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Farm Service Agency

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Urban Producers, Public Invited to Attend August Meeting of Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production?

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Contact: FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov

WASHINGTON, July 6, 2023 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) encourages urban producers, innovative producers and other stakeholders to submit comments for and virtually attend a public meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (Committee) on Aug. 1, 2023. ?

“The Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Federal Advisory Committee continues to support urban agriculture and innovative production efforts at USDA with on the ground insight and advice,” said Terry Cosby, Chief of USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which houses USDA’s Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP). “I encourage members of the public to attend and submit comments for the Committee.”??

The Committee is part of USDA’s efforts to support urban and innovative 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 committee last met in April 2023.??

About the Meeting??

Topics for the upcoming meeting will include addressing public comments and discussing the following recommended topics:

- Food waste prevention and food recovery
- Surplus food recovery
- Compostable food packing standards

The Committee will deliberate and vote on proposed recommendations and address public comments during the meeting. USDA will share the agenda between 24 to 48 hours prior to the meeting on <https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/federal-advisory-committee-urban-ag>.

The virtual meeting runs from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern on Aug. 1, 2023. To attend virtually, register by August 1, 2023 on the [Committee's webpage](#). To submit comments, send by 11:59 p.m. ET on Aug. 15, 2023 through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Docket NRCS-2023-0014.

For special accommodations, contact Markus Holliday at UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov.

Additional details are available in the [Federal Register notice](#).

More Information ?

The Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production was established through the 2018 Farm Bill. It is led by NRCS and works in partnership with numerous USDA agencies that support urban agriculture and innovative production. The Committee is part of a broad USDA investment in urban agriculture. Other efforts include: ??? ??

- Investing up to \$7.5 million for [Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#) competitive grants in fiscal year 2023. ???
- Investing up to \$9.5 million for [Composting and Food Waste Reduction](#) (CFWR) pilot projects for fiscal year 2023.??
- Renewing the [People's Garden](#) movement -- join the People's Garden community with gardens across the country; grow using sustainable practices that benefit people and wildlife; and teach about gardening and resilient, local food systems.
- Providing technical and financial assistance through NRCS conservation programs.????
- Organizing 17 Farm Service Agency urban county committees.
- Investing nearly \$133 million in grants through the Agricultural Marketing Service's [Local Agriculture Market Program \(LAMP\)](#) that develop, coordinate, and expand producer-to-consumer marketing, local and regional food markets, and local food enterprises.???
- Helping child nutrition program operators incorporate local foods through the Food and Nutrition Services [Farm to School Program](#).

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 throughout 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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