

**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH,
EXTENSION,
EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS (NAREEE)
ADVISORY BOARD**

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NAREEE Specialty Crop Committee Charge

The Specialty Crop Committee members were appointed by the Executive Committee of 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, as amended under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, under Title VII, Section 7103 of Public Law 110-246. The Specialty Crop Committee is a permanent committee of the NAREEE Advisory Board.

The committee is to study 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 is expected to develop a report containing the findings of its study and recommendations regarding the following:

- (1) Measures to improve the efficiency, productivity and profitability of specialty crop production in the United States;
- (2) Measures designed to improve competitiveness in research, extension, and economics programs affecting the specialty crop industry;
- (3) Programs that would:
 - A) enhance the quality and shelf-life of fresh fruits and vegetables, including taste and appearance;
 - B) develop new crop protection tools and expand the applicability and cost-effectiveness of integrated pest management;
 - C) prevent the introduction of foreign invasive pests and diseases;
 - D) develop new products and new uses of specialty crops;
 - E) develop new and improved marketing tools for specialty crops;
 - F) enhance food safety regarding specialty crops;
 - G) improve mechanization of production practices; and
 - H) enhance irrigation techniques used in specialty crop production.

(4) 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.

(5) 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.

To carry out our responsibilities, the Specialty Crop Committee will review research projects recently completed and currently underway by USDA's Research, Education, and Economics agencies and their collaborators in the Land Grant Universities and other organizations. It will elicit written input from specialty crop and other related interest groups and individuals. It will conduct a listening session to interact with industry and state representatives, national organizations or institutions, local producers, or other groups that are interested in the issues with which the Specialty Crop Committee is charged.

The Committee will compile the findings and recommendations of its study into a report to be delivered through the NAREEE Advisory Board to the Secretary of Agriculture and Congress.

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