

## 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Farm,Ranch, and Rural Communities Advisory Committee

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### 1. Department or Agency

Environmental Protection Agency

### 2. Fiscal Year

2024

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Farm,Ranch, and Rural Communities  
Advisory Committee

### 3b. GSA

### Committee No.

34553

### 4. Is this New Fiscal Year?

No

### 5. Current Charter

02/07/2022

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

02/07/2024

### 7. Expected Term Date

### 8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?

No

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

### 8c. Actual Term Date

### 9. Agency

### Recommendation for Next FiscalYear

Continue

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

### 10b.

### Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

### 11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

Agency Decision Memo  
signed by EPA's Deputy  
Administrator on 1/22/08

### 13.

### Effective Date

01/22/2008

### 14.

### Committee Type

Continuing

### 14c.

### Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee

Board

Non Scientific Program Advisory

### 16a. Total

### Number of Reports

No Reports for  
this FiscalYear

### 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
<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>	0.00	0.00

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

The FRRCC provides independent advice to the EPA Administrator on a range of environmental issues and policies that are of importance to agriculture and rural communities. The FRRCC meets approximately twice a year and typically provides its advice to the Administrator in the form of written reports and advice letters. The committee currently has no subcommittees.

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

The FRRCC membership represents the

viewpoints of various groups, including: academia; agriculture and associated industries; non-governmental organizations; and state, local, and tribal governments. Nominations for membership on the FRRCC are solicited through the Federal Register and other sources, including advertisement through listservs, websites, press releases, and consultation with representatives from the EPA regions and program offices.

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

The committee meets approximately twice a year at 6 month intervals.

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

The FRRCC provides a forum for discussion and an opportunity to provide policy advice to the EPA Administrator on a range of environmental issues and policies that are of importance to agriculture and rural communities. The FRRCC also plays a critical role in the Agency's efforts to expand cooperative working relationships with the agricultural community and others who are interested in agricultural issues to achieve greater progress in environmental protection.

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

No meetings were closed or partially closed.

**21. Remarks**

All members are Tier 1 (parent committee members). There were no Tier 2 (subcommittee) members serving.

**Designated Federal Officer**

Venus Welch-White DFO

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Berg, Barry	06/15/2020	11/01/2024	FRRCC, Watershed Coordinator at East Dakota Water Development District, Dell Rapids, SD	Representative Member
Bray, Brad	11/01/2022	11/01/2025	Bray Farms, LLC.	Representative Member
Broad Leib, Emily	11/01/2022	11/01/2024	Director Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic	Representative Member
Brown, Don	06/15/2020	11/01/2024	FRRCC, President at Anchor Three Farm, Inc., Yuma, CO	Representative Member
Chavez, Phillip	06/15/2020	11/01/2024	FRRCC, Director at Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, Partner at Diamond A Farms, Partner at Mohawk Valley Farms, Director at Catlin Canal Company, and Director at Lower Arkansas Valley Super Ditch, Rocky Ford, CO	Representative Member
Collison, John	06/15/2020	11/01/2024	FRRCC, Representative at Oklahoma Rural Association and Owner at BlackOak Farms, Edmond, OK	Representative Member
Couser, William (Bill)	11/01/2022	11/01/2024	Owner Couser Cattle Company	Representative Member
Crandell, Eddie	11/01/2022	11/01/2025	Lake County Supervisor and Board Delegate	Representative Member
Crowder, Michael	06/15/2020	11/01/2024	FRRCC; 1st Vice-President, National Association of Conservation District (NACD); General Manager/Shareholder, Barker Ranch; Local Supervisor, Benton Conservation District; farms in IL and IN; West Richland, WA	Representative Member

Freund, Matthew	06/15/2020	11/01/2024	FRRCC; Owner, Freund's Farm; Owner, Cowpots LLC; Sustainable Farms Committee Chair, Agri-Mark; East Canaan, CT	Representative Member
Furches, Sharon	06/15/2020	11/01/2024	FRRCC; Co-owner, Furches Farms Partnership; Second Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Louisville, KY	Representative Member
Gore, Jeffrey	06/15/2020	11/01/2024	FRRCC; Research/Extension Professor at Mississippi State University Delta Research and Extension Center; Stoneville, MS	Representative Member
Graybill, David	11/01/2022	11/01/2024	Owner Red Sunset Farm Board Executive Committee Member Pennsylvania Farm Bureau	Representative Member
James, Jennifer	11/01/2022	11/01/2025	J&J Land Co and Auvergne Grain Co.	Representative Member
Lucas, Sarah	11/01/2022	11/01/2025	Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	Representative Member
McCarthy, Nicholas	06/15/2020	11/01/2024	FRRCC; Senior VP of Agronomy at Central Valley Ag Cooperative; York, NE	Representative Member
McDonald, William	06/15/2020	11/01/2024	FRRCC; VP of Environmental Affairs at Five Rivers Cattle Feeding; Dalhart, TX	Representative Member
Merrill, Jeanne	11/01/2022	11/01/2025	NGO	Representative Member
Pettit, Chris	11/01/2022	11/01/2024	Executive Director Washington State Conservation Commission	Representative Member
Pope, Clay	11/01/2022	11/01/2025	Farmer/Rancher Founding Partner/Consultant	Representative Member
Pracht, William	11/01/2022	11/01/2024	President/CEO East Kansas Agri-Energy Owner, Pracht Farms	Representative Member
Pritchett, James	11/01/2022	11/01/2025	Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences	Representative Member

Rajan, Nithya	11/01/2022	11/01/2025	Professor, Dept of Soil and Crop Texas A&M University	Representative Member
Ramírez-Toro, Graciela	11/01/2022	11/01/2024	Institutional Director Inter American University of Puerto Rico - Center for Environmental Education, Conservation and Research (CECIA)	Representative Member
Reames, Lindsay	11/01/2022	11/01/2025	Farmer, Executive Vice President of Sustainability & External Relations	Representative Member
Santerre, Charles	06/15/2020	11/01/2024	FRRCC, Professor of Food Toxicology at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN	Representative Member
Sauerhaft, Beth	06/15/2020	11/01/2025	FRRCC, Vice President of Programs at American Farmland Trust, Chappaqua, NY	Representative Member
Shange, Raymon	11/01/2022	11/01/2025	Associate Dean Associate Extension Administrator, College of Agriculture, Environment, and Nutrition Science, Tuskegee University	Representative Member
Simmelink, Jennifer	11/01/2022	11/01/2025	Farmer/Rancher Coordinator Kansas Soil Health Alliance	Representative Member
Smith, Ryan	11/01/2022	11/01/2024	Senior Manager, Regenerative Agriculture Danone	Representative Member
Smith, Stacy	06/15/2020	11/01/2024	FRRCC, Owner at Smith Farms, Wilson, TX	Representative Member
Witte, Jeff	06/15/2020	11/01/2024	FRRCC, Secretary at New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Las Cruces, NM	Representative Member
Wolfe, Amy	06/15/2020	11/01/2024	FRRCC, AgSafe at Escalon, CA	Representative Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 33**

## Narrative Description

The FRRCC provides independent advice to the EPA Administrator on a range of environmental issues and policies that are of

importance to agriculture and rural communities.

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

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Outcome Comments**

The FRRCC works towards improving communication and cooperation between the agricultural community and the Environmental Protection Agency.

**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**

When recommendations are made by the FRRCC they tend to suggest broad institutional and policy changes that must be taken by numerous actors involved in environmental protection work, and may sometimes require cooperation with other governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other groups of individuals. This process

often is incremental and takes place over a long time frame, and therefore is difficult to measure.

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

62

#### **Number of Recommendations Comments**

The FRRCC has produced 8 advice letters and three reports on various topics since the committee's establishment.

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

25%

#### **% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

Recommendations made by the FRRCC tend to suggest broad institutional and policy changes that must be taken by numerous actors involved in environmental protection work, and may sometimes require cooperation with other governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other groups of individuals. This process often is incremental and takes place over a long time frame, thus making it very difficult to decisively determine that any of the recommendations of the FRRCC have been fully implemented at a given point in time.

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

25%

#### **% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

Administrator Regan responded with a summary of immediate actions being taken to advance priorities identified by the committee. The newest charge was issued with a new membership drive.

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

#### **Agency Feedback Comments**

Former EPA Administrators have responded to all of the FRRCC's advice letters and



reports with formal response letters indicating what actions would be taken with regard to the Committee's recommendations. Response letters are posted on the FRRCC website as they become available.

**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 type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

**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 type="checkbox"/>

**Access Comments**

See website.