

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee
for Trade

3b. GSA

Committee No.

1263

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

06/13/2023 06/13/2025

6. Expected Renewal Date

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Section 135(c)(1) of the
Trade Act of 1974, as
amended.

13. Effective Date

03/27/1975

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Other Committee

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
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. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	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 under-represented 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 approximately twice a year. There were three meetings in 2023, two virtual and one in-person. Virtual meetings and conference calls are methods used to hold ad hoc meetings.

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 confidential 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

Jeffrey Jones DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Adams, Gary	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	National Cotton Council of America, Inc.	Representative Member
Allen, Cynthia	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	Allen Farms	Representative Member
Balcom, Jared	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	Farmer	Representative Member
Bettencourt, Aubrey	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	Almond Alliance	Representative Member
Bishop, Robert	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	Farmer	Representative Member
Blindauer, Chad	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	Blindauer Farms	Representative Member

Bode, John	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	Corn Refiners Association	Representative Member
Chapman, Thomas	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	Organic Trade Association	Representative Member
Cullman, Constance	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	American Feed Industry Association	Representative Member
Downs, John	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	National Confectioners	Representative Member
Gordon, William	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	American Soybean Association	Representative Member
Gutter, Karis	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	Corteva Agriscience	Representative Member
Halstrom, Dan	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	US Meat Export Federation	Representative Member
Hammer (Chair), Thomas	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	(non profit) National Oilseed Processors Association	Representative Member
Hawk, Robert	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	The Munger Companies/Farms LLC	Representative Member
Hudgins, Richard	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	California Canning Peach Association	Representative Member
Joyner, Michael	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association	Representative Member
Koch, Robert	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	Wine Institute	Representative Member
LaVigne, Andrew	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	American Seed Trade Association	Representative Member
LeGrand (Vice Chair), Ryan	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	U.S. Grains Council	Representative Member
Mills, Igalious	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	Texas Agri-Forestry Small Farmers & Ranchers	Representative Member
Owen, Richard	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	American Peanut Council	Representative Member
Potts, Julie	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	North American Meat Institute	Representative Member
Puglia, David	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	Western Growers	Representative Member
Raulerson, Daniel	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	Cranberry Marketing Committee	Representative Member
Saelens, Kelsey	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	Cargill	Representative Member
Salmonsens, David	01/15/2020	01/15/2024	American Farm Bureau Federation	Representative Member

Spronk, Randall	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	National Pork Producer Council	Representative Member
Sutter, James	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	U.S. Soybean Export Council	Representative Member
Thompson, Rayne	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	(cooperative) Sunkist Growers, Inc.	Representative Member
Tyler, Gregory	08/10/2023	08/10/2027	USAPEEC	Representative Member
Woodall, William	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	National Cattlemen's Beef Association	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 32

Narrative Description

APAC supports USDA's international trade functions by providing advice to the U.S. Trade Representative and the Secretary of Agriculture on trade policy and other economic 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None ☐

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

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

41

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 APAC committee proposed one resolution and put forth 1 recommendation 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, as well as 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	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	<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

N/A