

WHAT IS THE USDA STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE?

State Technical Committees assist the USDA in matters relating to the implementation and technical aspects of conservation programs under Title II of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 farm bill). The State Technical Committee, according to the 2008 farm bill, shall be composed of agricultural producers and other professionals that represent a variety of disciplines in soil, water, wetland, and wildlife sciences. The State Technical Committee includes representatives from the following:

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- U.S. Forest Service
- National Institute of Food and Agricultural (University of Maine Cooperative Extension)
- State Fish and Wildlife Agency (Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Department of Marine Resources)
- State Forester (Maine Forest Service)
- State Water Resources Agency (Maine Department of Environmental Protection)
- State Department of Agriculture (Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources)
- State Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Maine Association of Conservation Districts)
- Agricultural producers representing the variety of crops and livestock or poultry raised within the State
- Owners of non-industrial private forestland
- Nonprofit organizations within the meaning of section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with demonstrable conservation expertise and experience working with agricultural producers in the State
- Agribusiness

Responsibilities of the State Technical Committee

The State Technical Committee meets regularly to provide information, analysis, and recommendations to USDA officials charged with implementing the conservation provisions of Title II. The role of the State Technical Committee is advisory in nature, and has no implementation or enforcement authority. However, the USDA shall give strong consideration to the recommendations of the State Technical Committee in administering the programs under Title II. The State Technical Committee's advisory role in establishing program priorities and criteria under Title II includes the review of whether local working groups are addressing those priorities.

Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)

The State Technical Committee is exempt from the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.). For the purposes of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, any local working group established under this subtitle shall be considered to be a subcommittee of the State Technical Committee.

Public Notice and Attendance

State Technical Committee meetings are announced via public notice and public attendance is permitted.