

USDA's Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE) and Farm Production and Conservation Business Center (FPAC) Discuss:

**Building Resilience in Agricultural and Food Systems through Strategic and Innovative Partnerships**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

**1:00-4:30pm EST**

**Register [here](#)**

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**1:00-1:05 pm Introduction and Welcome**

Jessica Carlton, FPAC, and Alex Cordova, OPPE

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**1:05-1:40 pm Leadership Remarks**

Kevin Norton, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation

Jacqueline Davis-Slay, Acting Director, Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement

Dr. Barb Glenn, Ph.D., CEO of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

Gerilee Bennett, Director, Interagency Coordination Division – Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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**1:40-2:40 pm Panel 1 – Innovative Partnerships Between State/Local Partners to Support Resilient Food Systems**

*This panel will focus on partnerships between federal, state, local, and the private sector to support technical assistance, capacity building, and the development of a resilient local food system. Speakers will describe ongoing collaboration centered on urban agriculture and innovative food production in Connecticut. The panel will also highlight locally led development efforts, the role of place-based investors, and the need for integrated capital to support resilience.*

Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt, Connecticut Department of Agriculture

Louis Aspey, Deputy Chief for Management and Strategy – Natural Resources Conservation Service, Interim Director - USDA Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

Lee Cruz, Director of Community Outreach, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven

Latha Swamy, Director of Food System Policy, City of New Haven, Connecticut

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**2:40-2:45 pm Break**

**2:45-3:45 pm Panel 2- Strategic Partnerships in support of Resiliency in Disaster Recovery**

*This panel will discuss how innovative and strategic partnerships can help agricultural communities before, during, and after natural disasters. Speakers will focus not only on partnerships with USDA, but also on private partnerships that build resilience in the entire agricultural community. The panel is present and future facing, and discussion of existing collaboration will foster a dialogue about the types of partnerships available with USDA and private industry to support resilience in disaster recovery.*

Mark Scanlan, Senior Vice President of Agriculture & Rural Policy, Independent Community Bankers of America

Esther Lin, National Outreach Manager, Farm Service Agency

Dr. Samuel Scott, Ph.D., CEO and Executive Director, North-South Institute

Moira McDonald, Environment Program Director, Walton Family Foundation

Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, Palm Beach County, FL, on behalf of the National Association of Counties

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**3:45-3:50 pm Break**

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**3:50-4:20 pm Strategic [short term] Partnership Opportunities with USDA Agencies**

*Each representative will discuss partnership opportunities with various USDA agencies.*

Dr. Elise Golan, Ph.D., Director – Sustainable Development, USDA Office of the Chief Economist and Hope Bigda-Peyton, International Trade Specialist, Foreign Agricultural Service

Christina Conell, Deputy Director, Local Foods Research - Transportation and Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service

Kellie Kubena, Deputy Chief Innovation Officer, Rural Development Innovation Center

Sarah Campbell, USDA National Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator, Farm Service Agency

Cathleen Cohn, Tech Transfer Liaison, Agricultural Research Service

Toni Flax, Acting Director, National Volunteer Programs, Farm Production and Conservation Volunteer Team

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**4:20-4:30 pm Wrap up and Closing**

Jessica Carlton, FPAC, and Alex Cordova, OPPE