

Urban Producers, Public Invited to Attend Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

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Meeting to be held August 5, 2022

Tolland, Connecticut July 20, 2022 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) encourages urban producers and others to attend the second public meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production on August 5. The Committee will discuss new urban conservation practices, focus areas and priorities for the Commission, and the new Farm Service Agency (FSA) urban county committees, among other topics.

“This Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production is giving USDA valuable insights, feedback and guidance on how USDA can better serve producers in urban areas,” said Brian Guse, Director of USDA’s Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP). “Working with the Committee, USDA will develop strategies to address the needs of urban agricultural producers and promote innovative production, strengthen local food systems, and increase equity and access to healthy, local food.”

The Committee is part of USDA’s efforts to support urban agriculture, creating a network for feedback. Members include agricultural producers, and representatives from the areas of higher education or extension programs, non-profits, business and economic development, supply chains and financing. The inaugural meeting of the Committee was held in March 2022.

About the Meeting

Topics include:

- Focus areas and priorities for the Committee
- Update on USDA’s Equity Commission priorities
- Briefing on New urban conservation practices

- Update on FSA urban county committees

The meeting is August 5, 2022 from 1-3 p.m. Eastern. To attend, [register by Aug. 4, 2022](#). The public can register to attend the Committee meeting at [zoomgov](#). Written comments or questions must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern July 29 through the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#). For special accommodations, please contact Tammy Willis at (315) 456-9024 or UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov.

USDA will post the final agenda 24 to 48 hours prior to the meeting on farmers.gov/urban. For additional information about the Committee or the upcoming meeting please visit the [June 30 Federal Register](#) notice and the [Committee's webpage](#).

USDA and Urban Agriculture

The Committee is part of a broad USDA investment in urban agriculture. Other efforts include:

- Reopening the [People's Garden Initiative](#). People's Gardens across the country grow fresh, healthy food and support resilient, local food systems; teach people how to garden using sustainable practices; and nurture habitat for pollinators and wildlife, and greenspace for neighbors.
- Offering [grants](#) that target areas of food access, education, business and start-up costs for new farmers, and policy development related to zoning and other urban production needs. USDA made available \$14.2 million this year as well as invested \$18.7 million in projects not able to be funded in 2021.
- Offering [cooperative agreements](#) that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans. USDA made available \$10.2 million this year.
- Providing technical and financial assistance through conservation programs offered by USDA's [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) (NRCS).
- Investing \$260,000 for risk management training and crop insurance education for historically underserved and urban producers through partnerships between USDA's [Risk Management Agency](#) (RMA) and state universities.
- Announcement of 17 FSA urban county committees.

OUAIP was established through the 2018 Farm Bill. It is led by NRCS and works in partnership with numerous USDA agencies that support urban agriculture. Its mission is to encourage and promote urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural practices, including community composting and food

waste reduction.

Additional resources that may be of interest to urban agriculture entities include grants from USDA's [Agricultural Marketing Service](#) and [National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#) as well as [FSA loans](#).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy, and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit usda.gov.

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