USDA

THE OFFICE *of the* SECRETARY

SPECIAL EMPHASIS PROGRAMS (2022)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Beginning September 15, 2022, USDA will host in-person, virtual, and hybrid activities for internal (employees) and external stakeholders. These events are coordinated by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in partnership with our Acting Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Director for Program Equity and Opportunity Strategy, Office of Human Resources Employee Experience, Employee Resource Groups and our Mission Areas and Staff Offices. USDA will also coordinate with the Office of Communications to feature USDA Employees via social media channels and share messages to the USDA workforce and through various communications channels.

National Hispanic Heritage Month recognizes the contributions of Hispanic, Latinos, and Latinx Americans to the United States and around the globe. **This year's Hispanic Heritage Month national theme, "Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation." The theme encourages us to ensure that all voices are represented and welcomed to help build stronger communities and a stronger nation.** The Hispanic Heritage observance began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Special Emphasis Programs & DEIA
Building Back Better

HHM EVENTS	
DATE	**OBSERVANCE AND EVENT DETAILS**
SEPTEMBER 13 – 15	**Event:** Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) Annual Conference and 45th Annual Awards Gala **Description:** The CHCI 2022 Leadership Conference and 45th Annual Awards Gala is the largest celebration of Latino excellence in the nation. This year's theme "Rooted in Strength, Achieving Our Dream" highlights the very essence of our community, grounded in a rich history and vibrant heritage, leveraging both to pursue our highest ideals and the American Dream. **Event Type:** In-Person **Audience:** **Location:** Washington, DC **Host Organization or USDA Agency:** Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute **USDA Participants:** Maribel Duran, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Secretary (Latinos on the International Stage) and Stacy Dean, Deputy Undersecretary for Food and Nutrition Services (Sustainable Nutrition for Latino Families). **Press:** Open
SEPTEMBER 15	**Activity:** Secretary and Deputy Secretary HHM Statement to USDA Workforce
SEPTEMBER 15 **TIME: 2:00-3:00PM EST**	**Event:** USDA Presidential Appointee Latino Panel **Description:** A panel of Latino appointees serving USDA will discuss the impact of the Latino community on USDA policies and culture while also giving their impactful stories of self. **Event Type:** Virtual **Audience:** USDA Appointees **Location:** Virtual **Host Organization:** White House Liaison **USDA Participants:** Moderator: Liz Archuleta; Panelists: Armando Valdez, Andrea Delgado, Edyael Casaperalta, Alberto Gonzalez **Press:** None

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SEPTEMBER 15 **3:00 P.M. EST**	**Event: USDA** Hispanic Heritage Month Kick-off **Description:** Interactive online cooking class featuring Chef JC Lopategui using a variety of fresh meats, vegetables, and seasonings, to create a recipe that represent the very best cuisine from Hispanic cultures around the world. **Event Type:** Virtual **Audience:** USDA Employees **Location:** Zoom **Host Organization or USDA Agency:** USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (OASCR) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) **Press:** Closed **Agency POC:** Ali Muhammad - ali.muhammad@usda.gov
SEPTEMBER 16 **11:00 AM- 1:00 P.M. EST**	**Event:** USDA Farmers Market **Description:** Learn about the Hispanic music and rhyhums around the world, the culture, the food and much more. **Location:** Whitten Building (The People's Garden) **Agency POC:** Ali Muhammad - ali.muhammad@usda.gov **Event Type**: In-Person **Audience:** USDA Employees and External Visitors/Local DC Civilians **Host Organization or USDA Agency:** OASCR & AMS **USDA Participants:** Open to All **Press:** Closed
SEPTEMBER 15	**Event:** Virtual Film Showing: Dolores **Description:** A documentary on the life and activism of Dolores Huerta who tirelessly led the fight for racial and labor justice. **Event Type:** Virtual **Agency POC:** Travis Watkins - Travis.Watkins@usda.gov **Audience:** FPAC Mission Area Employees Only **Host Organization or USDA Agency:** Farm Production and Conservation Program (FPAC) **Press:** Closed

HHM EVENTS	
SEPTEMBER 17 **12:00-6:00 PM EST**	**Event/Topic:** RioPalooza "Celebrating Hispanic Heritage with the Whole Family" **Location:** The George Washington National Forest will gather family and friends for a day outdoors. **Agency POC:** https://www.eventbrite.com/e/riopalooza-celebrating-hispanic-heritage-with-the-whole-family-tickets-372933152097?aff=ebdssbdestsearch **Audience:** Open to the Public **Host Organization or USDA Agency:** Forest Service **Press:** Closed
SEPTEMBER 21 **1:00-2:00 PM EST**	**Event:** Bringing Hispanic Voices to Nutrition Security **Description**: Observance is a panel discussion, the theme is "Bringing Hispanic Voices to Nutrition Security" and will focus on the contributions of the panelists to Nutrition Security and how they may take action to influence change. **Event Type:** Virtual Panel Discussion **Location:** WebEx platform **Agency POC:** Fred Cheng - frederick.cheng@usda.gov **Audience:** FNS Employees only **Host Organization or USDA Agency:** Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) **Press:** Closed
SEPTEMBER 21-22	**FYI – USDA Equity Commission Third Public Meeting** **Deputy Secretary Bronaugh and Arturo Rodriguez, President Emeritus, United Farm Workers** The third public meeting of the Equity Commission (EC or Commission) and its Agriculture Subcommittee and Rural Community Economic Development Subcommittee will be held September 21-22, 2022. The public may attend via Zoom. Please complete the registration form to receive a link to attend the meeting. Members of the public who register by Friday, September 9th at 11:59 p.m. EST, may request to provide oral comments during the meeting. Written comments submitted via email to equitycommission@usda.gov by Friday, September 9th at 11:59 pm, will be compiled for Commission members to review in advance of the public meeting.
OCTOBER 4 **2:00 PM EST**	**Event:** USDA's Farm Production and Conservation Virtual Senior Leadership Panel **Description:** A discussion with FPAC Hispanic senior leaders within the FPAC Mission Area. This mentor-centric conversation will focus on Culture and Career. **Event Type:** Virtual **Location:** https://aglearn.usda.gov/course/view.php?id=59315

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	Agency POC: Travis Watkins - Travis.Watkins@usda.gov **Audience:** FPAC Employees only **Host Organization or USDA Agency:** Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) **Press:** Closed
OCTOBER 6 **2:00 – 3:30 P.M. EST**	**Event:** USDA's Rural Development's Hispanic Heritage Month Featuring Ms. Liza Rosa **Description:** The National Hispanic Heritage Month Observance "Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation" will be a Fireside chat virtual event this year. The program will feature Liza Rosa, HR Service Center Director, Bonneville Power Administration, DOE. **Location:** Zoom **Agency POC:** Julio Gordon - julio.gordon@usda.gov **Event Type:** Virtual **Audience:** RD Employees **Host Organization or USDA Agency:** USDA Rural Development **Press:** Closed
OCTOBER 6 **1:00 – 2:30 PM EST**	**Event:** USDA's Forest Service National Hispanic Heritage Month Observance - "Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation **Description**: The observance event at the Forest Service provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate important contributions and accomplishments of Hispanics to the agency, as well as partnerships with Hispanic communities around the country in helping to sustain forests and grasslands for present and future generations. **Agency POC**: Fidel Trujillo – fidel.trujillo@usda.gov **Event Type:** Virtual **Audience:** Forest Service Employees Only **Host Organization or USDA Agency:** Forest Service **USDA Participants:** Forest Service Employees Only **Press:** Closed
OCTOBER 8-10, 2022	**Event:** 36th Annual Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Conference **Description:** USDA is the premier sponsor. HACU Annual Conference provides a unique forum for the sharing of information and ideas for the best and most promising practices in the education of Hispanics. The conference goal is to showcase the initiatives of HACU member institutions promote and expand partnerships and strategics alliances for collaboration between HACU member and public and private sector organizations

HHM EVENTS	
	Location: San Diego, CA **Event Type:** In-Person Conference **Audience:** HSI Leaders, Government and Non-Profit Stakeholders **Host Organization or USDA Agency:** HACU **USDA Participants:** Deputy Secretary Jewel Bronaugh, Dr. Lisa Ramirez, Director, Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement, Elizabeth Archuleta, Director, Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs, Maribel Duran, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Secretary; OPPE Liaisons, Administrator Daniel Whitley, FAS **Press:** Open
OCTOBER 11 **2:00 PM (EST)**	**Event:** USDA Farm Production and Conservation Book Discussion: *Our America: A Hispanic History of the United States* **Description:** The literature will discuss the Hispanic history past and future of the U.S., taking in the explorers and conquistadores who planted Spain's first colonies in Puerto Rico, through to the Hispanic heartlands in major cities such as Chicago, Miami, New York, and Boston. **Event Type:** Virtual **Location:** https://aglearn.usda.gov/enrol/index.php?id=59880 **Agency POC:** Travis Watkins - Travis.Watkins@usda.gov **Host Organization or USDA Agency:** FPAC **USDA Participants:** FPAC Employees Only **Press:** Closed
OCTOBER 13	**Event:** Annual Hispanic Serving Institute (HSI) Symposium **Description:** Event provides the HSI community with information on Federal program resources available at the USDA, NSF, ED and other agencies for the continuous growth and development of research experiences for faculty and students at HSIs. **Event Type:** Virtual **Audience:** Hispanic Serving Institutions **Host Organization or USDA Agency:** OPPE **USDA Participants: Deputy Secretary Bronaugh providing recorded remarks.** **Press:** Open

HHM EVENTS	
OCTOBER 14 **TIME: 2:00-3:00 EST**	**Event:** USDA DEIA Employee Townhall with Secretary Vilsack and Deputy Secretary Bronaugh **Description:** The USDA All Employee Townhall is the amplification event to the workforce about the DEIA Plan and will feature remarks from the Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Acting Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Leslie Weldon. This is an opporunity to highlight efforts to recruit, hire and retain the best talent, including more Latinos and Hispanics which traditionally have been underrepresented at USDA. **Event Type:** Virtual **Audience:** USDA Employees **Host Organization or USDA Agency:** USDA **Press:** Closed **Event POC**: Leslie Weldon, CDIO and Karen Comfort, Chief Employee Experience Officer
OCTOBER 27 -29, 2022 **(OUTSIDE OF HHM BUT WE ARE TRACKING/INCLUDING)**	**Event:** 3rd Annual National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Congress **Description:** The National Latino Farmers & Ranchers' (NLFR) Annual Congress is to bring agricultural stakeholders together to share agricultural best practices, Farm Bill resolutions, and climate-smart updates. Conference participants discuss individual and/or organizational programs and learn directly from each other. The goal is to identify opportunities and challenges, and how best to collaborate to address them. **Location:** Albuquerque, NM **Event Type:** **Audience:** TBD **Host Organization or USDA Agency:** National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Congress **USDA Participants:**TBD
TBD **1:00-2:00 PM EST**	**Event:** USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Hispanic Heritage – "Unidos: Inclusivity for A Stronger Nation" **Description:** Event featuring Carlos Rodriguez Sallaberry, Professor of the Departments of Agricultural Technology and Natural Sciences, University of Puerto Rico, Utuado Campus. **Agency POC:** Damali Carr - damali.carr@usda.gov **Event Type:** Virtual **Host Organization or USDA Agency:** USDA FSIS **USDA Participants:** FSIS Employees Only **Press:** Closed

HHM EVENTS	
TBD	**Event:** USDA OPPE Kika De La Garza Fellowship Feature **Description:** USDA will highlight the 2022 E. Kika De La Garza Fellowship Program and selectees. On June 15, 2022, USDA named 20 faculty and staff from Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and Hispanic-Serving School Districts around the nation as new E. Kika De La Garza Fellows. These fellowships provide a unique professional development experience and exposure that benefits young people and helps advance the Biden-Harris administration's goal of increasing equity for underserved communities across all of rural America. **Event Type:** USDA Blog Post **Audience:** Public **Location:** USDA Website **Host Organization or USDA Agency:** OPPE
TBD	**Event:** USDA Presidential Appointee Meet-and-Greet **Description:** Appointee meet-and-greet to celebrate Latino culture with authentic food and drink of various cultures in the Latino community. **Event Type:** In-person casual meet-and-greet for appointees **Audience:** USDA appointees **Location:** TBD **Host Organization:** White House Liaison **USDA Participants:** USDA Appointees **Press:** None