

# URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## PUBLIC MEETING SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 | 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM (ET) 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 a public meeting on September 10, 2025, from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M (ET). The meeting was held virtually and open to the public to join via Zoom.

A [Federal Register notice](#) was published on August 26, 2025, 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)

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## ACRONYMS

- **DFO** – Designated Federal Officer
- **FPAC** – Farm Production and Conservation
- **NRCS** – Natural Resources Conservation Service
- **OUAIP** – Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production
- **UAIPAC** – Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee

## MEETING AGENDA

Item #	Topic
1.	Welcome
2.	Opening Remarks
3.	Public Comments
4.	Open Discussion/Debrief
5.	Closing Remarks

See official copy on the [Committee Website](#).

## MEETING ATTENDANCE

UAIPAC Members			
Name	Represented Industry	Attendance	Attendance Type
Allison Papp	Financial Entity	Absent	N/A
Tony Minnick	Related Experience	Present	Virtual
Carl P. Wallace	Non-Profit Entity	Present	Virtual
Jerry Ann Hebron	Urban Production	Absent	N/A
Catherine Campbell	Higher Education/Extension	Present	Virtual
Kate Greenberg	Business/Economic Development	Absent	N/A
Kaben Smallwood	Innovative Production	Present	Virtual
Jeff Young	Higher Education/Extension	Present	Virtual
Qiana Mickie	Related Experience	Present	Virtual
Viraj Puri	Innovative Production	Present	Virtual
Dion Dawson	Supply Chain	Present	Virtual

For a full list of member biographies visit: <https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/federal-advisory-committee-urban-ag/members>

<b>USDA Staff</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/Title</b>
Markus Holliday	Acting Designated Federal Officer, Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production
Aubrey Bettencourt	Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service

To request a copy of the public attendee list contact:

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

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

A public comment period was open from August 26, 2025 – September 30, 2025. Written comments were accepted via initial Zoom registration, email, and during the public meeting via Zoom Q&A. All comments that align with the statutory purpose and duties of UAIPAC are reviewed and may be considered for further discussion at a future public meeting. Oral comments were also accepted during the meeting.

To request a copy of the written public comments contact:

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

## MEETING RECORDING

To request a copy of the Zoom meeting recording contact:

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

## MEETING MINUTES

### Welcome

**Markus Holliday (Action DFO)** welcomed and thanked everyone for joining. He also provided the audience with the meeting objectives and reviewed the agenda before taking attendance to ensure the meeting quorum.

### Opening Remarks

**Aubrey Bettencourt (Chief)** welcomed the newly appointed committee members and applauded the committee's efforts and work. She also provided insight into the shifted focus and mission for NRCS under the new administration and the potential for the committee's efforts to align.

### Public Comments

Several members of the public who pre-registered to provide oral comments were given up to three minutes each to discuss relevant topics and concerns that align with the UAIPAC purpose and duties.

### Open Discussion/Debrief

**Kaben Smallwood (Chairperson) and Qiana Mickie (Co-Chairperson)** led the committee into an open discussion and debrief on the earlier remarks from the Chief and public comments.

**Kaben Smallwood (Chairperson)** thanked the Chief for attending the meeting and providing insight into future expectations of the Committee and Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. He also thanked the public attendees for their comments and highlighted the importance of public feedback to accomplish goals.

**Qiana Mickie (Co-Chairperson)** highlighted the critical need for USDA staff and programs to be maintained and continue operations to provide adequate resources for urban/innovative farmers and other producers. She also addressed the USDA hold placed on urban agriculture and innovative production grant funding that had become a deep rising concern among the farmers, producers, and eligible entities who were looking forward to applying for funding in 2025.

***Tony Minnick (Member)*** introduced himself and provided background on his role as an Agriculture Park Director. He also highlighted his experience with USDA programs and gave examples of how he's helped others navigate the use and benefits of programs.

***Catherine Campbell (Member)*** introduced herself and highlighted some of the programs and research she was involved with as a professor and extension specialist to focus on social sciences and how that relates to urban agriculture and development.

***Dion Dawson (Member)*** introduced himself and provided background information on his experience and profession in the supply chain and logistics industry. He highlighted his mission and the importance of being innovative to combat food security and improve health equity.

***Jeff Young (Member)*** provided feedback on the Chief's remarks and stressed the importance of having quantifiable results to make improvements to USDA programs. He then provided background on his experience working with land-grant universities and how they have done a good job in providing data to help improve scaling efforts for smaller farm operators.

***Carl P. Wallace (Member)*** highlighted statistics on the number of individuals in the U.S population who reside in close proximity to urban farms relative to rural farms. He also provided statistics on the budget allocation for urban farms to make a connection to the critical need of USDA programs and initiatives related to urban agriculture and innovative production.

### **Closing Remarks**

***Markus Holliday (Acting DFO)*** thanked the committee members and the public for their participation. He also provided additional instructions on how the public can provide formal written comments and continue their participation in the September 2025 meeting series.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 P.M (ET).

## CERTIFICATION

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

/s/

Kaben Smallwood

Chairperson, Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee

/s/

Markus Holliday

Acting Designated Federal Officer, Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee