

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CHARTER

Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Advisory Committee

1. **Advisory Committee's Official Designation:**

Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Advisory Committee

2. **Authority:**

This charter renews the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Advisory Committee (FRRCC) which was established January 22, 2008, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. 10. The FRRCC is in the public interest and supports EPA in performing its duties and responsibilities.

3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities:**

The FRRCC is a policy-oriented committee that will provide policy advice, information, and recommendations to the Administrator on a range of environmental issues and policies that are of importance to agriculture and rural communities.

4. **Description of Duties:**

The duties of the FRRCC are solely to provide advice to EPA. It is intended that the members of the committee will address specific topics of unique relevance to agriculture as identified by the Agriculture Advisor to the Administrator, in such a way as to provide thoughtful advice and useful insights to the Agency as it considers environmental policies and programs that affect and engage agriculture and rural communities.

5. **Agency or Federal Officer Receiving the Advisory Committee's Advice/Recommendations:**

The FRRCC will report its policy advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator through the Agriculture Advisor.

6. **Support:**

Support will be provided by the Office of the Administrator.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years:

The estimated annual operating cost of the FRRCC is \$367,500 which includes 1.5 FTE of annual support.

8. Designated Federal Officer:

The Administrator must designate a federal officer or employee who must be either full-time or permanent part-time, to be the DFO for each advisory committee and its subcommittees, and the DFO must:

- A. Ensure their advisory committee activities comply with the Act, FACA Final Rule, their agency administrative procedures, and any other applicable laws and regulations;
- B. Approve or call all meetings of the advisory committee or subcommittee;
- C. Approve the agenda, except that this requirement does not apply to a Presidential advisory committee;
- D. Attend all advisory committee and subcommittee meetings for their duration;
- E. Fulfill the requirements under § 10(b) of the Act (codified at 5 U.S.C. 1009(b));
- F. Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines it to be in the public interest;
- G. Chair any meeting when so directed by the agency head
- H. Maintain information on advisory committee activities and provide such information to the public, as applicable; and
- I. Ensure advisory committee members and subcommittee members, as applicable, receive the appropriate training (*e.g.*, FACA overview, ethics training) for efficient operation and compliance with the Act and FACA Final Rule.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:

FRRCC expects to meet up to two times per calendar year as approved by the DFO. Meetings will be held in Washington, DC, the EPA Regions, and/or virtually.

As required by FACA, the FRRCC will hold open meetings unless the Administrator determines that a meeting or a portion of a meeting may be closed to the public in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c). Interested persons may attend meetings, appear before the committee as time permits, and file comments with the FRRCC.

10. Duration:

The duration of FRRCC is continuing, subject to the Termination section below.

11. Termination:

This charter will be in effect for two years from the date it is filed with Congress. After this two-year period, the charter may be renewed as authorized in accordance with Section 14 of FACA.

12. Membership and Designation:

The FRRCC will be comprised of no more than 21 members: including one chair, and one vice-chair. Additional members, commonly referred to as "alternates," are not permitted. Members will serve no more than three, two-year terms; except in the initial implementation where ten members shall serve one three-year term, and eleven members shall serve the standard two-year term. The three-year term will count as one-term towards the two-term limit. The intent of the initial three-year term is to stagger the departure of members and preserve institutional memory. Term limits will commence upon renewal of this charter and will not consider service rendered prior to this charter.

Members will generally serve as Representative members of non-federal interests. If needed, members may be appointed to serve as Regular Government Employees (RGEs) or Special Government Employees (SGEs). Representative members are selected to represent the points of view held by specific organizations, associations, or classes of individuals. Individuals who are actively engaged in farming or ranching will be encouraged to apply. EPA will consider candidates from academia, industry (*e.g.*, farm groups and allied industries), non-governmental organizations, and state, local, and tribal governments. Members serve on the Committee in a voluntary capacity.

13. Subcommittees:

EPA, or the FRRCC with EPA's approval, may form subcommittees or workgroups for any purpose consistent with this charter. Such subcommittees or workgroups may not work independently of the chartered committee and must report their recommendations and advice to the chartered committee for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees or workgroups have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the chartered committee nor can they report directly to the EPA.

14. Recordkeeping:

The records of the committee, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the committee, will be handled in accordance with NARA General Records Schedule 6.2 and EPA Records Schedule 1024 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. Subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, these records will be available for public inspection and copying, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

15. Filing Date:

9/22/2025
Agency Approval Date

10/25/2025
GSA Consultation Completion Date

11/12/2025
Date Filed with Congress