

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States

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1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Federal Communications Commission	2024
3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States	84573

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	11/29/2023	11/29/2025	01/01/2025

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	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
2018 Farm Bill	12/20/2018	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee National Policy Issue Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports No Reports for this Fiscal Year

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

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?

The mission of the Task Force will be to consult with the Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter "Secretary"), or a designee of the Secretary, and collaborate with public and private stakeholders in the agriculture and technology fields to: a) identify and measure current gaps in the availability of broadband Internet access service on agricultural land; b) develop policy recommendations to promote the rapid, expanded deployment of broadband Internet access service on unserved

agricultural land, with a goal of achieving reliable capabilities on 95 percent of agricultural land in the United States by 2025; c) promote effective policy and regulatory solutions that encourage the adoption of broadband Internet access service on farms and ranches and promote precision agriculture; d) recommend specific new rules or amendments to existing rules of the Commission that the Commission should issue to achieve the goals and purposes of the policy recommendations described in b); e) recommend specific steps that the Commission should take to obtain reliable and standardized data measurements of the availability of broadband Internet access service as may be necessary to target funding support, from future programs of the Commission dedicated to the deployment of broadband Internet access service, to unserved agricultural land in need of broadband Internet access service; and f) recommend specific steps that the Commission should consider to ensure that the expertise of the Secretary and available farm data are reflected in future programs of the Commission.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Members will represent a wide variety of entities with interests in precision agriculture technologies and practices. Members of the Task Force shall be selected by the Chairwoman of the Commission, in consultation with the Secretary and appropriate Commission staff. The Task Force shall be composed of not more than 15 voting members who will be appointed either as Representatives or as Special Government Employees (SGEs) as necessary. As required by the Act, voting members shall include: a) agricultural producers representing diverse

geographic regions and farm sizes, including owners and operators of farms of less than 100 acres; b) an agricultural producer representing tribal agriculture; c) Internet service providers, including regional or rural fixed and mobile broadband Internet access service providers and telecommunications infrastructure providers; d) representatives from the electric cooperative industry; e) representatives from the satellite industry; f) representatives from precision agriculture equipment manufacturers, including drone manufacturers, manufacturers of autonomous agricultural machinery, and manufacturers of farming robotics technologies; g) representatives from State and local governments; and h) representatives with relevant expertise in broadband network data collection, geospatial analysis, and coverage mapping. Voting members will be fairly balanced in terms of their technological experience, points of view, and fields of knowledge relevant to the Task Force.

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

The Task Force meets 3-4 times per year, meeting more frequently closer to its statutory reporting deadlines. The Task Force met 4 times in FY2023.

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

This Task Force is intended to provide an effective means for stakeholders to exchange ideas and develop recommendations and submit reports to the Chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission in adherence to the Task Force's statutory responsibilities.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or

partially closed committee meetings?

Not Applicable

21. Remarks

Designated Federal Officer

Emily Caditz DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Adelaine, Michael	12/04/2019	12/02/2023	CIO & Special Advisor to the President	Representative Member
Artho, Dale	12/04/2019	12/02/2023	Commissioner	Representative Member
Bajwa, Sreekala	12/02/2021	12/02/2023	Vice President, Dean & Director	Representative Member
Bater, Andy	12/04/2019	12/02/2023	Farmer	Representative Member
Bekele, Teddy	12/04/2019	12/02/2023	Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer	Representative Member
Burke, Andy	12/02/2022	12/02/2023	USDA Ex-Officio Member	Ex Officio Member
Bushell, Julie	12/02/2021	12/02/2023	President, Paige Wireless	Representative Member
Dillard, Anthony	12/04/2019	12/02/2023	Tribal Councilman	Representative Member
Gomes, Michael	12/04/2019	12/02/2023	Vice President, Strategic Business Development	Representative Member
Hampton+Knodle, Heather	12/02/2021	12/02/2023	Vice President & Secretary	Representative Member
Hance, Robert	12/02/2021	12/02/2023	President & CEO	Representative Member
Krogh, Ryan	12/02/2021	12/02/2023	Manager, Production System Program Management	Representative Member

Manner, Jennifer	12/02/2021	12/02/2023	Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs	Representative Member
Sterling, Joy	12/02/2021	12/02/2023	Chief Executive Officer	Representative Member
Todd, Jimmy	12/02/2021	12/02/2023	Chief Executive Officer & General Manager	Representative Member
Watermeier, Dan	03/28/2023	12/02/2023	Commissioner	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 16

Narrative Description

The Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States (Precision Ag Connectivity Task Force or Task Force) will provide advice and recommendations for the FCC on how to assess and advance deployment of broadband Internet access service on unserved agriculture land to promote precision agriculture. Congress directed the FCC, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, to establish the Precision Ag Connectivity Task Force in the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill).

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

Unable to determine

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?

162

Number of Recommendations Comments

Recommendations were adopted 10/28/2020, 3/12/2021, 11/10/2021, and 10/5/22.

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

1%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Recommendations were adopted 10/28/2020, 3/12/2021, 11/10/2021, and 10/5/22.

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

18%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Recommendations were adopted 10/28/2020, 3/12/2021, 11/10/2021, and 10/5/22.

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 through the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) or through correspondence between the Commission and the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Task Force. The public can find more information about the Task Force on the Committee's website:

<https://www.fcc.gov/task-force-reviewing-connectivity-and-technology-needs-precision-agricultur>

Because recommendations from the Task Force pertain to a wide variety of FCC proceedings, the Commission does not provide specific information to the public regarding implementation of the recommendations. The public can search through a list of open proceedings which may incorporate the Task Force's recommendations at:

<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-proceedings>. Agency feedback may also be provided at public meetings. Recordings of previous meetings are available on the committee's website.

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

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

N/A