



Farm Bill Legislative Side-By-Side

OFFICE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION (UAIP)

Program Description

The USDA [Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#) (UAIP) focuses on the needs of urban farmers and urban agriculture. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service leads the USDA-wide office, which includes representatives from other USDA agencies like the Farm Service Agency and the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Climate Highlights

UAIP was established in the 2018 Farm Bill to support urban agriculture such as community gardens and rooftop farms. The office is advised by the [Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#), also established by the 2018 Farm Bill, and manages:

- [UAIP grants](#), which include two types of grants, one for planning projects that begin or expand urban agriculture and the other for implementing them. One of the many benefits of [urban agriculture](#) is that it can build resilience to climate impacts, for example by reducing urban temperatures during extreme heat events and absorbing and filtering stormwater runoff during periods of heavy precipitation. In 2022, USDA invested \$14.2 million in UAIP grants.
- [Composting and Food Waste Reduction \(CFWR\) cooperative agreements](#) help local and municipal governments develop compost and food waste reduction plans and implement projects. Reducing and diverting [food waste](#) from landfills reduces greenhouse gas emissions. In 2022, USDA invested \$10.2 million in CFWR cooperative agreements.

Funding

The 2018 Farm Bill ([P.L.115-334](#)) authorized discretionary annual funding of \$25 million for UAIP through fiscal year (FY) 2023. Congress appropriated \$8.5 million for UAIP in FY 2023 and \$7 million for UAIP in FY 2024.

Legislative Side-By-Side

The following Side-by-Side compares the House and Senate versions of the Farm Bill’s Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production with current law. Underlined text indicates suggested additions to current law. ~~Struck text~~ indicates suggested deletions to current law. “No change” indicates that the entire section was left unaltered.

Current Law 7 USC §6923 (October 2022)	House Version House Agriculture Committee amended text pages 743 – 748 (May 2024)	Senate Version
<p>(a) Office</p> <p>(1) In general The Secretary shall establish in the Department an Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.</p> <p>(2) Director The Secretary shall appoint a senior official to serve as the Director of the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (referred to in this section as the "Director").</p> <p>(3) Mission The mission of the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production shall be to encourage and promote urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural practices, including—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) community gardens and farms located in urban areas, suburbs, and urban clusters; (B) rooftop farms, outdoor vertical production, and green walls; (C) indoor farms, greenhouses, and high-tech vertical technology farms; (D) hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic farm facilities; and (E) other innovations in agricultural production, as determined by the Secretary. 	<p>(a) Office</p> <p>(1) In general The Secretary shall establish in the Department an Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.</p> <p>(2) Director The Secretary shall appoint a senior official to serve as the Director of the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (referred to in this section as the "Director").</p> <p>(3) Mission The mission of the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production shall be to encourage and promote urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural <u>production</u> practices, including—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) community gardens and farms located in urban areas, suburbs, and urban clusters; (B) rooftop farms, outdoor vertical production, and green walls; (C) indoor farms, greenhouses, and high-tech vertical technology farms; (D) <u>controlled-environment agriculture, including hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic farm facilities;</u>and (E) <u>using the resources of the Department and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to provide technical assistance for business incorporation, navigating local zoning, and managing farm tract numbers for smaller, noncontiguous</u> 	<p>This resource will be updated as the Senate legislative Farm Bill text is released.</p>

<p>(4) Responsibilities The Director shall be responsible for engaging in activities to carry out the mission described in paragraph (3), including by-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) managing programs, including for community gardens, urban farms, rooftop agriculture, and indoor vertical production; (B) advising the Secretary; (C) coordinating with the agencies and officials of the Department to update relevant programs; (D) engaging in stakeholder relations and developing external partnerships; (E) identifying common State and municipal best practices for navigating local policies; (F) coordinating networks of community gardens and facilitating connections to local food banks, in partnership with the Food and Nutrition Service; and (G) collaborating with other Federal agencies. 	<p><u>parcels to growers implementing activities described in paragraph (3);</u> <u>(F) using the resources of the Department and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to promote conservation techniques unique to urban agriculture and innovative production, including techniques that address stormwater runoff and the impacted nature of urban land and the subsurface of the land;</u> <u>(G) assisting urban and innovative producers in navigating Federal, State, Tribal, and local policies and regulations that impact business or operations; and</u> (E)<u>(H)</u> other innovations in agricultural production, as determined by the Secretary.</p> <p>(4) Responsibilities The Director shall be responsible for engaging in activities to carry out the mission described in paragraph (3), including by-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) managing programs, including for community gardens, urban farms, rooftop agriculture, and indoor vertical production; (B) advising the Secretary; (C) coordinating with the agencies and officials of the Department to update relevant programs; (D) engaging in stakeholder relations and developing external partnerships; (E) identifying common State and municipal best practices for navigating local policies; (F) coordinating networks of community gardens and facilitating connections to local food banks, in partnership with the Food and Nutrition Service; and (G) collaborating with other Federal agencies. 	
<p>(b) Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee (1) In general Not later than 180 days after December 20, 2018, the Secretary shall establish an Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee (referred to in this subsection as the "Committee") to advise the Secretary on—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) the development of policies and outreach relating to urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production practices; and (B) any other aspects of the implementation of this section. <p>(2) Membership</p>	<p>(b) Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee (1) In general Not later than 180 days after December 20, 2018, the Secretary shall establish an Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee (referred to in this subsection as the "Committee") to advise the Secretary on—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) the development of policies and outreach relating to urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production practices; and (B) any other aspects of the implementation of this section. <p>(2) Membership</p>	

(A) In general

The Committee shall be composed of 12 members, of whom—

- (i) 4 shall be individuals who are agricultural producers, of whom—
 - (I) 2 individuals shall be agricultural producers located in an urban area or urban cluster; and
 - (II) 2 individuals shall be farmers that use innovative technology;
- (ii) 2 shall be representatives from an institution of higher education or extension program;
- (iii) 1 shall be an individual who represents a nonprofit organization, which may include a public health, environmental, or community organization;
- (iv) 1 shall be an individual who represents business and economic development, which may include a business development entity, a chamber of commerce, a city government, or a planning organization;
- (v) 1 shall be an individual with supply chain experience, which may include a food aggregator, wholesale food distributor, food hub, or an individual who has direct-to-consumer market experience;
- (vi) 1 shall be an individual from a financing entity; and
- (vii) 2 shall be individuals with related experience or expertise in urban, indoor, and other emerging agriculture production practices, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) Initial appointments

The Secretary shall appoint the members of the Committee not later than 180 days after December 20, 2018.

(3) Period of appointment; vacancies

(A) In general

Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a member of the Committee shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(B) Initial appointments

Of the members first appointed to the Committee—

- (i) 4 of the members, as determined by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a term of 3 years;
- (ii) 4 of the members, as determined by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a term of 2 years; and
- (iii) 4 of the members, as determined by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a term of 1 year.

(C) Vacancies

Any vacancy in the Committee—

- (i) shall not affect the powers of the Committee; and

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The Committee shall be composed of 12 members, of whom—

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 - (I) 2 individuals shall be agricultural producers located in an urban area or urban cluster; and
 - (II) 2 individuals shall be farmers that use innovative technology;
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- (iii) 1 shall be an individual who represents a nonprofit organization, which may include a public health, environmental, or community organization;
- (iv) 1 shall be an individual who represents business and economic development, which may include a business development entity, a chamber of commerce, a city government, or a planning organization;
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- (iii) 4 of the members, as determined by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a term of 1 year.

(C) Vacancies

Any vacancy in the Committee—

- (i) shall not affect the powers of the Committee; and

(ii) shall be filled as soon as practicable in the same manner as the original appointment.

(D) Consecutive terms

An initial appointee of the committee may serve an additional consecutive term if the member is reappointed by the Secretary.

(4) Meetings

(A) Frequency

The Committee shall meet not fewer than 3 times per year.

(B) Initial meeting

Not later than 180 days after the date on which the members are appointed under paragraph (2)(B), the Committee shall hold the first meeting of the Committee.

(5) Duties

(A) In general

The Committee shall—

- (i) develop recommendations and advise the Director on policies, initiatives, and outreach administered by the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production;
- (ii) evaluate and review ongoing research and extension activities relating to urban, indoor, and other innovative agricultural practices;
- (iii) identify new and existing barriers to successful urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production practices; and
- (iv) provide additional assistance and advice to the Director as appropriate.

(B) Reports

Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Committee is established, and every 2 years through 2023, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the recommendations developed under subparagraph (A).

(6) Personnel matters

(A) Compensation

A member of the Committee shall serve without compensation.

(B) Travel expenses

A member of the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with section 5703 of title 5.

(ii) shall be filled as soon as practicable in the same manner as the original appointment.

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(6) Personnel matters

(A) Compensation

A member of the Committee shall serve without compensation.

(B) Travel expenses

A member of the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with section 5703 of title 5.

<p>(7) Termination (A) In general Subject to subparagraph (B), the Committee shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date on which the members are appointed under paragraph (2)(B). (B) Extensions Before the date on which the Committee terminates, the Secretary may renew the Committee for 1 or more 2-year periods.</p>	<p>(7) Termination (A) In general Subject to subparagraph (B), the Committee shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date on which the members are appointed under paragraph (2)(B) <u>September 30, 2029.</u> (B) Extensions Before the date on which the Committee terminates, the Secretary may renew the Committee for 1 or more 2-year periods.</p>	
<p>(c) Grants The Director shall award competitive grants to support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production to any of the following eligible entities: (1) A nonprofit organization. (2) A unit of local government. (3) A Tribal government. (4) Any school that serves any of grades kindergarten through grade 12.</p>	<p>(c) Grants and cooperative agreements The Director shall award competitive grants to support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production to any of the following eligible entities: (1) A nonprofit organization. (2) A unit of local government. (3) A Tribal government. (4) Any school that serves any of grades kindergarten through grade 12. (1) Grants (A) In general <u>The Director shall award competitive grants to support the development of urban and innovative agricultural production and technical or financial assistance to producers.</u> (B) Subgrants <u>An eligible entity may use funds from a grant under subparagraph (A) to provide subgrants to urban and innovative producers to support the growth of the farm or farm business of the urban and innovative producers.</u> (C) Eligible entities <u>An entity eligible to receive a grant under subparagraph (A) is—</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>(i) a nonprofit organization;</u> <u>(ii) a unit of local government;</u> <u>(iii) a Tribal organization;</u> <u>(iv) an agricultural cooperative or other agricultural business entity or a producer network or association; or</u> <u>(v) a school that serves any of grades kindergarten through grade 12.</u> (2) Cooperative agreements (A) In general</p>	

The Director may enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to support the development of urban and innovative agricultural production.

(B) Eligible entities

An entity eligible to enter into cooperative agreements under subparagraph (A) is—

- (i) a nonprofit organization;
- (ii) a unit of local government;
- (iii) a Tribal organization; or
- (iv) an agricultural cooperative or other agricultural business entity or a producer network or association.

(d) Pilot projects

(1) Urban and suburban county committees

(A) In general

Not later than 1 year after December 20, 2018, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program for not fewer than 5 years that establishes 10 county committees in accordance with section 590h(b)(5)(B)(ii)(II) of title 16 to operate in counties located in urban or suburban areas with a high concentration of urban or suburban farms.

(B) Effect

Nothing in this paragraph requires or precludes the establishment of a Farm Service Agency office in a county in which a county committee is established under subparagraph (A).

(C) Report

For fiscal year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter through fiscal year 2023, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing a summary of—

- (i) the status of the pilot program under subparagraph (A);
- (ii) meetings and other activities of the committees established under that subparagraph; and
- (iii) the types and volume of assistance and services provided to farmers in counties in which county committees are established under that subparagraph.

(2) Increasing community compost and reducing food waste

(A) In general

~~(d) Pilot projects~~

~~(1) Urban and suburban county committees~~

~~(A) In general~~

~~Not later than 1 year after December 20, 2018, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program for not fewer than 5 years that~~
The Secretary shall continue to implement a program that establishes 10 county committees in accordance with section 590h(b)(5)(B)(ii)(II) of title 16 to operate in counties located in urban or suburban areas with a high concentration of urban or suburban farms.

~~(B) Effect~~

~~Nothing in this paragraph requires or precludes the establishment of a Farm Service Agency office in a county in which a county committee is established under subparagraph (A).~~

~~(C) Report~~

~~For fiscal year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter through fiscal year 2023,~~ the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing a summary of—

- ~~(i) the status of the pilot program under subparagraph (A);~~
- ~~(ii) meetings and other activities of the committees established under that subparagraph; and~~
- ~~(iii) the types and volume of assistance and services provided to farmers in counties in which county committees are established under that subparagraph.~~

~~(2) Increasing community compost and reducing food waste~~

~~(A) In general~~

The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall carry out pilot projects under which the Secretary shall offer to enter into cooperative agreements with local or municipal governments in not fewer than 10 States to develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans.

(B) Eligible entities and purposes of pilot projects

Under a cooperative agreement entered into under this paragraph, the Secretary shall provide assistance to municipalities, counties, local governments, or city planners, as appropriate, to carry out planning and implementing activities that will—

- (i) generate compost;
- (ii) increase access to compost for agricultural producers;
- (iii) reduce reliance on, and limit the use of, fertilizer;
- (iv) improve soil quality;
- (v) encourage waste management and permaculture business development;
- (vi) increase rainwater absorption;
- (vii) reduce municipal food waste; and
- (viii) divert food waste from landfills.

(C) Evaluation and ranking of applications

(i) Criteria

Not later than 180 days after December 20, 2018, the Secretary shall establish criteria for the selection of pilot projects under this paragraph.

(ii) Consideration

In selecting, undertaking, or funding pilot projects under this paragraph, the Secretary shall consider any commonly known significant impact on existing food waste recovery and disposal by commercial, marketing, or business relationships.

(iii) Priority

In selecting a pilot project under this paragraph, the Secretary shall give priority to an application for a pilot project that—

- (I) anticipates or demonstrates economic benefits;
- (II) incorporates plans to make compost easily accessible to agricultural producers, including community gardeners;
- (III) integrates other food waste strategies, including food recovery efforts; and
- (IV) provides for collaboration with multiple partners.

The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall carry out ~~pilot~~ projects under which the Secretary shall offer to enter into cooperative agreements with local or municipal governments in not fewer than 10 States to develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans and construct at-scale composting, food-to-feed, or anaerobic digestion food waste-to-energy projects.

(B) Eligible entities and purposes of ~~pilot~~ projects

Under a cooperative agreement entered into under this paragraph, the Secretary shall provide assistance to municipalities, counties, local governments, Tribal governments, or city planners, as appropriate, to carry out planning and implementing activities that will—

- (i) generate compost;
- (ii) increase access to compost for agricultural producers;
- (iii) reduce reliance on, and limit the use of, fertilizer;
- (iv) improve soil quality;
- (v) encourage waste management and permaculture business development;
- (vi) develop food waste-to-energy operations;
- ~~(vi)~~(vii) increase rainwater absorption;
- ~~(vii)~~(viii) reduce municipal food waste; and
- ~~(viii)~~(ix) divert food waste from landfills.

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- (I) anticipates or demonstrates economic benefits;
- (II) incorporates plans to make compost easily accessible to agricultural producers, including community gardeners;

<p>(D) Matching requirement The recipient of assistance for a pilot project under this paragraph shall provide funds, in-kind contributions, or a combination of both from sources other than funds provided through the grant in an amount equal to not less than 25 percent of the amount of the grant.</p> <p>(E) Evaluation The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the pilot projects funded under this paragraph to assess different solutions for increasing access to compost and reducing municipal food waste, including an evaluation of—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the amount of Federal funds used for each project; and (ii) a measurement of the outcomes of each project. 	<p>(III) integrates other food waste strategies, including food recovery efforts; and</p> <p>(IV) provides for collaboration with multiple partners.</p> <p>(D) Matching requirement The recipient of assistance for a pilot project under this paragraph shall provide funds, in-kind contributions, or a combination of both from sources other than funds provided through the grant in an amount equal to not less than 25 percent of the amount of the grant.</p> <p>(E) Evaluation The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the pilot projects funded under this paragraph to assess different solutions for increasing access to compost and reducing municipal food waste, including an evaluation of—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the amount of Federal funds used for each project; and (ii) a measurement of the outcomes of each project. 	
<p>(e) Authorization of appropriations There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section and the amendments made by this section \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.</p>	<p>(e) Authorization of appropriations There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section and the amendments made by this section \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 20232029.</p>	

Compiled by: Savannah Bertrand and Nicole Pouy (npouy@eesi.org)

This resource will be updated as final House and Senate legislative Farm Bill texts are released.

This fact sheet is available electronically (with hyperlinks and endnotes) at www.eesi.org/papers.

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 on a bipartisan basis by members of Congress to help educate and inform policymakers, their staff, stakeholders, and the American public about the benefits of a low-emissions economy that prioritizes energy efficiency, renewable energy, and new clean energy technologies. In 1988, EESI declared that addressing climate change is a moral imperative, which has since guided our work toward our vision: a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world.