



AGRICULTURAL AREA
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ACTIONS
UNDER ACT 1981- 43

LEGAL OPPORTUNITIES – Section 4

1. Committee farm members must represent different farming operations.
2. All members serve without salary (expenses may be allowed by Supervisors).
3. All members are appointed by, and responsible to, the Chairman of Township Supervisors (no terms of office are specified).
4. Work with the Township Planning Commission to review each petition.
5. Advise the Supervisors on the desirability of each petition, using the required evaluation criteria (see Act 43 Section 7; SCS Land Evaluation and Site Analysis work; etc.).
Committee recommendations must reflect:
 - a. the nature of farming and farm resources in the proposed Ag. Security Area, and
 - b. the relationship of farming in the proposed “Area” to the township as a whole, and
 - c. the economic viability of farmlands in the proposed “Area”.

OTHER POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

1. Farmers in an approved Agricultural Security Area may bring their “grievances” concerning state agency rules to the Agricultural Area Advisory Committee (AAAC).
2. The AAAC and farmers (along with whomever else they wish to involve) draft a rule modification they feel will improve the situation.
3. The proposed change is forwarded to the township supervisors who, if in agreement, submit the modification to the appropriate state agency.
4. The forwarding letter should indicate a.) the person who should be contacted by the State if further local information or contact is required, and b.) a specific period of time in which State agency action is expected. A copy of the forwarding letter should be sent to State Legislators who represent the community.

This procedure will provide an ongoing role for the AAAC and it will channel requests for changes. Most important, a governmental agency (the AAAC through the Supervisors), rather than private individuals, is dealing with another governmental agency (State agencies). This should give more weight and “officialness” to the request. The “officialness” will be important if there is a need to call on State Legislators for leverage.

For more information about Agricultural Security Areas, please contact your County Cooperative Extension Office. Assembled by W.J. Cook, Area Extension Agent and S.F. Lembeck, State Extension Specialist.