

CELEBRATING 12 YEARS



2023

LOUISIANA SMALL FARMERS CONFERENCE

"BRING YOUR FARM PRODUCTS TO THE MARKETPLACE!"



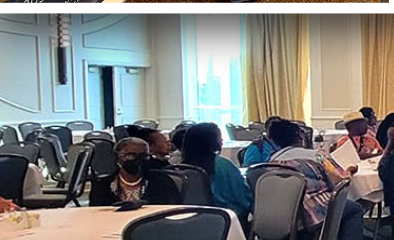
SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2023

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OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR-DEAN

September 22, 2023

Greetings,

I want to extend warm greetings and heartfelt appreciation to our distinguished guests and participants at the 2023 Louisiana Small Farmers Conference.

Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE), Ms. Deidre Deculus Robert, USDA Rural Development Louisiana State Director, Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, and our esteemed Commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Dr. Mike Strain, we are truly honored by your presence and unwavering support for this important event. Your dedication to advancing agriculture and rural development is a source of inspiration for us all, and we thank you.

I also want to express our gratitude to Dr. De'Shoin York, Vice Chancellor of Extension and Outreach, Dr. Brian Phillips, Associate Small Farms Specialist/Conference Organizer, the dedicated team who worked tirelessly to organize this conference, and to our speakers and presenters. Your efforts have provided our farming community with a valuable platform for learning, networking, and growth.

To our esteemed farmers in attendance, your presence here speaks volumes about your commitment to your craft. Your desire to learn more about the business you're in is commendable, and we hope you leave this conference with valuable knowledge and a multitude of new connections. This conference is designed with you in mind, and it is all for you.

In the spirit of collaboration and shared growth, we look forward to a successful conference that will empower and inspire our small farmers. Let's make the most of this opportunity to learn, connect, and collectively shape a brighter future for Louisiana's agriculture.

Thank you once again for your support and participation. Together, we can cultivate success and prosperity in our farming communities.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'O. McMeans'.

Orlando F. McMeans
Chancellor-Dean



AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Conference Registration	Randolph Riverfront Center
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Louisiana Small Farm Tour	Randolph Riverfront Center
	<i>8:30 AM: Bus load at Randolph Riverfront Center, Alexandria LA, 707 2nd St., Alexandria, LA 71301</i>	
	<i>9:00 AM: Bus Leave for T. Moise Farms, 683 Bearb Road, Sunset, LA 70584</i>	
	<i>10:00 AM: Arrive at T. Moise Farms 683 Bearb Road, Sunset, LA 70584</i>	
	<i>3:00 PM: Depart T. Moise Farms</i>	
	<i>5:00 PM: Arrive at Randolph Riverfront Center, Alexandria, LA, 707 2nd St, Alexandria, LA 71301</i>	
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Meet & Greet/Reception	Randolph Riverfront Center

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

7:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Registration	Randolph Riverfront Center
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast, provided	General Assembly Space
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Opening Session	General Assembly Space
	Dr. Brian K. Phillips, Associate Specialist, Small Farms, SU Ag Center, Moderator	
	Greetings	
	Dr. Orlando F. McMeans, Chancellor-Dean, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences	
	Dennis J. Shields, President-Chancellor, Southern University System and Southern University and A&M College	
	Myron K. Lawson, Chairman, Board of Supervisors, Southern University System	
	Keynote Speaker	
	Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, USDA Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture- Research, Education, & Economics	
10:00AM – 10:30 AM	BREAK / EXHIBITS / NETWORK	Exhibit Space
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	CONCURRENT SESSION I	
	A. Business: Breaking the Lending Code	Break Out Room 1
	Will M. Campbell, Jr., MA - Director, b1 Foundation	
	B. Produce/Livestock: Managing My Cow Herd Through Heat Stress, Lack of Grass, and Lack of Hay	Break Out Room 2
	Dr. C. Pat Bagley, Director, Beef Research Institute, SU Ag Center	

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 28 (CONT.)**

AGENDA



C. USDA-FSA: Livestock Disaster Program

Lee Carter and Matt Springer
Agricultural Program Specialists, USDA-FSA

Break Out Room 3

D. (a) Pet Therapy

Ashlyn Harrison, MA, NCC, LPC
Assistant Specialist- Mental Health, SU Ag Center

Break Out Room 4

(b) All of Us Research Program

11:30 PM – 12:30 PM

CONCURRENT SESSION II

**A. Business: Understanding and Structuring
Your Business Entity**

Darrell K. Tennie MBA, MA, Chief Executive Officer

Break Out Room 1

**B. Produce/Livestock: The Effects of Drought on
Crops and Discrimination Lawsuit**

Odis Hill, Area Agent, SU Ag Center

Break Out Room 2

**C. USDA: Overview of Farm Loan Programs
and available Loan Options**

Michelle Shilling, Farm Loan Officer, USDA-FSA

Break Out Room 3

D. (a) Pet Therapy

Ashlyn Harrison, MA, NCC, LPC
Assistant Specialist- Mental Health, SU Ag Center

Break Out Room 4

(b) All of Us Research Program

12:15 PM – 12:30 PM

BREAK / EXHIBITS / NETWORK

Exhibit Space

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

LUNCH / BANQUET

General Assembly Space

Dr. De'Shoin A. York, Vice Chancellor,
Extension & Outreach, SU Ag Center, Moderator

Greetings

Mike Strain, Commissioner, LA. Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry Commissioner

Keynote Speaker

Deidre Deculus Robert, White House Presidential Appointee,
USDA Rural Development State Director, Louisiana

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

CONCURRENT SESSION III

A. Business: Selling to the Government

Jo Ann Lawrence, District Director,
U.S. Small Business Administration

Break Out Room 1

B. Produce/Livestock: Farming on the Edge

IBM Liquid Prep

Break Out Room 2



AGENDA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 (CONT.)

C. USDA: Farm Storage Facility Loans and Organic Certification Cost Share Program
Matt Gwin, Program Specialist, USDA-FSA
Break Out Room 3

D. (a) Pet Therapy
Ashlyn Harrison, MA, NCC, LPC
Assistant Specialist- Mental Health, SU Ag Center
Break Out Room 4
(b) *All of Us* Research Program

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

CONCURRENT SESSION IV

A. Business: Programs and Resources Offered by SUSTA
Troy Rosamond, Financial Director/Deputy Director, SUSTA
Break Out Room 1

B. Produce/Livestock: Rural Response to Farmers Mental Health
Ashlyn Harrison, MA, NCC, LPC
Assistant Specialist- Mental Health, SU Ag Center
Break Out Room 2

C. USDA
Whey McGrew, Business and Industry Program Director, USDA Rural Development
Break Out Room 3

D. (a) Pet Therapy
Ashlyn Harrison, MA, NCC, LPC
Assistant Specialist- Mental Health, SU Ag Center
Break Out Room 4
(b) *All of Us* Research Program

4:00PM – 5:00 PM

BREAK / EXHIBITS / NETWORK

Exhibit Space

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Breakfast, provided

General Assembly Space

Dr. Brian K. Phillips, Associate Specialist, Small Farms, SU Ag Center, Moderator

Speaker

Billy Nungesser, Lieutenant Governor, Louisiana

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Shark Tank – Pitch Competition to Venture Capitalist

General Assembly Space

11:00AM – 11:30 AM

BREAK / EXHIBITS / NETWORK

Exhibit Space

11:30AM – 2:00 PM

LUNCH / CONFERENCE RECAP / GIVEAWAYS ADJOURN

General Assembly Space

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DR. CHAVONDA JACOBS-YOUNG

SPEAKER BIO: Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young serves as the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE), and as USDA's Chief Scientist. The REE mission area is comprised of more than 8,500 employees with a \$4 billion budget across its five component organizations including the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Economic Research Service (ERS), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS). Together these organizations advance agricultural research, innovation, data, and Extension across a full range of agricultural issues including climate-smart agriculture, nutrition security, equity, and strengthening food supply chains. As Chief Scientist, Dr. Jacobs-Young advises the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior officials on scientific matters and chairs the USDA Science Council, which convenes all parts of USDA's scientific enterprise.



Prior to being appointed by President Biden to serve as the REE Under Secretary, Dr. Jacobs-Young was Administrator for ARS from 2014 to 2022. Prior to that role, she served as ARS Associate Administrator for National Programs, leading the research objectives of the entire Agency. She also led the Office of International Research Programs, which is responsible for ARS' liaison with its international partners. From 2009 to 2012, Dr. Jacobs-Young served as the inaugural OCS Director, where she was responsible for facilitating the coordination of scientific leadership across the Department to ensure that research supported by, and scientific advice provided to, the Department and external stakeholders were held to the highest standards of intellectual rigor and scientific integrity. She has also served as the Acting Director for NIFA and as a senior policy analyst for agriculture in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Dr. Jacobs-Young is a native of Georgia. She holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Wood and Paper Science and a B.S. degree in Pulp and Paper Science and Technology from North Carolina State University. She is a graduate of American University's Key Executive Leadership in Public Policy Implementation Program, and a proud fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Academy of Public Administration.

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JO ANN LAWRENCE

SPEAKER BIO: As the Deputy District Director for the Louisiana District Office Jo manages the district office staff. She is responsible for providing effective leadership, management and oversight to ensure optimization and deployment of SBA programs and services. She has extensive experience and expertise in providing business development, financial management, contracting, and procurement assistance to small businesses in Louisiana. She is a nationwide expert on the 8(a) Business Development program, HUBZone certification, Woman-owned Small Business certification, Veteran-owned Small Business Certification, 7(j) Management and Technical Assistance, Joint Ventures and Mentor Protégé Programs. Mrs. Lawrence is frequently called upon for training initiatives across the country, and she has worked on several standard operating procedures (SOP) manuals in all areas of small business development. In August 2017, she successfully completed the Excellence in Government Fellows Leadership Program where she improved her leadership skills, increased her knowledge of pathways into the SES Program and increased her knowledge of the SES experience. Jo has more than 49 years of service with the Federal Government, all with SBA.

In 2002, Mrs. Lawrence received the Minority Advocate of the Year Award from the Gulf South Minority Supplier Development Council. In August 2013, Mrs. Lawrence was recognized as a leader for her work in the State of Louisiana by receiving the Louisiana Minority Supplier Development Council's 2013 Leadership Award. In April 2014, she was nominated by the Association for Enterprise Opportunity as a Microbusiness Champion for her support of ProsperityNOLA and microbusinesses in Louisiana. Mrs. Lawrence was recognized by the Association for Enterprise Opportunity during its 2014 National Conference in New Orleans. On July 24, 2014, the Mayor of New Orleans, Senator Mary Landrieu, Congressman Cedric Richmond, Louisiana

District Office staff and in excess of 120 current and former Louisiana 8(a) firms recognized Jo Ann Lawrence for 40 years of service to the small businesses in Louisiana. In early April of 2016, she was nominated for the 2016 Small Business Advocacy Award for Federal Government. This national award was presented to her on July 14, 2016, in Washington, D.C. at the annual ACT-IAC Small Business Growth Symposium. She is a 2017 graduate of the Excellence in Government Fellows Leadership Program. On April 15, 2019, Lawrence received, from Southern University and A & M College, the Business and Community Champion Award for her outstanding leadership and contributions she has made to the small businesses in Louisiana. In July 2019, the SBA Associate Administrator for Field Operations recognized her for 45 years of service. On January 24, 2021, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women New Orleans Chapter, Inc. honored her as the Pandemic Unsung Hero for Economic Development. In April 2021, she was nominated for the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals (Sammies) as part of Public Service Recognition Week 2021. On July 15, 2021, the SBA Deputy Associate Administrator for Field Operations presented her with the Advocate of the Year Award. On June 26, 2022, Lawrence was recognized and honored as a Leader in Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment. On May 11, 2023, she was recognized and honored as a Most Valuable Partner by New Orleans Business Alliance.

She is married to Jason Lawrence and is a member of the New Hope Baptist Church where she participates in several ministries.



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DEIDRE DECULUS ROBERT

SPEAKER BIO: Robert has over two decades of legal, administrative, and executive management experience and is honored to serve in the Biden-Harris administration as state director of Rural Development for Louisiana. Her legal career began in the Parish Attorney's Office of the City of Baton Rouge-Parish of East Baton Rouge as an assistant city prosecutor. During her 11 years with the city-parish, she advanced to become the first black female section chief. Thereafter, she worked for over six years as an assistant attorney general with the Louisiana Department of Justice, where she served as deputy director of the Public Protection Division, deputy director of the Litigation Division, and special litigation counsel assigned to defend the Louisiana Judiciary. Prior to accepting this presidential appointment, Robert served as the executive counsel for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. Her responsibilities included managing legislative affairs on the federal, state, and local levels and supervising the innovative procurement, legal and internal audit sections of the agency, as well as the human resources legal matters of the agency. She collaborated with state and local partners to advance infrastructure needs including rail, broadband and bridges throughout the state. Previously, Robert served as general counsel of the Southern University and A&M College System, the only HBCU college system in the country.



State Director Robert and her team are here to provide investments that will deliver help to small businesses to access new and better markets, grow modern infrastructure, promote a healthy environment and affordable housing, and create equitable access to quality healthcare, jobs, and capital.

TROY M. ROSAMOND

SPEAKER BIO: Troy has served the organization for twenty-one years primarily responsible for the organization's financial activities which includes monitoring and reporting on the financial condition of the association. This includes analysis on the performance of SUSTA's USDA Market Access Programs that includes an ongoing financial review of funds allocated and utilized to strategically improve the association's performance. Troy worked in executive-level small-business accounting for over 35 years prior to joining SUSTA. Troy Graduated from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and is a Certified Public Accountant.



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DR. C. PAT BAGLEY

PRESENTATION TITLE: Managing My Cow Herd Through Heat Stress, Lack of Grass, and Lack of Hay

ABSTRACT: This has been a most difficult summer which will lead to an even more difficult winter for livestock producers and their animals. Summer temperatures have been much above normal, and rainfall much below normal over most of the State. High temperatures result in grasses with higher fiber content that are less digestible, and the drought has reduced grass production. Many producers will not be able to produce or purchase enough hay to feed the cow herd through winter. There are many negative factors in livestock production, but some good alternatives. Many producers will find when they wean and sell calves, prices are historically high. Many heavier steers are currently selling for \$2.50/ lb. Beef cow inventory is at its lowest since the 1950's. So, if forced to sell, at least it is a high cattle market. With the drought, hay supplies are tight and very expensive. But corn and other grains and grain by-products have seen price reductions, making them more attractively priced than usual. Historically, for the price per pound of TDN, corn is one of the cheaper feeds. Many livestock producers will be forced to reduce herd size. My recommendation is to sell all older and poorer-producing cows. They are worth a lot of money at the auction market. Based on hay and other available feed supplies, keep as many heifers as possible. With the US still liquidating its cow herd, females will continue to be higher priced due to a lack of cows, and those calves they produce will be higher priced. But we must survive this winter first.



SPEAKER BIO: Dr. C. Pat Bagley was raised on a dairy, beef, cotton, and timber farm in DeSoto Parish. He obtained a B.S. and M.S. from Louisiana State University and a Ph.D. from Virginia Tech University before his first professional possession at the LSU Rosepine Research Station in Vernon Parish. Dr. Bagley is the Director of the Beef Research Institute at Southern University. Over his career, he has over 500 publications and 7 books or book chapters. His research focus has primarily been on beef cattle and forage management, along with the feeding of by-product feeds to reduce feed costs to livestock.

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ASHLYN HARRISON, MA, NCC, LPC

PRESENTATION TITLE: A Rural Response to Farmers Mental Health

ABSTRACT: In the heartlands where crops grow and life thrives, a quiet crisis can unfold. "A Rural Response to Farmers Mental Health" presentation addresses the pressing mental health challenges faced by farmers. Amid the beauty of rural life, unpredictable markets, weather, and financial pressures take a toll, often in silence. This presentation sheds light on the crisis and introduces the potential of rural communities as pillars of support. By fostering awareness, encouraging dialogue, and leveraging existing networks, rural areas can become strongholds of resilience. Utilizing professional resources to transform remote areas into sanctuaries of mental well-being for those who sow the seeds of our sustenance.



SPEAKER BIO: Ashlyn Harrison is a Licensed Professional Counselor, seasoned educator, and insightful consultant, boasting an impressive decade-long tenure within state and local agencies. Certified in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TFCBT), School Counseling, and Mindbody-Mindfulness, Ashlyn stands as a beacon of expertise in the realm of mental health.

Currently serving as the Assistant Specialist for Mental Health at the esteemed Southern University of Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Ashlyn's unwavering dedication revolves around championing the mental health needs of a diverse spectrum, including students, faculty, seniors, and the farming community. Her academic journey took root at Southern University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Sociology, followed by a return to secure a Master's in Clinical Mental Health and Counselor Education.

Ever the relentless learner, Ashlyn is presently pursuing a doctorate in Educational Leadership at Xavier University Louisiana, slated for completion in December 2023. Beyond her professional pursuits, she weaves her vibrant presence into the fabric of various regional and national community organizations. Her affiliations with entities such as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, The National Coalition of 100 Black Women Incorporated (Metropolitan Baton Rouge chapter), The Baton Rouge Women's Council, The Louisiana Counseling Association, and the East Baton Rouge Parish Special Education Advisory Council underscore her commitment to holistic community growth.

Ashlyn Harrison's philosophy is encapsulated by her cherished quote: "Don't be a product of your environment; make your environment a product of you." With her diverse experience, steadfast advocacy, and visionary leadership, Ashlyn continues to empower individuals and communities, striving to make every environment she touches flourish through her remarkable contributions.

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WILL M. CAMPBELL, JR., MA

SPEAKER BIO: Will Campbell previously served as VP of Commercial Services/ Mortgage Retail and the SBA Manager for Capital One Bank's SBA Lending Division, governing financial matters with the Small Business Administration. Prior to joining Capital One, Will served as the Director of the Louisiana Small Business Development Center at Southern University. He was responsible for overseeing and managing the center, while providing business consulting for citizen in seven parishes. The center had a strong focus in creating entrepreneurs in Baton Rouge and the surrounding areas, with a special emphasis in contractual services. Will is currently serving as an adjunct professor at Southern University, where he teaches Entrepreneurship in the MBA program.



In addition, Will was the regional manager at Liberty Banks throughout the Baton Rouge and Opelousas regions. He also has over 30 years of experience in the financial services industry; including his roles as the Vice President/Banking Center Manager for Bank One, and a Branch Manager for Wells Fargo Financial.

Mr. Will Campbell is well known for his involvement in the lending industry, economic development programs, and community outreach initiatives. His experience in lending has empowered him to help many small businesses define and achieve their goals. His areas of expertise include loan packaging, strategic business planning, bank management and entrepreneurship. He is also the Senior Pastor of Serenity Praise and Worship Tabernacle Church and a Managing Partner of Millennium Consulting Network, Inc.

Will is most proud of his 17 years of service as a Captain in the United States Army Reserves, where he served as a Traffic Management Officer and Family Support Liaison.

Will received his Master of Arts degree in Management and Leadership from Liberty University. He received a certificate of Entrepreneurship Educators from Babson College, and he is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Management and Leadership.

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WHEY MCGREW

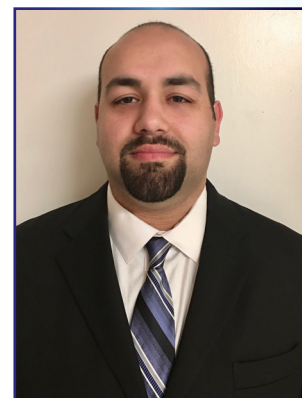
PRESENTATION TITLE: Louisiana Rural Development Partnership Opportunities

ABSTRACT: Rural Development (RD) is one of the eight mission areas within the United States Department of Agriculture. Through its three agencies, the Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Utilities Service, Rural Development offers loans, grants, and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development.

RD promotes economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks, credit unions, and community-managed lending pools; as well as offers financial assistance and information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives get started or improve the effectiveness of their operations.

All of these activities are critical to helping rural communities prosper and fulfil the commitment to improve the economy and quality of life in rural Louisiana.

SPEAKER BIO: Whey McGrew is the Louisiana Business and Cooperative Programs Director with the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development. He provides leadership for a \$36+ million portfolio and is responsible for administering over 18 loan and grant programs across rural Louisiana. Whey has been with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for eight years. In addition to his contributions at Rural Development, he also is an Adjunct Instructor of Finance for Louisiana State University at Alexandria's College of Business.



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DARRELL K. TENNIE, MBA, MA

SPEAKER BIO: Darrell K. Tennie is the founder and CEO of The Tennie Group, LLC, a Tax & Accounting Firm serving clients throughout multiple states across the U.S. with a focus on sustainability in building entrepreneurship and business development within our Socio-economic Disadvantaged Communities along with an emphasis on agribusiness development.

He is a graduate of South Carolina State University where he received his undergraduate Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Agribusiness. In addition, he has a Master of Business Administration (MBA) as well as a Master in Arts Degree in Human Resource Development (MA), Webster University, along with 20+ years of experience in Corporate America.

Additionally, he currently owns and operates the following companies: Tender Care Home Health Care, Circle of Angels Home Health Care, Inner Peace Community Support Services-Mental Health, Agribusiness Alliance Crop Insurance Group, The Insurance Solution Group and Farmers Outreach Solutions a Non-profit.

Darrell Tennie also serves as an advisor to the NC A&T State University L.C. Cooper International Trade Centers' Advisory Board, Treasurer of the City of Knightdale Chamber of Commerce Board and he is also a member of the Knightdale Rotary Club.

His mission is educating and empowering everyone in understanding accountability, to ensure sustainability with a solid foundation of growth and development.



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JEFF LU

PRESENTATION TITLE: Digital Farming on the Edge

ABSTRACT: Liquid Prep + Open Horizon offers an open-source end-to-end solution for farmers to optimize water usage and maximize crop output. By leveraging modern technology along with state-of-the-art weather data/forecast, smart sensors with supported communication protocols, mesh network, edge computing & ML/AI data models, farmers can make smarter decisions based on the recommendations and intelligent insights provided by our solution.

At the end of the presentation, attendees will learn about:

- Liquid Prep App Capabilities
- DIY Soil Moisture Sensors
- Importance of Edge Computing
- Future Enhancement
- Opportunities to use Liquid Prep

SPEAKER BIO: Jeff Lu has worked in the IT industry for more than twenty years, gaining experience by applying technology in industries like Healthcare, Internet Security, Aviation, Weather, Edge Computing and is currently working on Software Defined Network/Hybrid Cloud Mesh at IBM. As a seasoned technologist, he is passionate about adopting & keeping up to date with modern and emerging tech. Previous roles include having led the Weather Underground technology platform. In addition to IT work, he is an entrepreneur, owns/operates small businesses. Outside of the office, Jeff enjoys hiking, movies, DIY IoT, and spending time with his family.



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LEE CATER

TITLE: USDA-FSA Livestock Disaster Programs

TOPIC: How the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) grazing programs can help livestock producers during drought situations by providing financial assistance if eligible.

SPEAKER BIO: I am from Harrisonburg, Louisiana, a small rural town in Catahoula Parish. I am a graduate of Louisiana Tech University. I began my career with the Natural Resource Conservation Service in November 2006. I served in five different parish offices throughout my ten-year career with NRCS. I started as a Soil Conservation Technician in St. Landry Parish and ended my NRCS career as a District Conservationist in Avoyelles Parish. In 2016, I took a position with FSA as an Agricultural Program Specialist for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). I have since moved to manage disaster programs such as the Livestock Forage Program and the Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program.



MATT SPRINGER

TITLE: USDA-FSA Livestock Disaster Programs

TOPIC: How the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) grazing programs can help livestock producers during drought situations by providing financial assistance if eligible.

SPEAKER BIO: Mr. Springer is an Agricultural Program Specialist with USDA-FSA. He has worked with FSA for over 15 years. He is currently stationed at the State Office in Alexandria. His primary programs of focus are Disaster Programs and Compliance. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.



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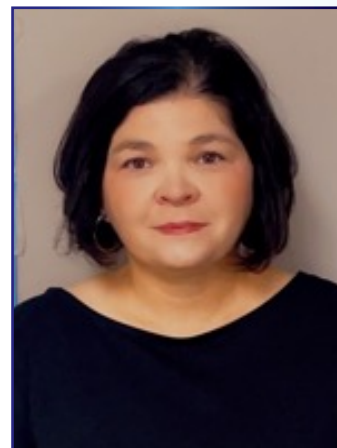
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MICHELLE SHILLING

TOPIC: Overview of Farm Loan Programs and Available Loan Options

SPEAKER BIO: Michelle has been a Farm Loan Officer with Farm Service Agency since 2018. She started her career with FSA as Farm Loan Program Technician. Then she transitioned to Farm Loan Officer Trainee and landed her current FLO position in the Rapides County office upon completing the training program. Before working with FSA, she worked at a Real Estate Agency and First South Farm Credit as a Loan Assistant and a commercial Senior Loan Assistant. She married her husband for 22 years and has one 8-year-old child. Together they also have two horses that her husband and son use to rope on, eight dogs, 30 head of cattle, and approximately 30 chickens.



MATT GWIN

TOPIC: Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFLs) provide low-interest financing for producers to store, handle and/or transport eligible commodities they produce. Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) provides organic producers and handlers with financial assistance to reduce the cost of organic certification.

SPEAKER BIO: Matt Gwin is a Program Specialist for USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). He oversees the administration of Farm Programs, interprets government policy/regulations, and explains program provisions to employees and producers. A native of Franklin Parish, he began his agriculture career at Macon Ridge LSU Research Station as a student worker under Dr. Rogers Leonard for five summers. He then worked four summers as a Young and Young Consulting field scout. Matt received his Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, with a minor in Agronomy. After graduation, he worked as an LSU AgCenter Extension Agent in Richland Parish for two years before starting his career with FSA in 2010. Matt now resides in Alexandria, LA, with his wife and two kids, where he combines his experience and passion to impact the Louisiana Agriculture Community positively.



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Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

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