

# 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed, Oilseeds and Planting Seeds

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|                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>1. Department or Agency</b>      | <b>2. Fiscal Year</b>        |
| Department of Agriculture           | 2024                         |
| <b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b> | <b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b> |

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed, Oilseeds and Planting Seeds | 1932 |
|--|------|

|   |                           |                                 |                              |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?</b> | <b>5. Current Charter</b> | <b>6. Expected Renewal Date</b> | <b>7. Expected Term Date</b> |
| No  | 06/13/2023                | 06/13/2027                      |                              |

|   |   |                             |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?</b> | <b>8b. Specific Termination Authority</b> | <b>8c. Actual Term Date</b> |
| No  |   |                             |

|  |   |                                  |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year</b> | <b>10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?</b> | <b>10b. Legislation Pending?</b> |
| Continue   | No  | Not Applicable                   |

**11. Establishment Authority** Authorized by Law

|   |                           |                           |                           |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>             | <b>13. Effective Date</b> | <b>14. Committee Type</b> | <b>14c. Presidential?</b> |
| Section 135(c)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended. | 03/27/1975                | Continuing                | No                        |

**15. Description of Committee** Other Committee

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

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

No Meetings

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

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to the U.S. Trade Representative and the Secretary of Agriculture on trade and other economic issues that affect U.S. agriculture. In recent years, the Administration has consulted the Committee frequently on trade issues such as WTO negotiations, as well as the evaluation of benefits from existing FTAs with Canada, Mexico and Korea. The Administration relied heavily on the Committee's guidance on many aspects of the

formulation of trade strategies, proposals, and agreements. The Committee accomplishes its purpose by reviewing sensitive materials provided by USTR/USDA and providing feedback to the principal parties either through written or electronic communications. Members also attend face-to-face meetings with the Secretary of Agriculture and USTR in attendance. Advisors are required to hold a Secret Clearance. The minutes from the meetings are not available due to an exemption granted within the Trade Act of 1974.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

Members are selected from producers, processors, traders, manufacturers, and consumer representatives that are either self-nominated or recommended by an organization for membership. Also, special emphasis has been placed on soliciting nominations from traditionally underrepresented groups.

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

The Committee meets as needed to provide advice and counsel to the Administration on significant and timely agricultural trade matters. This Committee meets in person approximately twice a year. Virtual meetings and conference calls are also methods used to hold ad hoc meetings. For 2023, the committee met four times, three times virtually and once in person.

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

Meetings are conducted so that U.S. trade negotiators can use the meetings to discuss and seek private sector advice regarding sensitive trade policy matters, the disclosure of which could

seriously compromise the U.S. Government's development of policy priorities, negotiating objectives, and bargaining positions. Members must obtain a security clearance so that government-classified documents can be discussed. Thus, meetings are closed to the public. Given the nature of these discussions, no other setting can be used to seek such advice without compromising U.S. trade policy.

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

Section 135(g) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2155(g)) protects certain communications between and among committee members and appropriate Federal government officials in connection with trade matters, more specifically, trade negotiations, the operation of an existing trade agreement, and other matters arising in connection with the administration of U.S. trade policy.

## **21. Remarks**

The meetings for this committee are typically closed to the public in accordance with the Trade Act of 1974, 19 U.S.C. 2155(f)(2), and the Government in the Sunshine Act, 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4) and (6).

## **Designated Federal Officer**

Kelly Skupnik (Acting) DFO

| <b>Committee Members</b> | <b>Start</b> | <b>End</b> | <b>Occupation</b>  | <b>Member Designation</b> |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------|--|---------------------------|
| Bachmann, Peter          | 01/15/2020   | 01/15/2024 | USA Rice Federation<br>U.S. Agriculture for WTO Reform Coalition | Representative Member     |
| Bomer-Lauritsen, Sharon  | 06/10/2023   | 06/10/2027 | US Grains Council  | Representative Member     |
| Brandt, Andrew           | 06/10/2023   | 06/10/2027 |  |                           |

|                      |            |            |  |                       |
|----------------------|------------|------------|--|-----------------------|
| Braun, Gregory       | 01/17/2021 | 01/17/2025 | Border Valley Trading                      | Representative Member |
| Bryant-Struse, Betsy | 06/10/2023 | 06/10/2027 | Cargill, Inc.                              | Representative Member |
| Cleveland, Wayne     | 06/10/2023 | 06/10/2027 | Texas Grain Sorghum Association            | Representative Member |
| DeLaughter, Dennis   | 06/15/2019 | 06/10/2027 | U.S. Rice Federation                       | Representative Member |
| Fisher, Max          | 06/15/2019 | 06/10/2027 | National Grain and Feed Association (NFGA) | Representative Member |
| Fisher, Neal         | 06/10/2019 | 06/10/2027 | North Dakota Wheat Commission              | Representative Member |
| Gaesser, Raymond     | 01/17/2021 | 01/17/2025 | The Scoular Company                        | Representative Member |
| Haigwood, Derek      | 01/17/2021 | 01/17/2025 | D.I.D. Farms                               | Representative Member |
| Hayden, Patrick      | 01/17/2021 | 01/17/2025 | North American Export Grain Association    | Representative Member |
| Healy, Brian         | 01/17/2021 | 01/17/2025 | U.S. Grains Council                        | Representative Member |
| Hemmes, April        | 01/17/2021 | 01/17/2025 | Hemmes Farms                               | Representative Member |
| Henry, Dalton        | 01/17/2021 | 01/17/2025 | U.S. Wheat Associates                      | Representative Member |
| Hinze, Grant         | 06/10/2023 | 06/10/2027 | Kelley Bean Company                        | Representative Member |
| Hoffman, William     | 06/10/2019 | 06/10/2027 | Self Employed Farmer                       | Representative Member |
| Holt, Mark           | 06/10/2023 | 06/10/2027 | Riceland Foods, Inc                        | Representative Member |
| Hubbard, Edward      | 01/17/2021 | 01/17/2025 | Renewable Fuels Association                | Representative Member |
| Johnson, Brent       | 06/10/2023 | 06/10/2027 | Iowa Farm Bureau                           | Representative Member |
| Leeck, Rosalind      | 01/17/2021 | 01/17/2025 | U.S. Soybean Export Council                | Representative Member |
| Lust, Tim            | 06/10/2023 | 06/10/2027 | National Sorghum Producers                 | Representative Member |

|                             |            |            |  |                          |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|--|--------------------------|
| Lyons, Tina                 | 01/17/2021 | 01/17/2025 | Double<br>River<br>Forwarding<br>LLC           | Representative<br>Member |
| Nichols, Michael            | 06/10/2019 | 06/10/2027 | Nichols<br>Family<br>Farms, LLC                | Representative<br>Member |
| Peck, Samuel                | 06/10/2023 | 06/10/2027 | Jack's Bean<br>Company,<br>LLC                 | Representative<br>Member |
| Rekeweg, Matthew            | 01/17/2021 | 01/17/2025 | Corteva<br>Agriscience                         | Representative<br>Member |
| Rue, Michael                | 06/10/2023 | 06/10/2027 | Catlett<br>Warehouse                           | Representative<br>Member |
| Seyfert, Christy            | 01/17/2021 | 01/17/2025 | American<br>Soybean<br>Association             | Representative<br>Member |
| Stafford, William           | 06/10/2023 | 06/10/2027 | CHS, Inc.                                      | Representative<br>Member |
| Starkey, Charles            | 06/10/2023 | 06/10/2027 | North<br>American<br>Renderers<br>Association  | Representative<br>Member |
| Suess, Randall              | 01/17/2021 | 01/17/2025 | Suess<br>Farms Inc.                            | Representative<br>Member |
| Suppes, Ron                 | 06/10/2019 | 06/10/2027 | Suppes<br>Farms                                | Representative<br>Member |
| Vorhees-Tumbarello,<br>Gina | 06/15/2019 | 06/10/2027 | American<br>Feed<br>Industry<br>Association    | Representative<br>Member |
| Wertish, Gary               | 06/10/2019 | 06/10/2027 | Minnesota<br>Farmers<br>Union                  | Representative<br>Member |
| Westlin, Jacob              | 06/10/2023 | 06/10/2027 | National<br>Association<br>of Wheat<br>Growers | Representative<br>Member |

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 35**

### **Narrative Description**

The Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed, Oilseeds and Planting Seeds (GFOPS ATAC) supports USDA's international trade functions by providing technical advice to the U.S. Trade Representative and the Secretary of Agriculture on trade issues that affect U.S. agriculture.

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

Checked if  
Applies

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 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 type="checkbox"/>            |
| Increased customer satisfaction                   | <input 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**

N/A

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

43

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

The number of recommendations varies from year-to-year. Historically, the Agency has misunderstood the use of this field and therefore, the total number of recommendations

noted above for the life of this Committee is underreported. Efforts are underway to search historical records to be able to amend this section in the future to include the total number of recommendations produced since inception. For FY 23, The Grains ATAC committee proposed 1 resolution and put forth 1 recommendation and letter.

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

100%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

Implementation does not necessarily apply to a number of the recommendations. The committee provides formal recommendations in the form of resolutions, but the committee provides numerous recommendations orally at meetings. The recommendations in all cases are fully considered by USTR and USDA negotiators in the course of pursuing free trade agreements and resolving trade disputes.

**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**

see above.

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

Through frequent conference calls jointly held with USTR, and during committee meetings.

**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 type="checkbox"/>            |
| Issued new regulation             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Proposed legislation              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Approved grants or other payments | <input type="checkbox"/>            |



Other

☐

### **Action Comments**

N/A

**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

☒

Online Agency Web Site

☒

Online Committee Web Site

☒

Online GSA FACA Web Site

☒

Publications

☒

Other

☐

### **Access Comments**

The advisors receive information via email notifications which direct them to go to a secured access website which is not available to the public and access is limited.