

1999 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Commission on Small Farms

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

2. Fiscal Year

1999

3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Commission on Small
Farms

3b. GSA Committee No.

5187

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	07/09/1997	07/09/1999	07/11/1999

8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
Yes	Agency Decision	07/11/1999

9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Terminate	No	

11. Establishment Authority Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
Agency Decision	07/11/1999	Ad hoc	No

15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory
Board

16a. Total
Number of
Reports

No Reports for
this FiscalYear

17a. 0 17b. Closed0 17c. Partially Closed0 Other Activities0 17d. Total0
Open

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	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
18d. Total	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.10	0.10

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The National Commission on Small Farms serves the Secretary of Agriculture by providing recommendations on how to ensure the continued viability of small farms and to improve USDA services to small farms. Members represent many types of farms from different regions of the country, land-grant universities, nonprofit organizations that work with small farms, credit and conservation interests, state government, and farmworkers. With this breadth of knowledge and

experience, members are able to provide advice on issues and special needs related to small farms. The Commission sought further ideas and advice in 7 public hearings from farmers, organizations representing the interests of small farmers, agriculture academics and economists, and those individuals with an interest in small farms. The Commission will be providing a report to the Secretary of Agriculture early next fiscal year.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The National Commission on Small Farms is composed of 30 members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The Commission consisted of people who are farmers and ranchers, staff of nonprofit farm and farmworker advocacy organizations, Extension professionals, current and former public officials, agribusiness representatives, and philanthropic foundation program staff. Twelve members are farmers or ranchers, and among them, they produce beef cattle, wheat, soybeans, other grains, hogs, dairy cattle, vegetables, and organic fruit; and two of the farmers are young. Seven members represent minority and traditionally underserved farmers. Two members represent nonprofit foundations; five members represent land-grant university and extension programs; and the others represent farmworkers, State government, conservation interests, credit interests, and agribusiness.

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

The Secretary of Agriculture appointed the Commission on July 16, 1997 and requested a report by September 30, 1997. With this deadline, the Commission organized quickly and had its first

meeting July 28, 1997. They decided that public participation would be a critical element in developing recommendations. Hearings were conducted to receive regional perspectives and diverse recommendations. The Commission conducted a total of 7 public hearings from July 28 through September 15. At three of the public hearings, the Commission also conducted working sessions to develop recommendations. In its report, the Commission recommended that it would meet to receive updates from the USDA on implementation of the recommendations. Two meetings in Fiscal Year 1999 are planned.

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

In the February 1997, USDA Civil Rights Action Team report, it was recommended that the Secretary of Agriculture appoint a diverse commission to develop a national strategy on small farms. The Civil Rights Team heard of many instances where small, beginning, minority, and women farmers were not being provided services from the USDA and that many farmers were struggling economically. The Commission was directed to develop a strategy that would ensure the continued viability of small farms and include specific measures the public, nonprofit and private sectors could take to enhance the economic livelihood of small farms into the next century.

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

N/A

21. Remarks

Designated Federal Officer

Jennifer Yezak-Molen DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Albertson, Charles	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	State Senator	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Armstrong-Cummings, Karen	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Director, Commodity Growers Cooperative Association	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Barber, J.	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Farmer	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Blount, Ernest	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Farmer	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Bolen, Carrol	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Vice President, Legal & Govt Affairs, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Bowlan, Marion	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Executive Director, Pennsylvania Farm Link, Inc.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Burkett, Ben	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Marketing Specialist, Federation of Southern Cooperatives	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Carrasquillo, Nelson	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Executive Director, CATA-Farmworker Support Committee	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Coward, E.	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Senior Director, Ford Foundation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Daniels, Robert	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Farmer	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Gomez, R.	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Education/Project Director, New Mexcio State University, Coop Extension	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Guerra, Dario	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Rancher	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Gunthorp, Greg	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Farmer	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Harness, Jesse	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Associate Extension Administrator, Alcorn State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Hassebrook, Chuck	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Program Director, Center For Rural Affairs	Government Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Henderson, Douglas	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Farmer	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Herness, Everette	08/20/1997	09/30/1999	Farmer	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Holland, Gladys	08/20/1997	09/30/1999	Extension Assistant	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Jolly, Desmond	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Director, Small Farms Program, University of California-Davis	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Kelley, Kathleen	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Rancher/Farmer	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Magdoff, Fred	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Professor, University of Vermont	Government Employee (SGE) Member

Neely, James	08/20/1997	09/30/1999	Farmer	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Reid, Jaclyn	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Conservation District Supervisor and Board Chair, Olympia, WA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Smitman, Greg	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Executive Director, Intertribal Agriculture Council	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Stewart, Ronald	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Farmer	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Thao, Toulou	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Executive Director, Hmong American Community, Inc.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Trantham, Thomas	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Farmer	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Volkmer, Harold	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Attorney	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Zippert, John	07/16/1997	09/30/1999	Director of Program Operations, Federation of Southern Cooperatives	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 29

Narrative Description

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 type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Outcome Comments

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine | <input 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?

0

Number of Recommendations Comments

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

%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

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

%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

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

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒

Agency Feedback Comments

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 type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

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

No

Grant Review Comments

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