**2016-2017 USDA Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee  
Meeting Date: May 9-10, 2017**  
Detailed Recommendations and Statements

**RURAL BROADBAND**

1. Overview:  
   Access to affordable and fast Internet connectivity is vital to the success of rural agriculture and rural education. Broadband connectivity has become a necessity, like electricity, and is a fundamental part of agriculture, business, education, healthcare, and public safety.

**Statement:**

The USDA Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee would like to emphasize the importance of rural broadband connectivity in our rural communities. The infrastructure of rural America should include the development of broadband. This should take into consideration the speed as well as the affordability of connectivity.