

2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality Research

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1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of Agriculture	2026
3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality Research	5140

4. Is this New Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	02/02/2023	02/02/2025	

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
No	7USC 5405	

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?
7USC 5405; Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act	04/04/1996	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program 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	Next
	FY	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. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Committee was established to ensure intergovernmental cooperation in research activities relating to agricultural air quality. The Committee advises the Secretary of Agriculture on his/her role in providing oversight and coordination on agricultural air quality. It meets two to three times a year to discuss agricultural production and

air quality in different geographic regions, thereby improving members' understanding of local problems/issues.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The members represent all NRCS regions within the United States. In addition, members represent the following disciplines: agricultural production, agricultural industry, agricultural air quality research, and the health sciences/regulators/public interest.

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

The Committee meets 2-3 times annually to review scientific research related to agricultural air quality and develop recommendations to address current issues. Subcommittees meet between meetings by teleconference on an as needed basis. In addition to providing recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on research priorities (e.g., particulate matter, odors, and ozone) and associated funding, the Committee has developed recommendations at the request of EPA on agricultural burning, voluntary programs and emission reduction credits. The Committee has also carried out a broad survey on high priority emission factors which is being used in conjunction with recommended research needs and priorities.

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

This committee was mandated from the 1996 FAIR Act (Farm Bill), and has been in existence since then, overseen by the USDA-NRCS. The Agricultural Air Quality Task Force advises the Secretary of Agriculture on his/her role in

oversight and coordination related to agricultural air quality, ensuring governmental policies issued to address agricultural air pollution problems are scientifically sound and economically feasible. Current policies are being revised based on new or proposed National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter and ozone. In addition, climate change and GHG guidelines, policies and regulations are under development.

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

The meetings are open to the public and there are no plans to have closed meetings.

21. Remarks

The AAQTF charter expired on February 2, 2025. Membership was selected in October 2024; however, USDA did not conduct a meeting with the current membership prior to charter expiration, so there was no meeting activity in FY25. The Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality has been beneficial in making recommendations on research and priorities for research in addition to making recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure that, relative to air quality, agriculture is regulated based on sound science. It is expected that the charter will be renewed in FY26, with 2-3 meetings anticipated during FY26.

Designated Federal Officer

Greg Zwicke DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Abernathy, Kevin	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	5th Generation Consulting, Inc.	Representative Member Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Bettencourt, Aubrey	04/07/2025		NRCS Chief	Representative Member
Burns, Robert	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	The University of Tennessee	Representative Member

Cochrane, Brian	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	Farmer	Representative Member
Cunha, Manuel	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	Nisei Farmers League	Representative Member
Feng, Xiaoyu (Iris)	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	North Dakota State University	Representative Member
Fields, Daniel	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	Herbruck's Poultry Ranch	Representative Member
Green, James (Kelley)	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	Texas Cotton Ginners' Association	Representative Member
Haren, Thomas (Tom)	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	AGPROfessionals	Representative Member
Hutt, Maia	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	Southern Environmental Law Center	Representative Member
Kinder, James (Jimmy)	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	Kinder Farms	Representative Member
Leytem, April	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	USDA-ARS	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Li, Hong	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	University of Delaware	Representative Member
Magzamen, Sheryl	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	Colorado State University	Representative Member
McGlothlin, Christopher (Chris)	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	California Cotton Ginners & Growers Association/Western Agricultural Producers Association	Representative Member
Mitloehner, Frank	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	University of California, Davis Institute for Feed Education & Research/American Feed Industry Association	Representative Member
Moody, Lara	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	Research/American Feed Industry Association	Representative Member
Ollerton, Paul	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	Tierra Verde Farms	Representative Member
Shaver, Sally	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	Shaver Consulting, Inc.	Representative Member
Shaw, Bryan	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	Shaw Engineering	Representative Member
Sheikh, Samir	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Representative Member

Silva, Philip (Phil)	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	USDA-ARS	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Stowell, Richard (Rick)	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Representative Member
Tan, Marguerite	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	National Pork Board	Representative Member
Venterea, Rodney (Rod)	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	USDA-ARS	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Wang-Li, Lingjuan	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	North Carolina State University	Representative Member
Williams, D'Ann	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	Johns Hopkins University	Representative Member
Wolfgang, Joseph (Joe)	10/07/2024	10/07/2026	Wolfgang Metals Services	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 28

Narrative Description

The Agricultural Air Quality Task Force has been created in accordance with Section 391 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act of 1996, which directs the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, to establish a task force to address agricultural air quality issues. The Agricultural Air Quality Task Force (AAQTF) was established to comply with Congress and consists of leaders in farming, industry, health, and science. In 1996, Congress found that various studies have alleged that agriculture is a source of PM10 emissions and that many of these studies have often been based on erroneous data. Congress also cited ongoing research by the Department of Agriculture and that federal policy, in regard to air pollution, be based on sound scientific findings that are subject to adequate peer review and take into account economic feasibility. The Secretary of Agriculture was charged to ensure that Departmental federal air quality research not report erroneous data. The AAQTF has been administrative inactive since expiration of the charter in April 2017 due to expired charters, membership, or both. No new recommendations in FY2025. Membership was selected in October

2024; however USDA did not conduct a meeting with the current membership prior to charter expiration in February 2025. No meetings were held in FY25.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

No new recommendations in FY2025. Membership was selected in October 2024; however USDA did not conduct a meeting with the current membership prior to charter expiration in February 2025. No meetings were held in FY25.

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

A primary focus of this task force is to make sure that sound science is applied to

regulatory decisions. When sound science is applied, there is a greater probability that regulations are warranted and appropriate. The end result besides environmental benefits is the benefit that the cost was appropriate and achieved the goal. It is difficult to determine a cost savings for this result.

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

62

Number of Recommendations Comments

No new recommendations in FY2025. Membership was selected in October 2024; however USDA did not conduct a meeting with the current membership prior to charter expiration in February 2025. No meetings were held in FY25.

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

40%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

No new recommendations in FY2025. Membership was selected in October 2024; however USDA did not conduct a meeting with the current membership prior to charter expiration in February 2025. No meetings were held in FY25.

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

60%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

No new recommendations in FY2025. Membership was selected in October 2024; however USDA did not conduct a meeting with the current membership prior to charter expiration in February 2025. No meetings were held in FY25.

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

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

AAQTF members are typically provided feedback on their recommendations during the meeting following their submission of the recommendations.

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

Checked if Applies

- Reorganized Priorities
- Reallocated resources
- Issued new regulation
- Proposed legislation
- Approved grants or other payments
- Other

Action Comments

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

N/A