members serve a two-year term.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The estimated number of meetings per year are four (two face-to-face and two virtual meetings).

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

It is in the public interest for the Committee to remain active because, historically, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers have not had equal access to USDA programs, and this Committee is uniquely situated to facilitate and continue this critical dialogue where views and experiences among socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and USDA are exchanged. It is expected that these exchanges will result in quantifiably increased participation of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in USDA programs, and positively impact the overall effectiveness and reach of these programs. This Committee also builds upon the Department's cultural transformation initiatives (e.g., equal access) and the critical strategic goal of equity.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

The committee works in the interest of the public to ensure socially disadvantaged farmers have equal access to USDA programs and a new charge of capturing equity for those producers long excluded from full and meaningful participation in those programs. The Committee's chairperson did submit a list of declarative statements in a letter to the Secretary in FY 22 which have been received as recommendations. FY2023 recommendations produced 18 well developed with foundation and inputs from the agencies and includes advice on how to implement them in practical and meaningful ways.

Designated Federal Officer

Rosalie J. Cabrera Designated Federal Officer

Narrative Description

The purposes of the Committee are to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on the administration of the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Competitive Grants Program (2501 Program), to advise the Secretary on how to increase participation of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in USDA programs, and to advise the Secretary about civil rights activities at USDA as such activities affect USDA programs.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety



Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

N/A

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

USDA has charged this committee with very specific objectives in terms of its focus--all of which will positively impact customer experiences and that necessarily translates into cost savings -- by seamlessly meeting those objectives.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

153

Number of Recommendations Comments

135 (previous FYs) + 18 new recommendations tendered in July right before the members' terms expired = 153 Total FYs for life of committee

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

88%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

12.0%

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

N/A

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Recommendations have been made over the years - granted. OPPE's position is that it may be challenging to gauge the number or even extent to which recommendations have been implemented given our role and relationships with the agencies who would be tasked with doing so. OSEC may be in the best position to determine outcomes of this sort given that any advice rendered would need to be 'assigned' or tasked by OSEC to the respective agency with oversight or responsibility for a given issue or matter. OSEC has committed to responding to Committee's submissions acknowledging their efforts and commenting on recommendations when inclined to do so (as appropriate). n

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

This last cohort of members advanced sound and actionable recommendations that will enhance USDA's customer experience quotient and overall effectiveness in reaching and serving "all" citizens.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

N/A

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

In addition to Federal Register notices, emails, flyers (bilingual) and press releases are issued to notify the public of meetings and other information regarding the Committee.