



Research, Education, and Economics (REE)
National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board

Executive Committee (EXECOM) Conference Call – April 2, Meeting Minutes

NAREEE Committee Members Present: Dr. Kenrett Jefferson-Moore (Chair), Dr. Sreekala Bajwa, Dr. V.M. “Bala” Balasubramaniam, Ms. Donnell Brown, Mr. Richard De Los Santos, Dr. Mario Ferruzzi, Dr. Ellen Harris, Ms. Vanessa Garcia Polanco, Mr. Edwin Kitzes, Dr. Jane Kolodinsky, Dr. William Lytle, Dr. Natahsa Mast, Dr. Jane Schuchardt, Ms. Tamba Stevenson - 14

Members Absent: – Dr. Mark Lawrence - 1

NAREEE Board Staff Present: Ms. Kate Lewis, NAREEE Board Executive Director/Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and Ms. Michele Simmons, Program Specialist

Guest: Mr. Bryan Combs, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Ms. Ginger Harris, NASS, Mr. Joseph Parsons, NASS, Mr. Gee Roe, Citrus Disease Subcommittee, Dr. Greg Goins, Specialty Crop Committee, and Dr. Jim McFerson, National Genetics Resources Advisory Council

I. Welcome from Kate Lewis, Roll Call, and Quorum Check. Quorum was met.

DFO welcomed guest from the NASS which included Mr. Bryan Combs, Chief of the Environmental Economics and Demographics branch, Ms. Ginger Harris, Demographer, and Mr. Joseph Parsons, Acting Administrator. They were invited to the meeting to give a presentation on the 2022 Ag Census Highlights.

DFO Lewis asked the Chairs to introduce themselves, which included Mr. Gee Roe, CDS, Dr. Greg Goins, SCC, and Dr. Jim McFerson, NGRAC.

Ms. Simmons asked if there were any revisions to the March minutes. There were no comments or revisions. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes. All were in favor. Ms. Simmons will have the web team post the March minutes and agenda on the NAREEE website.

II. Remarks from Chair

Dr. Jefferson-Moore welcomed the group and the new Board Members. She looks forward to working with the Members. Dr. Jefferson-Moore stated that she had a chance to meet the new Pollinator Subcommittee during their kick-off meeting via Zoom. She thanked NASS for joining the call.



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III. 2022 Ag Census Highlights Presentation

Mr. Combs went over the agenda of the presentation and gave a detailed overview which consisted of:

History of the Census of Agriculture

- The first Census of Agriculture was conducted in 1840 in 26 states and the District of Columbia.
- 180 years later: The 2022 Census of Agriculture is the 30th in the series, and the 6th conducted by NASS.
- In 1997, the Census of Agriculture was transferred from the Census Bureau to NASS.
- The Census of Agriculture encompasses 50 states, Puerto Rico, and outlying areas (Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands).

Farms and lands in Farms

- Since 1974, the Census of Agriculture has defined a farm as “any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year.”
- Display of the number of farms and land in farms, 2002 -2022
- Number of Farms, by Size Class, 2017 and 2022

Economics

- Total Value of Agricultural Production, 2022
- Value of Production, Crops and Livestock, 2002 -2022
- Value of Production, Top 10 Commodities, 2022
- Farm Production Expenses, 2022

Demographics of Farm Producer

- Farm Producer Characteristics by Sex
- Average Age of Producers
- Young Producers
- New and Beginning Producers
- Farm and Producer Characteristics by Race and Ethnicity
- Producers with Military Service



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The presentation ended with the following Key Summary Points:

- Farm numbers and land in farms both have ongoing declines.
- The largest farms both in terms of dollars and acres increased in number while mid and small-sized farms decreased in number.
- Fewer farms account for the majority of ag products sold.
- The average age of producers continues to rise.
- The number of new and beginning producers increased and young farmers increased.
- There is an increased share of farms with internet access, especially via mobile.

Mr. Combs asked if there were any questions or comments. Dr. Schuchardt asked if there are any specific reports for organic production? Mr. Combs stated that an organic highlights document that focus on the organic specifically will come out a later date.

Ms. Brown wanted to know what the definition of a producer is? Mr. Combs stated that anyone that is involved in the capacity of decision making for their farming operations can be a producer.

Ms. Garcia Polanco's question was how did the USDA change the young producer definition from the last census to this census? Ms. Harris stated there was a slight change in the definition. In the 2017 census, the definition as a young producer was anyone who was 30. The definition for 2022 was changed to anyone who is less than 35.

Dr. Harris stated you mentioned in the presentation that the response rate was down by 10%. Is there a reason why that might be? Mr. Combs stated that he thinks it's a trend that we're seeing across most of NASS's declining response rates.

DFO Lewis thanked the NASS team for their presentation. Some questions couldn't be addressed because the time run over. She mentioned that maybe Mr. Combs, Ms. Harris, and Mr. Parsons can meet again with the Board when there's more time.

IV. Old Business

DFO Lewis asked the new Board members to introduce themselves and provide a brief 5-minute background of their portfolios. Their titles, and affiliations are:

Dr. Sreekala Bajwa, Vice President for Agriculture, Montana Ag Extension Station



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Dr. Ellen Harris, Retired USDA/ARS, Sr. Executive Service, and Food First,
Executive Director

Dr. William Lytle, Research Director, Ecosystem Services, Market

Dr. Natasha Mast, Associate Director, Texas A&M University

Dr. Jane Schuchardt, Organic Farmer, Schuchardt Farms

DFO Lewis will add the 5 following work products to May’s EXECOM meeting since time ran out for discussion.

- Diversity & Inclusivity recommendations
- Ag Climate Adaptation Report (FY22/23 R&A)
- CDS FY24 ECDRE feedback
- Precision Nutrition (FY23/24 R&A)
- Pollinator Subcommittee

V. Wrap-Up/Adjourn

The next meeting will be **May 7, 2024, from 12 noon - 1 pm ET.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m. ET.