



Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers

September 22 – 24, 2015 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Embassy Suites by Hilton Savannah Historic District

605 West Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, GA 31401

(Public) Listen-Only Call (888) 455-1685 Passcode: 6105699

Day 1: Tuesday, September 22

Call to Order, Administrative, Introductions, 9:00am

- Kenya Nicholas, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
- RJ Cabrera, Deputy DFO and Facilitator
- Committee Member Introductions

Introductory Remarks

- Paula Garcia, Chairperson, Minority Farmers Advisory Committee

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 10:15am

- Carolyn Parker
Director Office of Advocacy and Outreach

Break, 10:45am

USDA Office of the General Counsel, Civil Rights, Labor and Employment Law Policy, 11:00am

- Stephanie E. Masker,
Senior Counsel (Update on Current Civil Rights Litigation)

Lunch, 12:00pm

USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA), 1:00pm

- Cynthia Cuellar, Outreach Specialist

Break 1:45pm

USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 2:00pm

- D. Leon King
Director Compliance, Policy, Training, and Cultural Transformation

Public Comments Period, 3:00pm

Minority Farmers Advisory Committee Members, 4:00pm

Begin Deliberations and Recommendations Framework

Wrap-Up and Adjourn, 5:00pm



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Day 2: Wednesday, September 23

Call to Order and Review of Day 1, 9:00am

USDA Rural Development State Office, 9:15am

- Quinton Robinson
Georgia State Director

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, 10:15am

- Arthur Neal
Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing Program

Break, 11:00am

USDA Risk Management Agency, 11:15am

- Michael Alston
Associate Administrator/Deputy Manager Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

Lunch, 12:00pm

USDA National Resource Conservation Service, 1:00pm

- Ronald Harris
Director of Outreach and Advocacy Division

USDA Rural Development, 2:00pm

- Bryan J. Zulko
National Manager, StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

Break, 2:45pm

Public Comment Period, 3:00pm

Minority Farmers Advisory Committee Members, 3:15pm

Continue deliberations begin drafting recommendations

Wrap-up and Adjourn, 5:00pm



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Day 3: Thursday, September 24

Call to Order and Review of Day 2, 9:00am

USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach, 9:15am

- Kenya Nicholas, Program Lead, 2501 Program
- Phyllis Holmes, Acting Program Lead, 1890 National Scholars Program

USDA Ombudsperson, 10:00am

- Joanne Dea
USDA Ombudsperson

Break, 10:30am

USDA National Appeals Division, 10:45am

- Mark Kooker
Assistant Director Southern Regional Office

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, 11:15am

- Joshua Troy
Chief, Environmental, Economics, and Demographics Branch

Lunch, 12:00pm

USDA Food and Nutrition Service, 1:00pm

- Samantha Benjamin-Kirk
Farm to School Southeast Regional Lead

USDA Rural Development, 1:30pm

- Amy Caldwell
Housing and Green Initiatives

Minority Farmers Advisory Committee Members, 2:00pm

Continue deliberations toward final report and recommendations

Break, 3:00pm

Public comment period, 4:30pm

Wrap-up and Adjourn, 5:00pm