

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3b. GSA

Committee

No.

3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Advisory Committee on

Microbiological Criteria for Foods

1294

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

02/23/2022 02/23/2024

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?

Not Applicable

10b.

Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

5 U.S.C. 10

13. Effective Date

03/18/1988

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

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. Closed0 17c. Partially Closed0 Other Activities0 17d. Total0

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?

NACMCF provides impartial, scientific advice, and/or peer reviews to Federal food safety agencies for use in the development of an integrated national food safety systems approach that assures the safety of domestic, imported, and exported foods. The purpose of the Committee is accomplished by providing advice contained in the Committees' final adopted reports. NACMCF advice is often used directly in the Agency's food safety programs. For example, the report addressing the FSIS charge, "Enhancing Salmonella Control in Poultry Products, that was

adopted on November 15, 2022, was one of the key activities to gather the data and information necessary to support future action and move closer to the national target of a 25% reduction in foodborne Salmonella illnesses. The Committee's most recent report addressing the charge from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on *Cyclospora cayetanensis* in produce was adopted on August 30, 2023. This report will help FDA gain information on the factors that can contribute to *C. cayetanensis* contamination of domestically grown and imported produce, and recommendations for developing an effective prevention and management strategy. This also demonstrates how the programs of other Federal agencies concerned with food safety benefit from the NACMCF's work.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

NACMCF allows our federal food safety agencies to collaborate with the highest level of scientific expertise, gaining advice and input to US food safety programs. The Committee consists of renowned expert microbiologists, epidemiologists, risk assessors, and scientists from related disciplines from industry, academia, federal and state governments, and other organizations to ensure that the membership is balanced among a range of scientific interests. Other factors taken into consideration include racial, ethnic, and gender diversity as well as geographic location, to ensure that perspectives from multiple demographics and regions of the USA are represented. In addition, the NACMCF Executive Committee, which consists of key managers from the five Federal Agencies involved in food safety, reviews the candidates and carefully selects the composition of membership by matching scientific

expertise to the future work of the Committee.

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

The NACMCF meets once or more per year to address specific scientific and technical questions posed by the sponsoring agencies. The subcommittees will meet as deemed necessary by the DFO and Chair.

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

The Committee advice helps protect public health by generating food safety advice for US food safety programs, the food industry, and consumers. The Committee allows federal food safety agencies to collaborate with the highest level of scientific expertise on food safety issues so the most current science can be incorporated into programs. The NACMCF is necessary to provide outside expertise and specialized scientific and technical advice on questions provided by the sponsoring agencies based on the development of regulatory food safety policy. NACMCF technical and scientific advice is provided to federal agencies responsible for ensuring the safety of the food supply so that the agencies can develop regulatory policies that are scientifically sound. The NACMCF serves to enhance the safety of our food supply, and this is in the public interest and assists the federal sponsors in meeting their statutory responsibilities. NACMCF also serves as an excellent public forum for food safety issues related to microbiological criteria for foods.

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

There were no closed meetings

21. Remarks

The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods provides scientific advice to US food safety programs. The Committee serves to enhance the safety of our nation's food supply, which is in the public interest and assists the federal sponsors in meeting their statutory responsibilities. The Committee held three plenary meetings in FY23, one of which was in-person. On November 15, 2022, the Committee adopted the report, "Response to Questions Posed by the Food Safety and Inspection Service: Enhancing Salmonella Control in Poultry Products" at a virtual Plenary meeting. The report provided FSIS with nine recommendations to consider on what types of microbiological criteria FSIS might use to better prevent Salmonella infections associated with poultry products. In addition, the Committee adopted the report, "Response to Questions Posed by the Food and Drug Administration: Cyclospora cayetanensis in Produce", at a virtual Plenary meeting held on August 30, 2023. This report provided FDA with four recommendations. In FY23, NACMCF published two reports in the Journal of Food Protection on the charges, "Microbiological Testing by Industry of Ready-to-Eat Foods Under FDA's Jurisdiction for Pathogens (or Appropriate Indicator Organisms): Verification of Preventive Controls" and "The Use of Water in Animal Production, Slaughter, and Processing". The NACMCF also submitted recommended nominees for the 2023-2025 NACMCF term to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Designated Federal Officer

Kristal Southern DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
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Esteban, Emilio	01/04/2023		Under Secretary, Food Safety, USDA	Ex Officio Member
Warren, Benjamin	06/01/2022	06/01/2024	Food and Drug Government Administration	Regular Employee (RGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 2

Narrative Description

The NACMCF supports the food safety/public health protection programs of the US Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the US Department of Health and Human Services’ Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Other food safety agencies such as the US Department of Commerce’s National Marine Fisheries Service, and the US Department of Defense’s Veterinary Service Activity benefit from NACMCF recommendations. NACMCF scientific advice has been applied to USDA food safety programs that are aligned with the FSIS mission and strategic plan.

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 type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

Committee provides critical scientific advice to participating Federal Food Safety Agencies

to enable them to establish food safety policy that is sound and science-based and results in public health protection/improvement.

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

The Committee's contributions to food safety programs are critical to public health protection.

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

249

Number of Recommendations Comments

In FY23, the Committee provided a total of 13 recommendations. Nine were provided in response to the FSIS charge on enhancing Salmonella control in poultry products. Four were provided in response to the FDA charge on Cyclospora cayetanensis in produce.

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

81%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Approximately 81% of NACMCF recommendations directed at USDA-FSIS are either fully or partially implemented. This includes at least one recommendation from FY23.

NACMCF recommendations and advice are transferred to participating food safety agencies through detailed scientific reports.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or

will be Partially implemented by the agency?

16%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

See above. This includes at least four recommendations from 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

There is no formal protocol, mechanism, or obligation for sponsoring agencies to provide feedback to NACMCF. However, the Committee is often provided feedback at Plenary meetings in the form of status and progress reports by agency officials on how committee work products are being used to improve food safety programs and regulations. Further, the Committee's valuable contributions to food safety and hard work and efforts are acknowledged publicly at meetings. Many Committee recommendations were used in the development of guidance documents and regulations and are referenced in these documents.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

Information also provided through Agency Docket Office and an electronic Constituent update list-serve for stakeholders.