



## USDA SCIENCE COUNCIL

### EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE CHARTER

#### I. PURPOSE

The USDA Science Council facilitates and supports cross-Department coordination and collaboration among all USDA agencies. The Council advises the Secretary and Chief Scientist on the priorities for USDA's science agenda. The USDA science agenda will be strengthened by a strong commitment to furthering education, both formal and informal, in the sciences, and preparing this and the next generation of leaders with a solid foundation in the agricultural, natural resources, forestry, food, and life sciences. Therefore, a USDA Education Coordinating Committee under the Science Council will provide a basis for closer collaboration across agencies on educational efforts and assure that efforts are not being duplicated, strengths are leveraged, as one USDA pursuing all reasonable efforts in innovation in food, agriculture, natural resources, forestry, and life science education.

#### II. OBJECTIVES

The USDA Education Coordinating Committee will

1. Provide a forum to identify and prioritize needs for new education initiatives.
2. Facilitate agency initiatives to develop performance indicators, best practices, and to leverage expertise between USDA agencies on education programs.
3. Serve as a point of planning and contact for USDA to engage in government-wide and public-private partnership education programs.
4. Form working groups of interested Agencies to develop new cooperative programs.
5. Be a focal point for USDA relevant education initiatives, news and requests from the education community outside USDA as well as international education efforts.
6. Support broad USDA participation on the National Science and Technology Council STEM Education Committee.
7. Develop a roadmap that clarifies USDA's collaborative approach for education.
8. Develop and maintain the Education Coordinating Committee website.

### III. SPONSORSHIP and MEMBERSHIP

The Undersecretary for Research, Education and Economics and the Chief Scientist will provide administrative and communication support for the Education Coordinating Committee. The Committee will be chaired by the Deputy Undersecretary for REE as well as the NIFA Deputy Director for the Institute of Youth, Family, and Community (or other NIFA rep as designated by Director of NIFA). The Committee will have delegated an executive secretary to manage logistics and assist the Committee chair with preparing an agenda and keeping records of the activities of the Committee.

Members of the Committee will consist of USDA Senior Executives or there designees from the REE Agencies and USDA Program Agencies and Administrative Offices as appointed by the Administrator of each Agency or Office. Members serve without compensation beyond their regular salaries; thus, there will be no cost of operation.

### IV. COMMITTEE OPERATIONS

The Education Coordinating Committee will meet bi-monthly or meet quarterly as needed. The Education Coordinating Committee will develop recommendations to be presented to the Chief Scientist on high priority education issues.

The Committee will submit an annual report to the Chief Scientist that includes activities undertaken and educational priorities for USDA.

This charter shall be evaluated and updated every two years or as members deem appropriate.

### V. DECISION-MAKING PROTOCOL

Recommendations of this committee will be determined by consensus so long as 70 percent of the members are in attendance. If a member is absent, a designated representative from the same member organization may participate. Each member organization will have one vote/opinion.

### VI. RELATIONSHIPS

The Committee advises the Science Council of the USDA. The committee will serve as the intermediary between the Science Council and the NSTC Committee on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education, and the FC-STEM Sub-Committees.