

# URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC MEETING  
APRIL 18, 2023 | 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM ET  
ZOOM FOR GOVERNMENT

## MEETING MINUTES

The Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee (UAIPAC) is established by section 12302 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill), Public Law 115-334, 7 U.S.C. § 6923(b)(1), to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on the development of policies and outreach relating to urban, indoor, and other emerging agriculture production practices; and other aspects of the implementation of that section of the Farm Bill. This Federal advisory committee operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended.

In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the UAIPAC was convened for its fourth public meeting on April 18, 2023, from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. The meeting was open to the public and held fully virtually via Zoom webinar.

A [Federal Register notice](#) was published on March 29, 2023, providing general information and public participation details for the meeting. Secondary notices were also sent out to the public directly by the agency.

Committee web page: <https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/federal-advisory-committee-urban-ag>

General inquiries: [UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov](mailto:UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov)

## ACRONYMS

- **DFO** – Designated Federal Officer
- **FSA** – Farm Service Agency
- **NRCS** – Natural Resources Conservation Service
- **OUAIP** – Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production
- **UAIPAC** – Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee
- **USDA** – United States Department of Agriculture

## MEETING AGENDA

Item #	Topic
1.	Welcome & Attendance
2.	Opening Remarks
3.	Addressing Public Comments
4.	Deliberation/Voting
5.	Closing Remarks

## MEETING ATTENDANCE

<b>Committee Members</b>			
Name	Represented Group	Present	Attendance Type
Allison Papp	Financial Entity	✓	Virtual
Angie Mason (Chairperson)	Related Experience	✓	Virtual
Bobby L. Wilson	Urban Production	✓	Virtual
Carl P. Wallace	Non-Profit	✓	Virtual
Jerry Ann Hebron	Urban Production	☒	
John Erwin	Higher Education	✓	Virtual
John Lebeaux	Business/Economic Development	✓	Virtual
Kaben Smallwood	Innovative Production	✓	Virtual
Sally Brown	Higher Education	✓	Virtual
Tara Chadwick (Co-Chairperson)	Related Experience	✓	Virtual
Viraj Puri	Innovative Production	✓	Virtual
Zachari Curtis	Food Supply Chain	✓	Virtual

USDA Staff	
Name	Position/Title
Brian Guse	Designated Federal Officer
Markus Holliday	Coordinator

The general public attendance list can be found [here](#).

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment period was open from March 29, 2023 to May 2, 2023. Written comments can be viewed here: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NRCS-2023-0006/comments>.

Comments are reviewed and may be considered for further discussion at a future public meeting. Oral comments were not accepted for this meeting.

## MEETING MINUTES

### Welcome and Attendance

*Markus Holliday (Coordinator)* welcomed and thanked everyone for joining. He also took attendance of committee members to ensure the meeting had a quorum.

### Opening Remarks

*Brian Guse (DFO)* called the meeting to order and proceeded to go over the meeting agenda and provide an overview of the purpose and priorities of the UAIPAC.

### Addressing Public Comments

- *Angie Mason (Chair)* addressed previous public comments regarding controlled environment growing and working with municipalities to figure out how to address zoning, water, and land issues. Other comments addressed included food access and Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans.
- *Tara Chadwick (Co-Chair)* thanked the public for providing written comments and acknowledged the importance of the having feedback to help form recommendations.

## Deliberation/Voting

**Note:** See slides in the Zoom [meeting recording](#) for full recommendations.

**Brian Guse (DFO)** provided an overview of deliberation and voting ground rules.

### Proposed Recommendation #1: Public Database for Grant/Funding Programs

*Create a public/online database that would serve as the aggregation point for a comprehensive updated list of programs for funding, incentives, and support available to urban farmers and innovative producers and share these opportunities to access funding and support in ways that are culturally and linguistically appropriate.*

- **Tara Chadwick (Co-Chair)** presented the recommendation and provided background information.
- **Angie Mason (Chair)** opened the floor for deliberation.
- **John Erwin (Member)** added a comment to ensure the website has a format and capability to function on mobile devices for users who do not have access to a laptop or desktop computer.

### **FINAL RESULT:**

With no additional comments from other members, the recommendation was moved to a vote and passed by simple majority.

### Proposed Recommendation #2: Farm Service Agency (FSA) Loan Program

*Conduct a review of Farm Service Agency (FSA) Microloan Program to determine overall utilization, program effectiveness, and typical timelines required from inquiry to funding.*

- **Allison Paap (Member)** presented the recommendation and provided background information.
- **Angie Mason (Chair)** opened the floor for deliberation.
- **Kaben Smallwood (Member)** commented that the recommendation was well put together and acknowledged the questions and comments that were coming through the live Zoom

feed. He also commented that the recommendation addresses one of the best entry points for new producers with no experience.

- ***Sally Brown (Member)*** commented that the recommendation was well thought out and clearly written and also addressed the issue of potential inconsistencies across different regions in the United States.
- ***John Erwin (Member)*** commented to acknowledge the USDA Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers and posed a question to determine if there is any value to submitting the recommendation to the committee for joint support.
- ***Bobby L. Wilson (Member)*** commented to thank the committee for their work and voiced his support for the recommendation.

### **FINAL RESULT:**

With no additional comments from other members, the recommendation was moved to a vote and passed by simple majority.

### **Proposed Recommendation #3: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

*Add SNAP participation as a criteria for eligibility to vote on or serve on a local USDA county or urban committee. In addition, track and publish the impacts of the ending of SNAP emergency food waivers.*

- ***Tara Chadwick (Co-Chair)*** presented the recommendation and provided background information.
- ***Angie Mason (Chair)*** opened the floor for deliberation.
- ***John Erwin (Member)*** questioned if the recommendation increases the universal number of people who can participate on the committees, so it expands potential committee participation.
- ***Tara Chadwick (Co-chair)*** responded to confirm with a “yes” response.
- ***Bobby L. Wilson (Member)*** commented that producers should have input in terms of production practices and they have traditionally been left out. He added that the

recommendation seems to be out of scope and should rather have an effect to impact farmers directly.

- ***Sally Brown (Member)*** commented in response to Bobby Wilson to add that the recommendation is centered around the SNAP program and it does address primary producers within the bullet points of the recommendation.
- ***Bobby L. Wilson (Member)*** commented to reiterate his concerns about impacting farmers directly.
- ***Kaben Smallwood (Member)*** commented that Bobby L. Wilsons' point is valid and offered to work with him to figure out a way to address the issue more directly.
- ***Tara Chadwick (Co-chair)*** commented that the decisions being made in her local community about the ability to impact and increase farming are being made by people who do not live there and the only way to change that is by expanding the SNAP program to be equal with all other USDA farm programs.
- ***Carl P. Wallace (Member)*** requested an amendment to track and publish the impact of ending the SNAP emergency. He also added that he agrees with the comments from Bobby L. Wilson and Kaben Smallwood.
- ***Angie Mason (Chair)*** thanked everyone for their comments and expressed her interest in calling the recommendation to a vote.
- ***John Erwin (Member)*** seconded the motion and amendment commented by Carl P. Wallace.

### **FINAL RESULT:**

With no additional comments from other members, the recommendation was moved to a vote and passed by simple majority.

**Note:** *A five-minute administrative break was taken approximately one hour into the meeting. After the break the committee continued deliberations starting with recommendation #5 since recommendation #4 received a passed vote at the previous meeting.*

## Proposed Recommendation #5: Food Waste Prevention and Food Recovery

*Standardize and clarify date labels for food expiration to reduce food waste. Partner with existing organizations and States to disseminate information on how to reduce food waste on a consumer level.*

- **Sally Brown (Member)** presented the recommendation and provided background information.
- **Angie Mason (Chair)** opened the floor for deliberation.
- **Bobby L. Wilson (Member)** commented to raise a concern about duplicative efforts with food banks across America.
- **Sally Brown (Member)** responded to clarify there was a separate recommendation related to gleaning and food recovery from farms and the recommendation being presented was centered on reducing edible food waste.
- **John Erwin (Member)** posed a question to Sally Brown asking how expiration dates are determined and also commented on the lack of science to make the determinations.
- **Sally Brown (Member)** responded that she could not provide a quantitative answer but did provide a real-life example of how she is aware that certain commodities do not expire. She also explained that not all consumers have the same knowledge but can be more educated if there were changes made to food labeling to reduce food waste.
- **Bobby L. Wilson (Member)** commented that consumers should also be more educated on the “sell by” date of food labeling because many consumers are under the notion that the food is no longer consumable based on those dates.
- **Kaben Smallwood (Member)** commented that date labeling on many products are also voluntary and the manufacturer is the party that chooses the dates to apply. He also thanked Sally Brown for bringing the recommendation forward and made a motion to move it forward.
- **John Erwin (Member)** added an additional comment to emphasize the ramifications of the food waste cycle and how the 37% of food waste by consumers translates to many of the before and after actions in production and processing including the use of fertilizer, pesticides, transportation, and water.
- **Allison Paap (Member)** questioned who labels the food.

- **Tara Chadwick (Co-Chair)** responded that it depends on the food and referenced a presentation provided to the committee in a previous closed administrative meeting about USDA's involvement with only meat, poultry, and eggs.
- **Sally Brown (Member)** also responded to mention that the effort would potentially require cooperation with other Federal agencies.
- **Angie Mason (Chair)** reminded everyone that Kaben Smallwood made an earlier motion to call the recommendation to a vote and asked if there were any seconds to the motions.
- **John Lebeaux (Member)** seconded the motion.
- **Angie Mason (Chair)** yielded to Brian Guse to call for a vote.

**FINAL RESULT:** With no additional comments from other members, the recommendation was moved to a vote and passed by simple majority.

**Note:** *Recommendations 6-8 were presented and discussed by the committee, however due to internal miscommunications the recommendations were not presented as received from the original furnisher. All three recommendations were tabled to be presented at the next public meeting.*

### **Closing Remarks**

**Brian Guse (DFO)** thanked the committee members and the public for their participation. He also acknowledged the comments submitted via Zoom chat during the meeting and followed-up by reiterating the instructions for the public to provide written comments/statements. He also announced the planned nomination period for future member vacancies and provided instructions on how to obtain additional information through [www.usda.gov/urban](http://www.usda.gov/urban).

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 P.M ET.



I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

/s/

Brian Guse

Designated Federal Officer

Urban Agriculture and Innovative

Production Advisory Committee

/s/

Angie Mason

Chairperson

Urban Agriculture and Innovative

Production Advisory Committee