Notional Outline for 2016 AC21 Report

Coexistence—why it’s important (including quotes from Secretary Vilsack)

- Enables realization of opportunities for farmers
- Builds on the strengths of US agriculture
- Encourages diversity
- Supports rural communities
- Demonstrates that issues can be peacefully resolved
- Everyone shares responsibility.

Previous work by the AC21 on coexistence

- Early work of previous committees
- Last AC21 report and its recommendations
- Genesis of the current charge for the committee

What this report will do

- Provide context for ongoing discussions around evolving pressures farmers face regarding how they grow their crops and which crops they choose
- Offer suggestions, not mandates
- Provide tools that farmers and local communities may consider to help them in their farming operations or in providing new product opportunities or opportunities for community dialogue
- Offer suggestions for increased involvement by a range of local organizations and institutions

Process of preparing this report

- Meetings
- Outside presentations
- Subgroup discussions
- Procedures for drafting the report and achieving consensus

Coexistence is an ongoing process but is not new

- Role of farmer-to-farmer dialogue and shared responsibilities in coexistence
- Part of larger context of increasing complexity of farming
- Other examples of cooperation—MP3s, watershed management
- Challenge of incentivizing coexistence discussions when issues of gene flow may be of unequal importance across the fence line
- Strengthening farmers’ natural inclinations to be good neighbors without inappropriate Federal intervention

Challenges for coexistence now and into the future

- Increasing demands on producers
- Disconnect between expectations of some consumers and farm realities
Challenges of a diversifying marketplace domestically and internationally
- Unknown impacts of labeling requirements
- Pressures caused by low commodity prices

Seed issue
- Importance of seed quality/purity for all farmers
- Role of contract protocols associated with seed purchase or with IP production
- Earlier AC21 discussion on seed purity/availability
- Current seed law
- Challenges of obtaining seed for GE-sensitive farmers
- What USDA has been doing to help
- What seed companies provide and opportunities for niche markets
- Committee members’ views on seed purity
- General call for increased transparency

Products with functional traits
- Expectations of a commodity market and the challenges of products that challenge commodity and other uses
- History of separated products
- Types of products that are emerging and challenges for the future
- Potential direct and indirect market impacts
- Potential mitigations

Two elements of solutions at the local level (please see draft documents for more details)
- Provision of useful information to IP farmers and their neighbors
- Promotion of dialogue on a local level: a model to help localities develop constructive local forums to address problems