



## Sustainable Livelihoods and Behavioral Health: Strategies and Partnerships to Address Farm Stress and Suicide

Virtual Convening

1-5pm ET, May 17-19, 2022

[Registration](#)

**Tuesday – Day 1**

**1:00 - 1:30 pm**

### **Introduction and Welcome**

Dr. Lisa Ramirez, Director, Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dr. Jewel Bronaugh, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Andrea Palm, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Commissioner Ball, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Board President, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

**1:30 – 2:30 pm**

### **Setting the Stage and the Lived Experience**

*This session will provide participants with information about Farm Stress and Rural Mental Health. From factual information about availability of care to personal stories about how farmers and ranchers can reach out to get help, participants will leave this session with a better understanding that mental health struggles are not uncommon, and that help can be found.*

Dr. Cristina Miller, Economist, USDA Rural Development - Rural Health Liaison team

Moderator: Xochitl Torres Small, Undersecretary, USDA Rural Development

Erin Kimbrough, Program Manager and Co-Director, Battle Ground to Breaking Ground and Texas Agrability, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

John Kimbrough, President, Texas Veteran Farmers Coalition

Dale Dobson, Safety Administrator, State of Kentucky Department of Agriculture

**2:30 – 3:30 pm**

### **USDA Response**

*Moderated by Dr. Shefali Mehta, Deputy Undersecretary - Research, Education, and Economics*

*USDA is committed to ensuring the health and safety of agricultural producers and farm workers. When an individual participates in a USDA program, they enter into a relationship with USDA, and with a partner that wants to help that individual succeed. Learn about USDA programs and resources designed to help producers and their families overcome farm-related stress.*

Esther Lin, National Outreach Manager, Farm Service Agency

Heather Dawn Thompson, Director, Office of Tribal Relations

Kellie Kubena, Rural Health Liaison, Rural Development

**3:30 – 3:45 pm**

### **Break**

**3:45 – 4:45 pm**

### **Challenges Facing Today's Family Farmers**

*Moderated by Scott Marlow, Deputy Administrator, Farm Service Agency*

*This session will delve into ongoing issues and trends in agriculture and explore how the farm economy, climate, and social institutions affect farm stress.*

Dr. Mary Hendrickson, Associate Professor, University of Missouri

Dr. Alexis Racelis, Associate Professor, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Toni Stanger-McLaughlin, Chief Executive Officer, Native American Agriculture Fund

B. Ray Jeffers, Policy and Program Manager, Rural Advancement Foundation

International (RAFI USA)

**4:45 – 5:00 pm**

### **Recap Day 1 and Adjournment**



United States Department of Agriculture

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Wednesday – Day 2

1:00 – 2:00 pm

### USDA and HHS: Partnering for Health

*A panel of experts from the US Department of Health and Human Services discuss the work they do in support of rural behavioral health, how they work together within HHS and with other partners like USDA, and the important services they provide.*

Kellie Kubena, Rural Health Liaison, USDA Rural Development

Dr. Monica Rousseau, Public Health Analyst, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, HHS - Health Resources and Services Administration

Kimberly Nelson, Regional Administrator – Region VII, HHS - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Dr. Diane M. Hall, Senior Scientist for Policy and Strategy, and Lead, Rural Health, HHS – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Jennifer Lincoln, Associate Director, Office of Agriculture Safety and Health, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), HHS – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2:00 -2:15 pm

### Questions and Answers

2:15 - 3:15 pm

### Impacts and Voices from Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network

*The Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) assists people who work in agriculture to manage and reduce their stress by offering connections to behavioral health services, support groups, educational programs, telephone helplines, and clearinghouse websites of resources. Connecting farmers and farmworkers with resources, support, and training at the regional and state level is critical to helping them navigate potential challenges while working, developing careers, and building sustainable enterprises in agriculture and ranching. Learn about the positive impacts that FRSAN is making for agricultural communities.*

Dr. Jac (Jaclyn) Wypler, Farmer Mental Health Director, National Young Farmers Coalition

Dr. Courtney Cuthbertson, Co-Director, North Central Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Center; Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, University of Illinois

Anna Seymour, Special Projects Manager, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Leslie Rodríguez, FRSAN Manager, National Young Farmers Coalition

Thea Rittenhouse, Farmer Equity Advisor, Tribal Liaison, California Department of Food and Agriculture

3:15 – 3:30 pm

### Break

3:30 – 4:30 pm

### Emergent Needs and Next Steps

*Moderated by Matt Russell, State Executive Director – Iowa, Farm Service Agency*

*This session will shine a light on areas of farm stress research, policy, and programs that need more attention from public and private stakeholders, from the national to the local level. Experts will share their perspectives on emergent needs and discuss feedback from conference attendees. Do you have thoughts on what farm stress issues policymakers, advocates, and individual citizens should be paying attention to? Send your comments to [partnerships@usda.gov](mailto:partnerships@usda.gov) by Wednesday, May 18, at 12pm eastern.*

Rob Larew, President, National Farmers Union

Dr. Charles H. Smith, Regional Administrator – Region 8, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Dr. Florence Becot, Associate Research Scientist, National Farm Medicine Center,

4:30 – 4:45 pm

### Closing and Next Steps



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Thursday – Day 3

1:00 – 2:00 pm

**Regional Breakouts for Farmers and Farmworkers**

*Regional breakout sessions offer a space for farmers and farmworkers to share about stress and wellness in their agricultural communities. Each regional breakout will briefly provide information about two stress relief programs: Rural Opioid Training Assistance (ROTA) and Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN). Farmers and farmworkers then have the opportunity to share about stressors, coping strategies, and needed supports to continually improve the health and sustainability of their agricultural communities. Breakouts will be co-facilitated by ROTA and FRSAN recipients in each region and will not be recorded.*

Region	State	ROTA	FRSAN
West	Montana	Dr. Alison Brennan - Assistant Professor, Health and Human Development, Montana State University, Mental Health Specialist, MSU Extension	Dr. Michelle Grocke-Dewey - Assistant Professor, Health and Human Development, Montana State University, Health and Wellness Specialist at MSU Extension
North Central	South Dakota	Amber Letcher - Associate Professor & SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist, South Dakota State University	Brian Pontious - Policy Advisor, South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Northeast	Pennsylvania	Janet Welsh - Research Professor; Principal Investigator for the Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support, Penn State College of Health and Human Development	Mark Critz - PA Dep. of Agriculture, Western Regional Dir., Exec. Dir. PA Rural Dev. Council
South	North Carolina	Amy Chilcote - NC 4-H Curriculum Specialist, NC Cooperative Extension	Beth Farrell - Acting Director, Marketing Division, and Agricultural Programs Specialist, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

**Afternoon – Concurrent Workshops**

2:15 - 3:45 pm

**Tools and Best Practices to Address Farm Stress for USDA employees and Producer Serving Organizations**

*Introduced by Louis Aspey, Associate Chief, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
This is a learning session designed specifically for USDA employees and agricultural service providers who interact directly with farmers and ranchers in their daily work. Come hear how you can support producers experiencing farm stress—from communication strategies that can express care and de-escalate stressful situations, to available mental health resources that you can share with your customers.*

Caitlin Arnold Stephano, Hotline Program Manager, Farm Aid  
Jonathan LaPorte, Farm Business Management Educator - Southwest Michigan Cass County Extension Office

2:15 – 3:45 pm

**Advocating for Mental Healthiness: Sharing Impactful Community-level Approaches from the Field**

*Introduced and moderated by Katherine McGuire, Chief Advocacy Officer, American Psychological Association*

Dr. Rebecca Roller, Clinical Psychologist and Marital & Family Therapist, Sac River Counseling, Inc., Owner/Operator Back Forty Bison Ranch



**United States Department of Agriculture**

Dr. Andrew J. McLean, Clinical Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Technical Trainer, Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (TTC)

Dr. Maridee Shogren, Clinical Professor, College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines, University of North Dakota, Technical Trainer, Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (TTC)

Cecily Rodriguez, Manager of Applied Research, Virginia Tech School of Public and International Affairs, Technical Trainer, National Hispanic Latino Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (TTC)

Angel D. S. Casillas Carmona Manager, Universidad Central del Caribe, Institute of Research, Education and Services on Addiction, Technical Trainer, National Hispanic and Latino Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (TTC)