

## 2004 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Small Farms

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

### 2. Fiscal Year

2004

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Small  
Farms

### 3b. GSA Committee No.

5315

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

No 12/01/1999 12/01/2001 12/01/2001

### 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

Yes

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

### 8c. Actual Term Date

12/01/2003

### 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

### 10b. Legislation Pending?

### 11. Establishment Authority Agency Authority

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

Departmental Regulation  
1043-46

### 13. Effective Date

11/16/1999

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing

### 14c. Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for  
this Fiscal Year

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

### Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

Current Next

FY FY

<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00 \$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.50 0.50

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

The purposes of the USDA Advisory Committee on Small Farms are (1) to gather and analyze information regarding small farms and ranches within the United States and its Territories, and (2) to recommend to the Secretary of Agriculture actions to take to enhance the viability and economic livelihood of small farms and ranches within the United States. In order to comply with the task, the Committee (a) schedules public hearings during the regular full Committee meetings, (b) develops inquiries to USDA personnel directing programs, (c) Committee members deliberate with farmers, ranchers, extension educators, agricultural scientists, etc., (d) Committee members attend meetings and

hearing sessions sponsored by the public and private sectors, (e) the Committee writes letters to the Secretary of Agriculture, and (f) the Committee prepares formal reports to the Secretary of Agriculture with proposed actions to further the sustainability of small farms and ranches.

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

A notice of intent to establish an advisory committee on small farms and solicit nominations for the committee was published in the Federal Register on June 10, 1999. More than 100 nominations were received by the July 15, 1999, cutoff date. A committee consisting of nine USDA Small Farm Coordinators, headed by the Acting Director of the Small Farm Office, reviewed all nominations and compiled a short list of 45 names. Considerable time and effort were expended in identifying an initial list of 18 names to be considered. Five of the recommended individuals have served on the National Commission on Small Farms (the charter of the Commission expired in July 1999). The short list of names and the 18 recommended members to the USDA Advisory Committee on Small Farms were presented to the USDA Small Farm Council for their review and approval at their July 22, 1999, meeting. Equal opportunity practices were followed in selecting the nominees for appointment to the USDA Advisory Committee on Small Farms. To ensure that the advisory function of the committee be accomplished and that the recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture include the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, the Committee membership includes, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. On December 10, 1999, the Federal

Register (Volume 64, No. 237, pg. 69222-69223)  
published a notification of appointment to the  
USDA Advisory Committee on Small Farms,  
containing the names of 19 individuals.

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

In FY2000, the USDA Advisory Committee on Small Farms met three times with the following emphasis and assignments: First meeting, January 2000, Washington, DC: Organizational meeting, the members identified needs and assigned themselves to five subcommittees with specific objectives: (1) Small Farm Sustainability (2) Outreach and Capacity Building (3) Framework for Support and Responsibility (Policy) (4) Humane Working Conditions in Production Agriculture (5) 2002 Farm Bill Second Meeting, April 2000, Washington, DC: The Committee members heard responses from USDA Small Farm Coordinators, to questions presented by Committee members. The purpose of the question and answer session was to evaluate progress on implementation of the recommendations of the National Commission on Small Farms in their report "A Time to Act". Also, during the public hearing, farmers brought up critical issues prompting the Committee to write to Secretary Glickman on the matter of Shared Appreciation Agreements. Third Meeting, August 2000, Sacramento, CA: The Committee members heard testimony from farm workers advocates during a public hearing sponsored by the subcommittee on Humane Working Conditions in Production Agriculture. Also, the different subcommittees presented proposals to the full committee on contents for a document to be presented to the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Committee agreed on an outline to follow for the document.

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

The USDA Advisory Committee on Small Farms, was established to maintain an external advisory mechanism on small farm issues after the charter of the National Commission on Small Farms expired in July 1999. The USDA Small Farms Program has evolved from the Civil Rights Action Team report released in February 1997. The report recommended changes in management, program delivery, and employment practices to address long-term bias and discrimination against minority farmers, USDA employees, and small farmers. Also, the report recommended that the Secretary appoint a diverse commission to develop a national policy on small farms. Acting on these recommendations, the Secretary appointed a National Commission on Small Farms in July 1997, to examine the status of small farms and to determine a course of action for USDA to recognize, respect and respond to the needs of small farms. Establishment of the Committee also ensured the continued consideration and implementation of the 146 recommendations made by the National Commission on Small Farms in its report A Time to Act. The USDA Advisory Committee on Small Farms monitors government and private sector actions, policy, and program proposals that relate to small farms, ranches, and woodlots. In addition, evaluates the impact such actions and proposals may have upon the viability and growth of small farms, ranches, and woodlots. Finally, the Committee reviews USDA programs and strategies to implement small farm policy and advises the Secretary on actions to strengthen USDA programs for small farmers and ranchers. The Committee is in the public interest and within the

duties and responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture.

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

Meetings are open.

**21. Remarks**

USDA Advisory Committee on Small Farms  
Sub-Committees List (Revised April 19-20, 2000)  
(1) Primary Sub-Committee (2) Secondary  
Sub-Committee SUB-COMMITTEE ON SMALL  
FARM SUSTAINABILITY Jon W. Anderson(2)  
George L. Siemon(1) Sue Jarret(1) Tom Trantham  
(CHAIR) Gene Garrett(1) Ranvir Singh(1) Archie  
Hart(1) Marion Long Bowlan (1)  
SUB-COMMITTEE ON OUTREACH AND  
CAPACITY BUILDING Golden J. Hardy(1) Luz  
Bazan-Gutierrez(2) Sue Bertrand(1) (CHAIR)  
Archie Hart(2) Calvin R. King, Sr.(2) Dayle LaRue  
Aldridge Edgar J. Hicks(1) Marion Long Bowlan  
(2) Karen Armstrong-Cummings (1) Don R.  
Crittenden (1) SUB-COMMITTEE ON  
FRAMEWORK FOR SUPPORT AND  
RESPONSIBILITY Archie Hart(2) George L.  
Siemon(2) Calvin R. King, Sr.(1) Dayle LaRue  
Aldridge(2) Jon W. Anderson (CHAIR)  
SUB-COMMITTEE ON HUMANE WORKING  
CONDITIONS IN PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE  
Luz Bazan-Gutierrez (CHAIR) Ranvir Singh(2)  
Golden J. Hardy(2) Neil Hamilton(1) Sue Bertrand  
(2) Archie Hart (3) SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE  
2002 FARM BILL Neil Hamilton (CHAIR) Calvin  
King (Outreach) Marion Bowlan (Sustainability)  
Ranvir Singh (Humane Conditions) Jon Anderson  
(Framework) Sue Jarrett Committee was  
terminated b/c the charter lapsed.

**Designated Federal Officer**

Enrique Nelson Escobar Executive Director,  
USDA Advisory Committee on Small Farms.

### **Narrative Description**

Small Farms

### **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 type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes                              | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> |
| Other   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### **Outcome Comments**

NA

### **What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| None                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine        | <input 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

NA

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

0

### Number of Recommendations Comments

NA

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

0%

### % of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NA

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

NA

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

Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable ☐

### Agency Feedback Comments

NA

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

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>



Approved grants or other payments

☐

Other

☐

**Action Comments**

NA

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

No

**Grant Review Comments**

NA

**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**

This committee is Inactive.