

## 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality Research

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

### 2. Fiscal Year

2024

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality  
Research

### 3b. GSA

### Committee No.

5140

### 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

### 5. Current Charter

02/02/2023 02/02/2025

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

### 7. Expected Term Date

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

No

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

7USC 5405

### 8c. Actual Term Date

### 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

### 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

### 11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

7USC 5405; Federal

### 13. Effective Date

Agricultural Improvement and 04/04/1996

Reform (FAIR) Act

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing No

### 14c. Presidential?

### 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 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 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 was renewed on February 2, 2023. Previous membership terms expired in January 2023, and membership is currently in the process of being selected. There was no meeting activity in FY23. 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.

**Designated Federal Officer**

Greg Zwicke DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
				Regular
Cosby, Terry	05/19/2021	05/19/2026	Chairperson	Government Employee (RGE)
				Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 1**

**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 inactive since expiration of the charter in April 2017. No new recommendations in FY2023. The AAQTF charter was renewed on February 2, 2023. Membership applications are currently being reviewed for Secretary selection. No meetings were held in FY23.

**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 FY2023. The AAQTF charter was renewed on February 2, 2023. Membership applications are currently being reviewed for Secretary selection. No meetings were held in FY23.

**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 FY2023. The AAQTF charter was renewed on February 2, 2023. Membership applications are currently being reviewed for Secretary selection. No meetings were held in FY23.

**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 FY2023. The AAQTF charter was renewed on February 2, 2023. Membership applications are currently being reviewed for Secretary selection. No meetings were held in FY23.

**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 FY2023. The AAQTF charter was renewed on February 2, 2023. Membership applications are currently being reviewed for Secretary selection. No meetings were held in FY23.

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

### **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	<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



Other



**Access Comments**

N/A