Office of the Chief Scientist
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

Specialty Crop Committee Requirements

The Specialty Crop Committee (SCC) was established by the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board in accordance with the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 under Title III, Section 303 of Public Law 108-465. The Specialty Crop Committee is a permanent committee of the NAREEE Advisory Board.

The SCC studies the scope and effectiveness of research, extension, and economics programs affecting the specialty crop industry. The legislation defines "specialty crops" as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture). The committee also develops reports containing the findings of the study of and recommendations regarding:

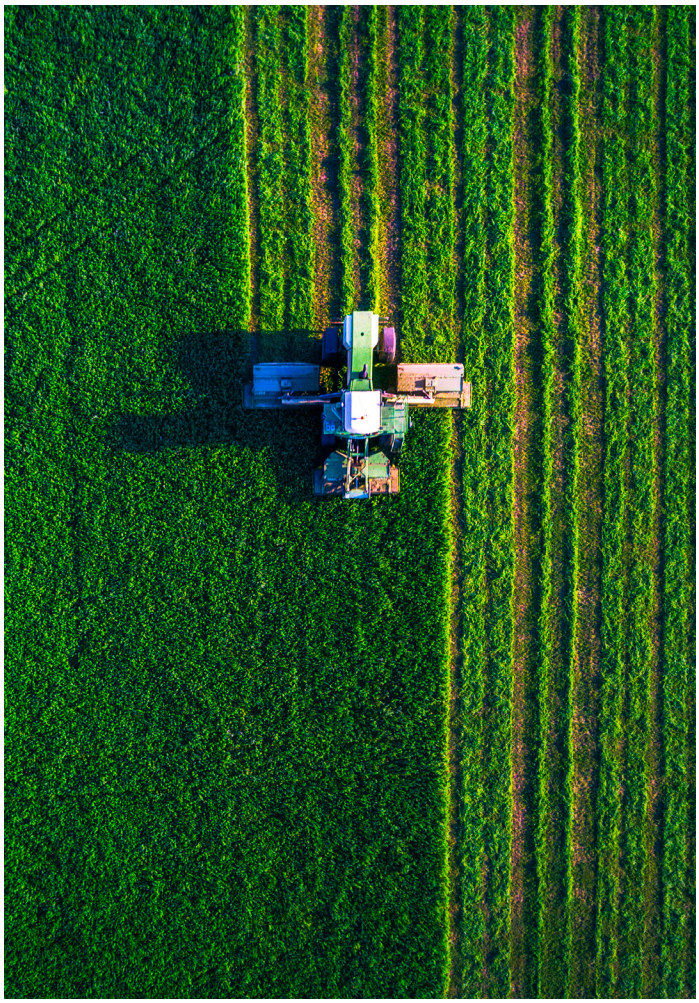
- Measures designed to improve the efficiency, productivity, and profitability of specialty crop production in the United States;

- Measures designed to improve competiveness in research, extension, and economics programs affecting the specialty crop industry;

- Programs that:
  - enhance the quality and shelf-life of fresh fruits and vegetables, including taste and appearance;
  - develop new crop protection tools and expand the applicability and cost- effectiveness of integrated pest management;
  - prevent the introduction of foreign invasive pests and diseases;
  - develop new products and new uses of specialty crops;
  - develop new and improved marketing tools for specialty crops;
  - enhance food safety regarding specialty crops;
  - improve mechanization of production practices; and
  - enhance irrigation techniques used in specialty crop production.

- Analyses of changes in macroeconomic conditions, technologies, and policies on specialty crop production and consumption, with particular focus on the effect of those changes on the financial stability of producers;

- Development of data that provide applied information useful to specialty crop growers, their associations, and other interested beneficiaries in evaluating that industry from a regional and national perspective.



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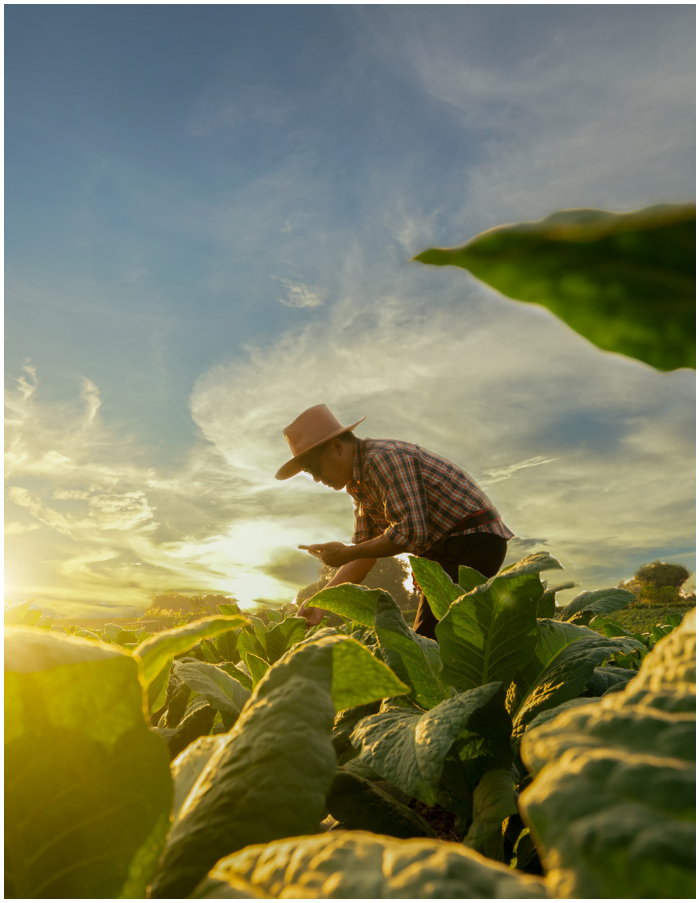
Of the seven (7) appointed members, two (2) are current Advisory Board members and five (5) are distinguished individuals who are not Advisory Board members.[1] The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246) also directs the Committee to identify regional or national data or information needed by the industry to evaluate its competitive position.

The SCC was re-authorized in the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) to carry out the responsibilities of the subcommittee described in subsection (g) in accordance with subsection Section 1408A(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123a(a)(2)).

This subcommittee will terminate – without re-authorization in the Farm Bill—on September 30, 2023.

[1]As of FY22 (Oct 2021-Sept 2022)



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