

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed, Oilseeds and Planting Seeds

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1. Department or Agency Department of Agriculture **2. Fiscal Year** 2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee **3b. GSA Committee No.**

Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed, Oilseeds and Planting Seeds 1932

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year? No **5. Current Charter** 06/08/2015 **6. Expected Renewal Date** 06/08/2019 **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 Authorized by Law

12. Specific Establishment Authority Section 135(c)(2) 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 Meetings and Dates 0 **17b. Closed Meetings and Dates** 10 **17c. Partially Closed Meetings and Dates** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total Meetings and Dates** 10

Purpose	Start	End
NAFTA Renegotiation Overview: The Administration seeks to do better in the process of negotiating trade agreements. To that end, the Administration has prioritized renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Negotiating priorities have been requested from trade advisory committees by June 30, 2017. The primary focus of this meeting will be drafting, deliberating and voting on the requested committee input	01/10/2018	01/10/2018
NAFTA Renegotiation Overview: The Administration seeks to negotiate improved market access around the world via the negotiation of improved free trade agreements. To that end, the Administration has prioritized renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The primary focus of this meeting will be updating Advisor's on the current status of the NAFTA negotiations.	03/07/2018	03/07/2018

Potential Reengagement in Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP): The Administration has expressed a willingness to consider re-negotiating conditions for U.S. membership in TPP. GFOPS ATAC members plan to discuss the implications for grains, feeds and oilseeds. Exemptions from Section 232 Steel and Aluminum Tariffs: The Administration has decided to levy additional tariffs on steel and aluminum imports. The GFOPS ATAC will deliberate to determine if they have a consensus opinion has an KORUS Overview: The Administration seeks to negotiate improved market access around the world via the negotiation of improved free trade agreements. To that end, the Administration has recently concluded renegotiation of some aspects of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement. Input from trade advisory committees is an option. A topic of discussion for this meeting will be for the committee to consider if committee input is warranted. Briefing on Trade Remedies: The Committee is seeking additional information from the Administration on how trade remedies operate, both in the United States and in foreign markets. USTR, USITC and USDA officials will brief them on the processes and international obligations that govern trade remedies.

China: USDA and USTR seek to debrief agricultural advisors on the current status of the negotiations with China. Priority issues including trade in biotech products and beef will be among the topics of conversation.

. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss policy developments, seek committee advice on, and formulate strategies relating to the U.S. trade agenda. The specific topic to be discussed at this meeting is the Negotiations with Canada and agreement with Mexico relative to NAFTA.

The specific topic to be discussed at this meeting is the FY 2019 Refined Sugar and Sugar Containing Products TRQ allocations: Specifically, the Administration seeks committee advice on allocation options for the Sugar and Sugar Containing Products TRQ allocation for FY2019.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss policy developments, seek committee advice on, and formulate strategies relating to the U.S. trade agenda. The specific topics to be discussed at this meeting include:

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss policy developments, seek committee advice on, and formulate strategies relating to the U.S. trade agenda.

NAFTA Renegotiation Overview: The Administration has concluded negotiations with Mexico and is continuing negotiations with Canada. Required congressional reports are due from committees by September 27, 2018. The primary focus of this meeting will be drafting, deliberating and voting on the requested committee input.

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 10

	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	\$14,750.00	\$20,000.00
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.)	\$600.00	\$2,000.00
18d. Total	\$15,350.00	\$22,000.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.35	0.40

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 underrepresented 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. Conference calls are also a method 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 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.

Designated Federal Officer

Patrick Packnett DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Baker, Stanley	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	Baker Seed Technologies, Inc.	Representative Member
Bratter, Rebecca	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	U.S. Dry Beans Council	Representative Member
Bridgeforth, Jr., Carlton	06/15/2014	06/15/2018	Bridgeforth International Corporation	Representative Member
Clarkson, Lynn	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	Clarkson Grain, Co. Inc.	Representative Member
Conner, Ben	10/16/2017	10/16/2021	U.S. Wheat Association	Representative Member
Covert, Sharon	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	Illinois Soybean Association	Representative Member
Cummings, Robert	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	(non-profit) USA Rice Federation	Representative Member
DeLaughter, Dennis	10/16/2015	10/16/2019	U.S. Rice Federation	Representative Member
Fisher, Neal	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	North Dakota Wheat Commission	Representative Member
Goule, Chandler	10/16/2017	10/16/2021	National Association of Wheat Growers	Representative Member
Gray, Ron	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	Gray Farms	Representative Member
Green, Paul	06/15/2014	04/11/2018	North American Millers Association	Representative Member
Grennan, Douglas	10/16/2017	10/16/2021	The Scoular Company	Representative Member
Griffith, John	10/16/2017	06/15/2019	CHS. Inc.	Representative Member
Haynie, Phillip	10/16/2017	06/15/2019	Haynie Farms, LLC.	Representative Member
Hill, Craig	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	Iowa Farm Bureau	Representative Member
Hoffman, William	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	Self Employed Farmer	Representative Member
Latham, Donald	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	DTB Farms (United Soybean Board)	Representative Member
Lowe, Karen	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	CoBank, ACB	Representative Member
Nichols, Michael	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	Nichols Family Farms, LLC	Representative Member
Peirce, J. Steve	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	RIBUS, Inc.	Representative Member
Shubeck, Paul	06/15/2014	12/04/2017	POET Industries	Representative Member
Slutsky, Bernice	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	American Seed Trade Association	Representative Member
Stenberg, Larry	06/10/2015	06/22/2018	Dow Agro-Sciences	Representative Member
Stutzman, Matt	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	Stutzman Farms, Inc.	Representative Member
Suppes, Ron	06/10/2015	06/10/2019	Suppes Farms	Representative Member
Sutter, James	10/16/2017	06/15/2019	U.S. Soybean Export Council	Representative Member
Tumbarello, Gina	06/15/2014	06/15/2018	American Feed Industry Association	Representative Member
Van Orman, Rodney	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	Anderson Hay and Grain Co.	Representative Member
Wertish, Gary	06/10/2015	06/15/2019	Minnesota Farmers Union	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 30

Narrative Description

The Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed, Oilseeds and Planting Seeds (GFOPS ATAC) supports USDA's international trade functions by providing technical advice to the U.S. Trade Representative and the Secretary of Agriculture on trade 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

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

26

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 18, The Grains ATAC committee proposed no resolution however put forth 3 recommendations and letters. For FY 2018, the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains Feed, Oilseeds, and Planting Seeds issued 1 resolution.

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, and 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
- Reallocated resources
- Issued new regulation
- Proposed legislation
- Approved grants or other payments
- Other

Action Comments

N/A

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

N/A

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

The advisors receive information via email notifications which direct them to go to a secured access website which is not available to the public and access is limited.