

2024 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	2. Fiscal Year
Department of Agriculture	2024
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?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	06/13/2023	06/13/2027	

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
No		

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Continue	No	Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Authorized by Law

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
Section 135(c)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended.	03/27/1975	Continuing	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** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 0

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 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 in person approximately twice a year. Virtual meetings and conference calls are also methods used to hold ad hoc meetings. For 2023, the committee met four times, three times virtually and once in person.

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 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

Kelly Skupnik (Acting) DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Bachmann, Peter	01/15/2020	01/15/2024	USA Rice Federation U.S. Agriculture for WTO Reform Coalition	Representative Member
Bomer-Lauritsen, Sharon	06/10/2023	06/10/2027	US Grains Council	Representative Member
Brandt, Andrew	06/10/2023	06/10/2027		

Braun, Gregory	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	Border Valley Trading	Representative Member
Bryant-Struse, Betsy	06/10/2023	06/10/2027	Cargill, Inc.	Representative Member
Cleveland, Wayne	06/10/2023	06/10/2027	Texas Grain Sorghum Association	Representative Member
DeLaughter, Dennis	06/15/2019	06/10/2027	U.S. Rice Federation	Representative Member
Fisher, Max	06/15/2019	06/10/2027	National Grain and Feed Association (NFGA)	Representative Member
Fisher, Neal	06/10/2019	06/10/2027	North Dakota Wheat Commission	Representative Member
Gaesser, Raymond	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	The Scoular Company	Representative Member
Haigwood, Derek	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	D.I.D. Farms	Representative Member
Hayden, Patrick	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	North American Export Grain Association	Representative Member
Healy, Brian	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	U.S. Grains Council	Representative Member
Hemmes, April	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	Hemmes Farms	Representative Member
Henry, Dalton	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	U.S. Wheat Associates	Representative Member
Hinze, Grant	06/10/2023	06/10/2027	Kelley Bean Company	Representative Member
Hoffman, William	06/10/2019	06/10/2027	Self Employed Farmer	Representative Member
Holt, Mark	06/10/2023	06/10/2027	Riceland Foods, Inc	Representative Member
Hubbard, Edward	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	Renewable Fuels Association	Representative Member
Johnson, Brent	06/10/2023	06/10/2027	Iowa Farm Bureau	Representative Member
Leeck, Rosalind	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	U.S. Soybean Export Council	Representative Member
Lust, Tim	06/10/2023	06/10/2027	National Sorghum Producers	Representative Member

Lyons, Tina	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	Double River Forwarding LLC	Representative Member
Nichols, Michael	06/10/2019	06/10/2027	Nichols Family Farms, LLC	Representative Member
Peck, Samuel	06/10/2023	06/10/2027	Jack's Bean Company, LLC	Representative Member
Rekeweg, Matthew	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	Corteva Agriscience	Representative Member
Rue, Michael	06/10/2023	06/10/2027	Catlett Warehouse	Representative Member
Seyfert, Christy	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	American Soybean Association	Representative Member
Stafford, William	06/10/2023	06/10/2027	CHS, Inc.	Representative Member
Starkey, Charles	06/10/2023	06/10/2027	North American Renderers Association	Representative Member
Suess, Randall	01/17/2021	01/17/2025	Suess Farms Inc.	Representative Member
Suppes, Ron	06/10/2019	06/10/2027	Suppes Farms	Representative Member
Vorhees-Tumbarello, Gina	06/15/2019	06/10/2027	American Feed Industry Association	Representative Member
Wertish, Gary	06/10/2019	06/10/2027	Minnesota Farmers Union	Representative Member
Westlin, Jacob	06/10/2023	06/10/2027	National Association of Wheat Growers	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 35

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	<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 type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

N/A

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

N/A

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

43

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 Grains ATAC committee proposed 1 resolution and put forth 1 recommendation and 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, 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	<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

☐

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.