

2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

Report Run Date: 04/21/2026 02:42:44 PM

1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

2. Fiscal Year

2026

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

3b. GSA

Committee No.

5143

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

08/15/2023

6. Expected Renewal Date

08/15/2025

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

7 USC 1929

13. Effective Date

10/28/1992

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee National Policy Issue Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 0

**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 accomplishes its purpose by meeting to discuss and gather information on Federal, State, and local beginning farmer programs to prepare for a set of recommendations to be submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture on ways to increase assistance to beginning farmers and ranchers.

20b. How does the Committee balance its

membership?

The Committee consist of not less than 14 but no more than 20 members. The membership consists of a diverse group of individuals with experience in farming or in providing assistance to farmers.

They include representatives from State and private nonprofit beginning farmer programs, commercial lending, agricultural education institutions, USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, the Farm Service Agency, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and several farmers and ranchers.

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

The Committee may meet in person, twice a year to publicly deliberate and craft recommendations; and may follow up virtually (public), as necessary, to finalize those recommendations. Funding and whether meetings are needed are always within the discretion of the Department.

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

The Committee is statutory and is mandated by Congress to advise the Secretary on ways to encourage Federal and State beginning farmer programs to provide joint financing to qualified farmers and ranchers, methods of maximizing the number of new farming and ranching opportunities created through the programs, and other methods of creating new farming and ranching opportunities. The Committee was established because of Congressional concern over the average age of farmers in this country, and the need to create more opportunities for beginning farmers, thereby assuring a new generation of family farmers. The law required the Secretary to appoint members in a way that ensures a broad

range of knowledge relevant to the scope and mission of the committee.

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

N/A

21. Remarks

The Committee did not publicly meet during FY 2025. Therefore, no new recommendations have been put forward in FY25. These recommendation comments were produced based on the information left by the previous DFO. The last committee charter was renewed in August 2023 and expired in August 2025. The process to reissue the charter is underway and is expected to be completed sometime in FY 2026.

Designated Federal Officer

Patricia M. Patnode DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Brandt, Kathryn	07/10/2024	07/09/2026	Advocacy and farm production	Representative Member
Brannaman, Nancy	07/10/2024	07/09/2026	Farm operations and production	Representative Member
Campbell, Sarah	07/10/2024	07/09/2026	RGE for FSA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Chaverest, E'licia	07/10/2024	07/10/2026	Extension outreach and technical assistance for BFRs	Representative Member
Goins, Gregory	07/10/2024	07/10/2026	Extension and Crop Specialist	Representative Member
Goodgame, Darlene	07/10/2024	07/09/2026	Farm production	Representative Member
Hunt, Edward	07/10/2024	07/10/2026	Developing agricultural programs and cooperatives	Representative Member

LaPorte, Jonathan	07/10/2024	07/10/2026	Producer; Agricultural Advisor (Former FSA Loan Officer)	Representative Member
Laughton, Christopher	07/10/2024	07/10/2026	Farm Credit and Production	Representative Member Regular
Lewis, Edwin	07/10/2024	07/09/2026	RGE for National Institutes of Food and Agriculture	Government Employee (RGE) Member
Lombardo, Jeanette	07/10/2024	07/10/2026	Agricultural lending and advocacy; veteran producer focused	Representative Member
Moxley, Alexandria	07/10/2024	07/10/2026	Food production, financing, and also a grower	Representative Member
Mulvaney, Chandler	07/10/2024	07/09/2026	Advocacy, training, with production experience	Representative Member
Myers, Shelby	07/10/2024	07/10/2026	Producer with lending organization experience	Representative Member
Nguyen, Thai	07/10/2024	07/10/2026	Nonprofit for food justice; deep community advocacy	Representative Member
Ortiz, Joseluis	07/10/2024	07/09/2026	Farmer Producer	Representative Member
Robbins, David	07/10/2024	07/10/2026	Agricultural consultant food systems	Representative Member
Rodriguez, Ana	07/10/2024	07/09/2026	Farmer rancher advocacy concentrated in the territories	Representative Member
Wiese, Dustin	07/10/2024	07/09/2026	Farmer and Rancher	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 19

Narrative Description

USDA's mission is to provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development and related issues based on sound policy, the best available science, and efficient management. The Committee was originally established pursuant to Section 5(b) of the Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992 (7 U.S.C. § 1929), as amended by the Food, Conservation, and

Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. § 8701) and the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. § 9001); and is established and managed in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 10. The Committee is to meet and review comments on beginning farmer and rancher policy and program issues and collaborate to make recommendations to the Secretary that are necessary and the in the public interest. The Committee shall advise the Secretary on matters broadly affecting new farmers and ranchers. The Committee shall consider Department goals and objectives necessary to implement prior recommendations and develop and recommend a framework and overall strategy that will encompass the following: • Principles to leverage and maximize existing programs to assist beginning farmers and ranchers, • Methods and strategies to amplify and improve State collaboration and participation in programs, • Opportunity creation strategies and pilot programs to develop new farming and ranching operations, and • Ideas to provide relief from labor and taxation challenges.

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

Checked if Applies

- Improvements to health or safety
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
- Over \$10,000,000
- Cost Savings Other

Cost Savings Comments

This data has not been captured for FY2025 as the committee expired in August 2025 pending renewal. Adverse impact on Departmental operational costs operations nonquantifiable.

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

286

Number of Recommendations Comments

No additional recommendations in FY 25.

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

22%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

A percentage tendered here is approximate calculation of all recommendations submitted for consideration by the Secretary estimated by the previous DFO before their departure in 2025.

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

36%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Determining what recommendations have been partially implemented, and to what extent, is a difficult to ascertain exactly. Some of those partially undertaken we done in multiple agencies. 36% is a rough assertion. A procedure is being developed so that these

determinations may yield reliable conclusions - going forward. The percent estimate was produced by the previous DFO.

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

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

The Agency provides feedback via e-mail, letters, phone calls, and during the annual meeting.

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 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