

September 16-18, 2024

Event Guide

This project is supported by the USDA Farm Service Agency and led by T.I.M.E., Inc.



URBAN AG POST HARVEST CONFERENCE

Houston, Texas



Ronald M. Howell, Jr., Ed.D.

Executive Director

USDA Farm Service Agency, Virginia

Senior Policy Advisor

Welcome

On behalf of our Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator, Zach Ducheneaux, it is a privilege to welcome each of you to this year's Urban Agriculture Conference, a gathering of dedicated individuals who are shaping the future of agriculture through innovation, resilience, and community building. As the Executive Director for the USDA's (FSA) in Virginia, I am honored to stand alongside you as we explore new ways to empower urban farmers and strengthen partnerships across our communities.

At Virginia State University and within the USDA FSA, we are deeply committed to ensuring that underserved farmers, ranchers, and urban agricultural producers have access to the resources, education, and support they need to thrive. This conference represents the opportunity to not only share best practices but also to chart a path forward that prioritizes equity, sustainability, and growth in agriculture.

I look forward to the engaging discussions, insights, and solutions that will arise from this event. Together, we can continue to advance agricultural practices that uplift our communities and foster lasting change.

Thank you for your dedication and passion.

Warm regards,

Ronald M. Howell, Jr., Ed.D.

State Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency, Virginia

Senior Policy Advisor



USDA



Welcome

Cindy Ayers-Elliott, PhD.

President/CEO

T.I.M.E., Inc

T.I.M.E., Inc. is committed to transforming lives through sustainable farming practices, economic development, and community empowerment. Rooted in the belief that education and opportunity can ignite change, we provide hands-on training and support to underserved communities, creating pathways for growth in agriculture and beyond. As we gather for this conference, we reaffirm our mission to equip farmers, ranchers, and entrepreneurs—especially in urban agriculture—with the tools needed to build thriving, self-sustaining communities.

With the support of the United States Department of Agriculture, with all of its powerful agencies, TIME, Inc. continues to foster resilience in urban ag, paving the way for future generations. The National Urban Agriculture Initiative (NuAG), “Bridging the Gap for Urban Agriculture”, supported by the USDA Farm Service Agency, aims to increase the number of urban farmers by providing access to resources for finance, education, and outreach. With the 17 designated Urban Ag cities, we are thrilled to join in collaboration with Virginia State University’s Small Farm Outreach Program, Cornell University, and Virginia Tech to provide strategic guidance, research and training.

On behalf of our team, I welcome you to this event. Together, we can cultivate a brighter future.

Warm regards,

Cindy Ayers Elliott, Ph.D.





Agenda

Any changes to the Agenda will be conveyed during Opening Session.

Monday, September 16, 2024

12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Early Check-In & Registration Foyer

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
USDA and NUAG Meeting Private Dining

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
NUAG Cooperators Detroit Conference Debriefing Meeting & Dinner Offsite

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

7:00 am – 8:00 am
Registration Check-In Foyer

7:00 am – 8:00 am
Breakfast Ballroom

8:00 am – 9:00 am
Opening Session Ballroom

Entertainment: Worthing High School Pep Band
Speakers: Eddie Trevino, TX FSA State Executive Officer; Rigoberto Lopez, TX NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations; John Berge, NHQ FSA Acting Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs; Cindy Ayers Elliott, Ph.D., CEO of TIME, Inc.
Land Acknowledgement: Alisa Staples, Amah Mutsun Tribal Member and TX FSA Program Analyst

9:00 am – 10:30 am
USDA Winners Circle Briefings Ballroom
Facilitator: Markus Holliday, OUAIP Management and Program Analyst

USDA Winners Circle Briefings *continued*

Panelists: John Berge, NHQ FSA Acting Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs; Roel Garza, TX FSA Farm Loan Chief; Rigoberto Lopez, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations; Quintrell Hollis, RMA Risk Management Specialist; Rural Development: Chad Herring, TX Business and Cooperative Specialist; NASS: Wilbert Hundl, Jr., OK, TX Director; RMA-Quintrell Hollis, Risk Management Specialist; AMS-Hernan Colmenero, Regional Outreach Coordinator; FNS-Courtney Slater, TX Regional Lead Program Specialist

10:30am – 11:00 am **Conference Break**

11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Cooperator Spotlight Ballroom

Moderator: Joshua Coleman, FSA TX State Outreach Coordinator
Speakers: Helen Dulac, Grow North Texas; Stefan Tucker, FSA Urban CED; Michael Brooks, NRCS Urban Conservationist; Criss Lee and Diamond Moss Dallas FSA Urban County Committee

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Lunch & Metro Urban Farmers Forum Panel Discussion Ballroom

Keynote Speaker: Kenneth Walker, NRCS Associate Chief
Moderator: Adele Swearingen, NRCS TX State Public Affairs Specialist
Panelists: Ivy Walls, Ivy Leaf Farms; Ines Frazier, Farmer's Footprint; Federico Marques, Moonflower Farms; Ron McFarlane, Harlem River Farms, LaGrand Elliott, Footprint Farms

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm
Breakout Sessions Breakout Rooms

Track A: Grants Management: Grants Support 101: Intro and Overview of Reporting and Learning Exchanges
Presenters: NuAG Team Partners; Kim Niewolny, Virginia Tech; Judson Reid, Cornell University; Nadine Jackson and William Crutchfield, Virginia State University



Agenda

Track B: USDA Breakout Session

Facilitators: Eloris Speight, Executive Director, SDFR Policy Research Center & Kara Woods, Research Analyst, SDFR Policy Research Center

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm **Conference Break**

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Stakeholder Engagement Session

Moderator: Linda Cronin, FSA Outreach Director

5:00 pm – 5:30 pm
Exhibit and Interviews

5:00-6:30
USDA and NuAg Meeting **TBD**
with John Berge, NHQ FSA Acting Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

7:00 am – 8:00 am
Breakfast **Ballroom**

8:00 am – 9:00 am
Morning Recap and Aspire to Inspire Producer Spotlight **Ballroom**
Facilitator: LaGrand Elliott, Footprint Farms, Executive Director of TIME, Inc.
Keynote Speaker: Noah Rattler, Houston Urban County Committee

9:00 am – 9:30 am **Conference Break**

9:30 am - 11:00 am
Breakout Sessions **Breakout Rooms**

Track A: Grants Management: Micro-grants and Subawards
Facilitator: William Cruz, FSA Grants Management Specialist

Track B: USDA Building Community to Urban Ag Workspace

Facilitators: Dr. Ronald Howell, VA State Executive Director and FSA Senior Policy Advisor; Ellis Collier, NRCS Senior Policy Advisor; Dan Wright, NRCS MA State Conservationist; Sabrenna Bryant, FSA SC State Outreach Coordinator; Amanda Welker, FSA OR Urban County Executive Director; Michael Sherman, FSA PA Beginning Farmer Veteran Urban Outreach Coordinator; Kurt Readus, NRCS MS State Conservationist; Anthony Reed, FSA LA State Outreach Coordinator; Scott Edwards, NRCS MO State Conservationist; Carol Strother, FSA MO State Outreach Coordinator; Kallie Turner, FSA MO Farm Loan Manager

11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Lunch: "Chat & Chew" **Ballroom**

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Workshop Tracks **Ballroom**

Track A: Grant Management: Budgets, Reimbursement & Reporting Requirements
Facilitators: TIME, Inc.

Track B: USDA Listening Session
Facilitators: Evelyn Whitesides, FSA Urban Ag Lead & Greer Gill, FSA Outreach Specialist

2:15 pm – 3:15 pm
Panel Q&A & Closing Remarks **Ballroom**
Facilitator: Dr. Ronald Howell, VA State Executive Director and FSA Senior Policy Advisor

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm **Preparation for Reception**

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm **Travel to Reception**
Attendees board Charter Buses

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Boots & Brims Reception**
Theme: "Taste of Texas," featuring local farmers
Waters Edge Winery & Bistro
4828 Waterview Town Center Dr Ste 700, Richmond, TX 77407

9:00 pm **Transport back to Hotel**



Things to Do

Shopping

The Galleria Mall

5085 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77056

Uptown Park

1121 Uptown Park Blvd, Houston, TX 77056

River Oaks District

4444 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77027

Highland Village

4055 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77027

Post Oak Shopping Center

1717 Post Oak Blvd, Houston, TX 77056

Unique Visits

The Waterwall Park

2800 Post Oak Blvd, Houston, TX 77056

Uptown Park

1121-1131 Uptown Park Blvd, Houston, TX 77056

Gerald D. Hines Waterwall Park

2800 Post Oak Blvd, Houston, TX 77056

Museum of Fine Arts- Houston (MFAH)

1001 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX 77005

Houston Arboretum & Nature Center

4501 Woodway Dr, Houston, TX 7702



Dining

Mastro's Steakhouse

1650 W Loop S,
Houston, TX 77027

The Capital Grille

5365 Westheimer Rd
Houston, TX 77056

Musaafer

5115 Westheimer Rd Suite C-3500,
Houston, TX 77056

Kenny & Ziggy's New York Delicatessen

1743 Post Oak Blvd
Houston, TX 77056

North Italia

1700 Post Oak Blvd Suite 190
Houston, TX 77056

Café Annie

1800 Post Oak Blvd Suite 6170
Houston, TX 77056

Peli Peli South African Kitchen

5085 Westheimer Rd, Suite B2515
Houston, TX 77056

Caracol

2200 Post Oak Blvd Suite 160
Houston, TX 77056



FOR COOPERATORS ONLY

For Reimbursements & Accounting Questions

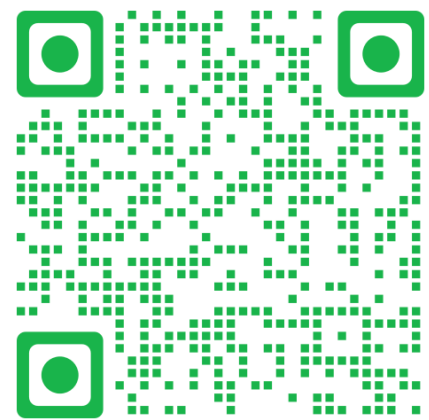
Email: info@toimprovems.org

For Grant Related Inquiries

Email: urbanag@toimprovems.org

To reach Cindy Ayers Elliot, Ph.D.

Email: cindy@toimprovems.org



Scan to visit our website!

General Inquiries:

Email: cedric@toimprovems.org



For more information about the
USDA Farm Services Agency,
please visit:

www.usda.gov

Advisory Committee

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