

AGENDA

CLICK TO VIEW DAY ONE: [2501 Symposium Day One – September 21, 2022](#)

Opening Remarks

Kenya Nicholas, OPPE Deputy Director

Welcome Remarks

Message from Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack (approx. 14:12)

2501 Program Introduction

Benjamin Chan, OPPE 2501 Program Director (approx. 18:46)

OPPE Panel, Intro and Q&A (approx. 21:50)

Allison Johnson and Bryan Zulko, OPPE National Outreach Coordinators for USDA Liaisons
Bill Ashton, Director, OPPE Strategic Initiatives including Military Veteran Agricultural Liaison, Youth, Women in Ag, Asian American and Pacific Islanders, Farmworker Advocacy.

Benjamin Chan, OPPE 2501 Program Director

Kenya Nicholas, OPPE Deputy Director

Lisa Ramirez, OPPE Director

USDA's Office of Tribal Relations (OTR), Intro and Q&A

Heather Dawn Thompson, OTR Director (approx. 59:10)

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (OASCR), Intro and Q&A

Monica Rainge, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (approx. 1:16:55)

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU), Intro and Q&A

George Sears, OSDBU Director (approx. 1:34:00)

USDA Senior Leaders Panel 1, Intro and Q&A

Ron Harris, NRCS Outreach and Partnership Division Director (approx. 2:01:20)

Xochitl Torres Small, Under Secretary for Rural Development (approx. 2:19:38)

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Intro and Q&A

Hubert Hamer, NASS Administrator (approx. 2:43:07)

Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (FBNP)

Samantha Joseph, FBNP Senior Advisor (approx. 3:03:05)

CLICK TO VIEW: [Day One Closing Remarks by OPPE Director Lisa Ramirez](#)

CLICK TO VIEW DAY TWO: [2501 Symposium Day Two – September 22, 2022](#)

Opening Remarks

Lisa Ramirez, OPPE Director

Remarks from Capitol Hill

Congressman Sanford Bishop, Georgia (approx. 1:48)

Engaging Underserved Farmers and Ranchers

Eloris Speight, Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center Executive Director (approx. 11:05)

Rural Small Business Tools & Resources, Intro and Q&A

Alan Haut, Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Rural Affairs (approx. 31:22)

Terri Billups, Small Business Administration

USDA Senior Leaders Panel 2, Intro and Q&A

Melissa Bailey, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) (approx. 1:03:47)

Farrah Buff, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) (approx. 1:20:05)

Ahlishia Shipley, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) (approx. 1:32:16)

Gary Barrett, Forest Service (FS) (approx. 1:38:45)

CLICK TO VIEW: [Day Two Closing Remarks with OPPE Director Lisa Ramirez and OPPE Deputy Director Kenya Nicholas](#)