

Specialty Crops Program:

Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee Working for You

Originally chartered in 2001, the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee (FVIAC) examines the full spectrum of fruit, vegetable, and specialty crop issues to provide suggestions on how the USDA can tailor its programs and services to meet the industry's needs. The exchange of views and information between industry representatives and USDA results in an improved understanding of the impact of USDA programs on the industry and contributes to those programs' effective and efficient administration. As in every business, the Committee's success depends heavily upon the ability to understand each other's respective role, and to develop the working relationship necessary within those roles.



Committee members represent organic and non-organic growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, industry trade associations, importers, processors, foodservice suppliers, food brokers, state departments of agriculture and farmers markets on local, regional, and national levels. Members with diverse backgrounds provide balance to the Committee and represent the segments of the population from which they were selected.

All committee formal meetings are open to the public with agenda items concerning administrative matters; presentations by subject matter experts; and consideration of recommendations pertaining to labor and production, food safety, infrastructure and sustainability, consumption and nutrition, and data reporting and analysis.

Per USDA's request for insights, FVIAC representatives are evaluating ways to enhance the Specialty Crops Program's (SCP) technology offering and optimize data collection efforts of SCP's Inspection Division and Market News Division. The next FVIAC meeting is scheduled for November 2023 with a meeting notice coming soon via publication in the Federal Register. Through this notice, AMS provides an opportunity for written and oral public comment on issues affecting the fruit and vegetable industry.

The FVIAC is steered by executive officers – Kay Swartz-Rentzel, Chair; Reginald Marshall, Vice Chair; and Angel Santiago, Secretary.

To learn more about the committee, visit the FVIAC website: [Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee](#).