

5th Annual

# Partners Meeting

United States Department of Agriculture  
and Community-Based Organizations



Building Bridges, Building Hope  
Working Together to Strengthen  
Farming and Rural Communities

August 6 - 8, 2008  
DoubleTree Hotel, Crystal City  
300 Army Navy Drive  
Arlington, VA 20036



*The USDA Office of the  
Assistant Secretary for  
Civil Rights welcomes you to*

## **The 2008 Partners Meeting**



# USDA

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# Partners V - Greetings



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

JUL 30 2008

Dear USDA Partners:

Welcome to the fifth U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Annual Partners Meeting!

One of the most enjoyable aspects of my job as Secretary of Agriculture is to see the outstanding things that USDA can accomplish with partners from faith- and community-based organizations, Tribal organizations, minority-serving institutions, and other groups on behalf of the American people. Your commitment to the well-being of those we serve is truly commendable, and we are proud to be your partner.

The passage of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, also known as the Farm Bill, is a milestone in USDA's relationship with community-based and other organizations. The Farm Bill provides new opportunities for many special groups to gain stronger positions in agricultural production, and we are pleased that a number of the Bill's provisions reflect a shared USDA/partner vision as well as joint planning and effort.

I know that our past successes will inspire us to even greater achievements this year as we continue to plan for mutually beneficial and complementary outcomes. Our dialogue will be critically important as we work together to enhance the economic well-being and capacities of the organizations and communities we serve.

Best wishes to each and every one of you for an exciting and productive meeting and for much continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Schafer".

Edward T. Schafer  
Secretary

# Partners V - Greetings



JUL 18 2008

**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

Office of the  
Assistant Secretary  
for Civil Rights

1400 Independence  
Avenue SW

Washington, DC  
20250

Greetings!

As Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Fifth Annual Partners Meeting, sponsored by our office in partnership with the agencies of the Department of Agriculture (USDA). Thank you for accepting our invitation to participate in this signature USDA education and training event!

The theme for Partners V, "*Building Bridges, Building Hope: Working Together to Strengthen Farming and Rural Communities*," suggests that at some juncture in the recent past, we began to develop a shared vision. In fact, I have reflected on the themes you have chosen for each of these meetings since 2005. Without question, collectively they chronicle the journey that has led to this exciting time and place. Your voices have been heard and are mirrored in the many changes that address your concerns which are reflected in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill). Certainly, we will continue to help build bridges and hope, as we work together to strengthen farm, ranch and rural communities.

The farm policy environment is ever-changing. These USDA/community-based organization (CBO) face-to-face meetings have in five short years emerged as an important venue in pointing the way to progress. In fact, we have begun to transform the relationship between USDA and the small, minority and socially disadvantaged farm and ranch community. Through this venue, we have examined critical and long-standing issues that have separated USDA and some of our valued producers, and we have begun to derive solutions to those issues. We began with 44 participants at the first meeting in 2004. Today we anticipate over 500 participants; more than half of them are CBO representatives. We have indeed come a long way.

I appreciate having the opportunity to serve as Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at this very exciting time and to participate in this dialogue for change.

My thanks to you for staying the course.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margo M. McKay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Margo M. McKay  
Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

## Partners V - Greetings

August 1, 2008

Greetings!

Since we began this annual meeting of representatives of community-based organizations and USDA agencies in 2004, we believe it is becoming one of the principal means through which the voices and concerns of small, minority, and socially disadvantaged producers, and their families can be heard at USDA. Both USDA and CBO representatives—The Partners—can take pride in knowing that in the short span of five years, by engaging in substantive and honest dialogue about “real” issues, we have begun to address years of discriminatory practices. These meetings have provided opportunity to think through and propose solutions to the long-standing issues that have resulted in an underserved population of agricultural producers.

The themes selected for each year’s meeting have reflected our desire to continue our steady, deliberate march toward meaningful and sustaining progress in ensuring access, equity, and accountability for USDA programs and services for underserved constituents. This year’s theme, *“Building Bridges, Building Hope: Working Together to Strengthen Farming and Rural Communities,”* signals that we indeed have begun to close the communications and program delivery gap. Working together, we are helping to ensure that farm families and rural communities enjoy the opportunities that will allow them to live lives of personal dignity, cultural integrity, and economic well-being.

This week we celebrate our fifth annual meeting. And although there have been some accomplishments, there is still much work to be done. We look forward to discussions about the provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill that impact us, and the continuing conversations about programs and services. And we especially look forward to the discussion about an organizational structure for an on-going CBO/USDA relationship.

Welcome to Partners V!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley Sherrod". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shirley Sherrod  
Chair, Partners Planning Committee

# Partners V

## Goals of the 5th Annual Partners Meeting

### **Goal 1**

**Continue the meaningful dialogue that has emanated from past Partners Meetings.**

### **Goal 2**

**Carry on the annual forum through which USDA Administrators and Agency Heads and their staffs hear the voices and concerns of underserved constituents.**

### **Goal 3**

**Broaden understanding of the depth and scope of USDA programs and services, particularly those aspects of the 2008 Farm Bill that impact small, beginning, socially disadvantaged, limited resource, minority and underserved producers.**

### **Goal 4**

**Establish an organizational structure and process through which community-based organizations (CBOs) affect an ongoing relationship with USDA.**

### **Goal 5**

**Recognize several successful collaborative efforts that have resulted in enhanced well-being for small and minority farmers, ranchers, landowners and rural communities.**

# Partners V - Program At-A-Glance

## Tuesday, August 5, 2008

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Room</i>
7:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Pre-Conference Activities Workshop and Focus Group	Jackson/ Wilson/ Harrison
1:00 PM - 5:00	Conference Registration	Crystal Foyer
3:00 PM	Guests Check in to the Hotel	
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Orientation for New Attendees	Lincoln Hall

## Wednesday, August 6, 2008

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Room</i>
All Day	Guests Check in to the Hotel	
8:00 AM - Noon	Pre-Conference Technical Assistance Workshop	Lincoln Hall
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Meeting of Partners Planning Committee and Solutions Follow-up Team	Van Buren
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Conference Registration	Crystal Foyer
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Logistics Meeting for the Partners V Support Team	Harrison/ Jackson
11:30 AM - 12:45 PM	Partners Networking Luncheon	Crystal Ballroom

# Partners V - Program At-A-Glance

## Wednesday, August 6, 2008

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Room</i>
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Opening Plenary	Crystal Ballroom
3:00 PM	Break	Crystal Foyer
3:15 PM - 5:30 PM	Second Plenary	Crystal Ballroom
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Special Session	Harrison/ Jackson
6:30 PM	Dinner	Crystal Ballroom
7:30 PM	CBO Partners Meeting (Discussion of Structure Proposals)	Harrison/ Jackson/Wilson

## Thursday, August 7, 2008

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Room</i>
7:00 AM	Breakfast	Crystal Foyer
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Registration	Crystal Foyer
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Third Plenary	Crystal Ballroom
9:30 AM	Dialogue with Participants Break	Crystal Foyer
9:45 AM - 11:00 AM	Third Plenary cont'd	Crystal Foyer
11:00 AM	Networking Break	Crystal Foyer

# Partners V - Program At-A-Glance

## Thursday, August 7, 2008

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Room</i>
Noon - 1:30 PM	Awards, Recognitions and Networking Luncheon	Crystal Ballroom
1:45 PM - 3:15 PM	The 2008 Conversations: Partners/USDA Dialogue	See program
3:15 PM	Break	Crystal Ballroom
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	The 2008 Conversations: Partners/USDA Dialogue	See program
3:30 PM - 5:30 PM	The 2008 Training Sessions	See program
5:45 PM	Meeting of Partners Planning Committee and CBO Partners	Van Buren
6:30 PM	Dinner	Crystal Ballroom

## Friday, August 8, 2008

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Room</i>
7:00 AM	Continental Breakfast	Crystal Foyer
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Fourth Plenary	Crystal Ballroom
10:00 AM	Break	Crystal Foyer
10:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Closing Plenary	Crystal Ballroom

# Partners V - General Information

## Registration

The Partners V registration desk is open each day of the conference. Employees of USDA's Office of Outreach will be at the desk to assist you.

Registration desk hours are:

Tuesday, August 5, 2008	1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Wednesday, August 6, 2008	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Thursday, August 7, 2008	8:00 AM to 4 PM
Friday, August 8, 2008	8:00 AM to Noon

## Participation in Partners V

Only individuals who have registered for the conference can participate, and will be admitted to conference activities. ***Please wear your badge at all times while the conference is in session.*** If you lose your badge, please visit the registration desk to obtain a duplicate.

The Conference Program includes the times and locations for all sessions and events. Should there be a change to the program, it will be announced at a Plenary Session and/or you will receive written notice.

## Networking

Time for networking has been built into the conference agenda. Please use the breaks, meal functions, and the evenings to hold discussions with USDA staff and CBO representatives, so that you can participate in the scheduled conversations, training sessions and plenaries.

## Conference Evaluation

An evaluation form for each session has been prepared. Time has been allocated during each session for completing the evaluation form. ***Please complete and submit the evaluation form for each session at the end of the session.*** In the evaluation form for the over-all event, please provide information on your suggestions and ideas for the future, including areas where you would like to contribute.

## Messages

A message board is available in the registration area (Crystal Ballroom Foyer) for posting telephone, lost and found, and other similar messages. Conference participants may also use the message board to contact other conference attendees or to post messages.

## Partners V - General Information

### Metro Access

The DoubleTree Hotel is located only a few blocks from the Pentagon City Metro Station which is serviced by the Yellow and Blue Lines. The DoubleTree Hotel provides a complimentary shuttle bus service to and from the Pentagon City Metro Station. The shuttle bus runs every 30 minutes on the hour.

If walking, exit the Pentagon City Metro Station and go north two blocks on either South Fern Street or South Hayes Street. Go right two blocks on Army Navy Drive. The DoubleTree will be on the right side of Army Navy Drive.

### Transportation to Metro Area Airports

For transportation to **Washington National Airport**, the DoubleTree Hotel provides a complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport. Please check with the hotel to confirm departure times. You can also take a taxi or Metro. The estimated cost for a taxi to Washington National Airport is \$10.00. If using Metro, take the Blue or Yellow Lines from the Pentagon City Metro Station to Washington National Airport. Pentagon City Metro Station is only two stops away from Washington National Airport. The estimated cost is \$1.60.

For transportation to **Baltimore-Washington Thurgood Marshall Airport**, the Super Shuttle leaves the DoubleTree Hotel on a scheduled basis. Please check with the hotel concierge. One-day notice is recommended when making reservations. The estimated cost is \$44.00 to Baltimore-Washington Thurgood Marshall Airport.

### Shopping and Local Tourist Attractions

The DoubleTree Hotel is located just across the Potomac River from Washington D.C. The hotel is convenient to all major government centers and D.C. area attractions such as the Pentagon, Smithsonian Institution, the White House, the Capitol, the Washington Monument, and Arlington National Cemetery. The hotel concierge can provide you with information regarding local transportation to these attractions as well as information about the availability of *evening tours*.

The Fashion Centre at Pentagon City (Pentagon City Mall) is only two blocks away from the hotel at the intersection of South Hayes Street and Army Navy Drive. It offers more than 170 fascinating stores and restaurants. It is *open until 9:30 PM*, and thus available for your after-conference/evening shopping pleasure!

### Requests for Assistance

For assistance related to participation in the program, please see Gladys Gary Vaughn of the USDA Office of Outreach. If you need any other assistance, USDA staff are here to help. Look for the individuals with *green* name badges.

# Partners V - General Information

## Computer and Internet Access

USDA staff will assist you with word processing needs via a laptop computer available at the registration desk. All sleeping rooms feature wireless high speed Internet access. The hotel charges \$9.95 per day for this service. *You must pay the fee charged by the hotel for using this service.*

## Meals and Refreshments

Meals are provided **only for eligible conference participants** who met the registration requirements. Tickets for meals are included in the registration packet for those participants. *You will be required to present your meal tickets at each meal function.* A breakfast buffet is being provided on Thursday and a continental breakfast will be provided on Friday; lunch will be provided Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; and dinner will be served on Wednesday and Thursday.

If you used the registration form to request a special type of meal or indicated that you have special dietary needs, your meal ticket reflects this information. The type of meal you will receive at the luncheon and dinner is based on your request.

Refreshments are provided for all conference participants at breaks between the plenaries, conversations and training sessions.

*Spouses and other relatives cannot participate in the conference, including the meal functions, unless they are registered participants.*

## Special Needs

The staff of the DoubleTree Hotel wants to ensure a comfortable and safe stay for you and your guests while in the Nation's Capitol. Please contact the hotel staff if you have special needs such as information on local tourist attractions, restaurants, etc.

## Spanish Language Interpreters

These experts simultaneously interpret conversation from English/Spanish. Simultaneous interpreting is real-time language conversion: speakers talk as they normally would, as the interpreter listens to one language and speaks in another at the same time. The interpreters are equipped with microphones that transmit their voices through wireless technology. Attendees requesting this service will have a wireless transmitter and will listen to the interpretation through headphones.

## Transportation to Metro Area Airports

For transportation to **Dulles International Airport**, the Super Shuttle leaves from the DoubleTree Hotel on a scheduled basis. Please check with the hotel concierge. One-day notice is recommended when making reservations. The estimated cost is \$30.00 to Dulles.

# *Conference Agenda*



# Partners V - Conference Agenda

*Tuesday, August 5, 2008*

7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

**Pre-Conference Activities  
Workshop and Focus Group  
(INVITATIONAL)** *Jackson/Wilson/Harrison*

*Outreach Best Practices*  
*“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” This invitational session marks the beginning of the development of a national outreach training curriculum, including the identification of core principles and best practices. A diverse group of representatives from community-based organizations and USDA national and state outreach staff will participate in this activity.*

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**Conference Registration  
(Early Arrivals)** *Crystal Foyer*

3:00 PM

**Guest Check in to the Hotel**

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**Orientation for New Attendees  
(Early Arrivals)** *Lincoln Hall*

*Wednesday, August 6, 2008*

All Day

**Guests Check in to the Hotel**

8:00 AM – Noon

**Pre-Conference Technical  
Assistance Workshop** *Lincoln Hall*

*Sponsored by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service*

*This workshop will offer information about financial and technical assistance opportunities available through the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) for the small, socially disadvantaged and minority producer. Presenters will share information about the new Farm Bill allocated \$5 million in grant funds under the Farmers Market Promotion Program in 2009 for direct-to-consumer marketing projects. Presenters will also provide valuable and practical information about start-up and existing farmers markets.*

**Moderator:** Arthur Neal, Acting Director, USDA/1890 Programs, OASCR, Washington, DC

**Trainers and Presenters:** Carmen Humphrey, Fidel Delgado, and Velma Lakins, AMS, Washington, DC

# Partners V - Conference Agenda

*Wednesday, August 6, 2008 (cont'd)*

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	<b>Meeting of Partners Planning Committee and Solutions Follow-up Team</b> <i>Van Buren</i>
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	<b>Conference Registration</b> <i>Crystal Foyer</i>
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	<b>Logistics Meeting for the Partners V Support Team</b> <i>Harrison/Jackson</i>
11:30 AM – 12:45 PM	<b>Partners Networking Luncheon</b> <i>Crystal Ballroom</i>
<b>Opening Plenary</b> <i>Crystal Ballroom</i>	
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	<p><b>“Building Bridges, Building Hope: Working Together to Strengthen Farming and Rural Communities.”</b>  <i>The session sets the tone for the meeting, and features a progress report from the Chair of the Partners Planning Committee, remarks by the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, and a signal message from the Secretary, and—as his schedule permits—dialogue with Partners. An orientation to the meeting also occurs, and principal conference support team staff are introduced.</i></p> <p><b>Presiding:</b> Sherie Hinton Henry, Associate Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, OASCR, <i>Washington, DC</i>  <b>Posting of the Colors:</b> DC Army National Color Guard, <i>Washington, DC</i>  <b>National Anthem:</b> Deborah S. Yeadon, Agricultural Research Service, <i>Washington, DC</i>  <b>Moment of Remembrance:</b> Audience  <b>Welcome:</b> Ross Racine, Executive Director, Intertribal Agriculture Council, <i>Montana</i>  <b>Roll Call of the States:</b> Ron Brown, Eastern Regional Outreach Specialist, Risk Management Agency, <i>North Carolina</i>  <b>Introduction of Guests:</b> Sherie Hinton Henry, Associate Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, <i>Washington, DC</i>  <b>Greetings:</b> Carl-Martin Ruiz, Director, Office of Outreach and Diversity, <i>Washington, DC</i></p>

# Partners V - Conference Agenda

Wednesday, August 6, 2008 (cont'd)

<p><b>1:00 PM – 3:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Opening Plenary (cont'd)</b></p> <p><b>Musical Performance:</b> James Mobley, Staff Accountant, Forest Service, <i>Washington, DC</i></p> <p><b>Introduction of the Chair of the Partners Planning Committee and the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights:</b> Annabelle Romero, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, <i>Washington, DC</i></p> <p><b>Partners Report:</b> Shirley Sherrod, Chair, USDA/CBO Partners Planning Committee, and Director, Georgia Field Office, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, <i>Georgia</i></p> <p><b>Remarks and Introduction of Speaker:</b> Margo M. McKay, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, <i>Washington, DC</i></p> <p><b>Keynote Address:</b> The Honorable Ed Schafer, Secretary of Agriculture, <i>Washington, DC</i></p> <p><b>Musical Performance:</b> Rudy Arredondo, President, HOLA/ National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association, <i>Washington, DC</i></p> <p><b>Orientation to Partners V:</b> Lorette Picciano, Executive Director, Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural, and Gladys Gary Vaughn, Director, Office of Outreach <i>Washington, DC</i></p>
<p><b>3:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Break</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Crystal Foyer</i></span></p>
<p><b>3:15 PM – 4:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Second Plenary</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Crystal Ballroom</i></span></p> <p><b><i>The 2008 Farm Bill</i></b> <i>During this two-part Plenary, participants will hear a briefing on the 2008 Farm Bill and its implementation, engage in dialogue around the following questions: What are the key proposals in the Farm Bill that address the concerns of the small, beginning minority and socially disadvantaged farm and ranch and farmworker community? What new tools are included that will help build the capacity of this agricultural sector? How will these changes help USDA better respond to this sector? How did USDA and the CBO community work together to affect meaningful change? How did the Partners Meetings help?</i></p> <p><b>Presiding:</b> Savonala Horne, Executive Director, North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers Land Loss Prevention Project, <i>North Carolina</i></p>

# Partners V - Conference Agenda

*Wednesday, August 6, 2008 (cont'd)*

	<p><b>The 2008 Farm Bill Implementation: A Briefing</b> <b>Presenter:</b> Lowell Randel, Office of Congressional Relations, Washington, DC</p>
<p><b>4:15 PM – 5:30 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Second Plenary (cont'd)</b></p> <p><b>USDA/Partners Dialogue on the 2008 Farm Bill</b> <b>Presenters:</b> <b>USDA Representative:</b> Lowell Randel, Office of Congressional Relations <b>CBO Representatives:</b> Ross Racine, Executive Director, Intertribal Agriculture Council, <i>Montana</i>, Quinton Robinson, Congressional Liaison and Lorette Picciano, Executive Director, Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural, Washington, DC</p>
<p><b>4:00 PM – 6:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Special Session</b> <i>Harrison/Jackson</i></p> <p><b>Emerging Market Opportunities for Small-Scale Producers</b> <i>It is estimated that consumer demand for locally grown food could reach as high as \$7 billion a year by 2012, up from \$5 billion in 2007. This tremendous growth is fueled by increased consumer patronage at farmers markets and other direct marketing venues, and even more so by expanded efforts of retail and food service firms to procure more locally grown food. The time is ripe for small-scale producers to take advantage of these emerging market opportunities, but the logistical challenges to serving retail and food service markets can be overwhelming. This session will be a lively discussion with down-to-earth, practical advice to assist producers interested in expanding their market opportunities through more direct marketing.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> James Barham, AMS, Washington, DC</p>

# Partners V - Conference Agenda

*Wednesday, August 6, 2008 (cont'd)*

	<p><b>Presenters:</b>          Erik Brown, <i>Produce Buyer, Whole Foods Mid-Atlantic Region, Maryland</i>          Joel Fleischman, <i>Chef, Washington County Hospital, Maryland</i>          Roy Cargiulo, <i>Sales Manager, Keany Produce Company, Maryland</i>          Ron McCormick, <i>Wal-Mart Regional Produce Buyer, Arkansas</i></p>
6:30 PM	<p><b>Dinner</b> <i>Crystal Ballroom</i></p>
7:30 PM	<p><b>CBO Partners Meeting</b> <i>Harrison/Jackson/Wilson</i>  <b>(Discussion of Structure Proposals)</b></p>

*Thursday, August 7, 2008*

7:00 AM	<p><b>Breakfast</b> <i>Crystal Foyer</i></p>
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	<p><b>Registration</b> <i>Crystal Foyer</i></p>
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	<p><b>Third Plenary</b> <i>Crystal Ballroom</i></p>

***Effective Collaboration: Dynamic Structures for CBOs and USDA to Work Together***  
*During this two-part plenary, CBO partners will present the proposals for establishing an organizational structure and process through which on-going dialogue with USDA can occur and a more formal and productive relationship can be established. Presenters will include members of the Partners Planning Committee and the Solutions Follow-up Team. Time is allocated for dialogue with the audience.*

**Presiding:** Shirley Sherrod, Chair, Partners Planning Committee, Federation of Southern Cooperatives Land Assistance Fund, *Georgia*

**Presenters: CBO Representatives:** Edward “Jerry” Pennick, Federation of Southern Cooperatives Land Assistance Fund, *Georgia*; and Rudy Arredondo, HOLA/National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association, *Washington, DC*

# Partners V - Conference Agenda

*Thursday, August 7, 2008 (cont'd)*

9:30 AM	<p><b>Dialogue with Participants</b></p> <p><b>Break</b> <i>Crystal Foyer</i></p>
9:45 AM – 11:00 AM	<p><b>Third Plenary (cont'd)</b></p> <p><i><b>The Future of the Partners Process</b></i>  <i>The Third Plenary continues with this session and includes small group discussions of the structure proposals and the desired direction for partnering.</i></p>
11:00 AM	<p><b>Networking Break</b> <i>Crystal Foyer</i></p>
Noon to 1:30 PM	<p><b>Awards, Recognitions and Networking Luncheon</b> <i>Crystal Ballroom</i></p> <p><i>The luncheon will feature the presentation of the second (2008) USDA/CBO Partners Outreach Awards for Outstanding Outreach by a Community-Based Organization and a USDA Agency, other and special recognition of Agencies and CBOs.</i></p> <p><b>Presiding:</b> Sibyl Wright, Agency Outreach and Small Farms Coordinator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, <i>Washington, DC</i>; and Omar Garza, Executive Director, Texas/Mexico Border Coalición, <i>Texas</i></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b>  Margo M. McKay, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights and Annabelle Romero, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, USDA, <i>Washington, DC</i></p>
1:45 PM – 3:15 PM	<p><b>The 2008 Conversations: Partners/USDA Dialogue</b></p> <p><i>Equitable Access to Programs and the 2008 Farm Bill:</i></p> <p><i>Conversation #1: Conservation and Forestry Programs</i> <i>Wilson</i></p>

# Partners V - Conference Agenda

*Thursday, August 7, 2008 (cont'd)*

	<p><i>Conversation #2: Specialty Crops/Food Purchase Programs/ National Animal Identification System</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Harrison</i></span></p> <p><i>Conversation #3: Credit Programs</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Jackson</i></span></p> <p><i>Conversation #4: New and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers and Rural Value Added Programs</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Madison</i></span></p> <p><i>Conversation #5: Energy/Renewable Energy Programs</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Monroe</i></span></p> <p><i>Conversation #6: Disaster Protection, ACRE and Disaster Tools</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Van Buren</i></span></p>
3:15 PM	Break
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	<p>The 2008 Conversations: Partners/USDA Dialogue</p> <p><i>Equity, Accountability and the 2008 Farm Bill:</i></p> <p><i>Conversation #7: Tracking Progress using the Census of Agriculture, and the Transparency and Accountability Requirements</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Wilson</i></span></p> <p><i>Conversation #8: The Farmworker Coordinator, the Emergency Disaster Grants to Farmworkers and Other Related Programs</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Harrison</i></span></p> <p><i>Conversation # 9: Settling Outstanding Claims and Forestalling Foreclosures</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Lincoln</i></span></p> <p><i>Conversation #10: The Office of Advocacy and Outreach, Small and Beginning Farmers, the 2501 Program and Related Matters</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Jackson</i></span></p>

# Partners V - Conference Agenda

*Thursday, August 7, 2008 (cont'd)*

<p><b>3:30 PM – 5:30 PM</b></p>	<p><b>The 2008 Training Sessions</b></p> <p><i>Session #1: Good Handling Practices/Good Agricultural Practices</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Monroe</i></span></p> <p><i>Session #2: Grantmanship</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Van Buren</i></span></p> <p><i>Session #3: Requirements and Practices for Implementing Microenterprise and Individual Development Account Programs</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Madison</i></span></p>
<p><b>5:45 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Meeting of Partners Planning Committee and CBO Partners (as needed)</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Van Buren</i></span></p>
<p><b>6:30 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Dinner</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Crystal Ballroom</i></span></p>

*Friday August 8, 2008*

<p><b>7:00 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Continental Breakfast</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Crystal Foyer</i></span></p>
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<p><b>8:00 AM – 10:00 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Fourth Plenary</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Crystal Ballroom</i></span></p> <p><b>2008 Farm Bill Status and Implementation Summary Session</b>  <i>At this plenary, the Deputy Secretary will receive input from the 2008 Farm Bill conversations and the small groups on issues that impact the implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill, and will share feedback and other input.</i></p> <p><b>Presiding:</b> Sherie Hinton Henry, Associate Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, <i>Washington, DC</i></p> <p><b>Presenters: USDA Representative:</b> Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner <b>CBO Representatives:</b> Chukou Thao, Director, National Hmong American Farmers, <i>California</i>; Michael Harris, Director, Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association, <i>California</i>; Mapy Alvarez, Executive Director, National Immigrant Farming Initiative, <i>New York</i>, and reporters from the conversations.</p>
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# Partners V - Conference Agenda

*Friday, August 8, 2008 (cont'd)*

10:00 AM

**Break**

*Crystal Foyer*

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

## Closing Plenary

### **Building Bridges, Building Hope: *Outreach Success Stories and Next Steps in Deriving Solutions***

The final plenary will feature dialogue with USDA Administrators, an update on the implementation process of the Farm Bill, a summary of the major decisions and activities of the conference, recommendations for immediate follow-up, next steps in deriving solutions, and closing remarks by the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights and the Chair of the Partners Planning Committee. Six stories of successful outreach efforts that build bridges and hope will be featured. The stories will be told by the beneficiaries and their collaborators.

**Presiding:** Ted Beauvais, Acting Director, Cooperative Forestry, FS, *Washington, DC*

## Success Stories

### **1. *The Waddy Farm: Farmer-Directed Problem Solving***

Presenters: Jacob Waddy, Virginia Fikes, and Audrey Zeigler, Waddy Farm, Tuskegee, Alabama

Partners: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, Tuskegee University Extension Service, Miles Robinson and William Hodge

### **2. *Immigrant to Immigrant: Spreading Good Fortune***

Presenters: Maria Moreira, Flats Mentor Farm and Sustainable Agriculture Program, Lancaster, Massachusetts

Partners: Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), Jammie Hipp, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service

# Partners V - Conference Agenda

*Friday, August 8, 2008 (cont'd)*

## Success Stories cond't

### **3. *Census Days Partnership***

Presenters: Omar Garza, Texas Mexico Border Coalition, Texas;  
and Edward and Bertha Cline, Landowners  
Association of Texas, Texas

Partners:

National Agriculture Statistics Services, Hubert Hamer  
Texas Mexico Border Coalition/Omar Garza  
Landowners Association of Texas/ Edward L. Cline and  
Bertha Cline, Texas Black Farmers Association/Anita Ross,  
Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Ralph Paige/Heather  
Gray, Intertribal Agricultural Council/Ross Racine  
Rural Coalition/Coalicion Rural/Lorette Picciano,  
United Farmers USA/Hezekiah and Francis Gibson,  
and USDA Office of Outreach

### **4. *Spinning a Tale of Entrepreneurship***

Presenters: Donna Lehrer and Natasha Lehrer, Lamb  
of God Farm, Big Rock, Illinois

Partners: Illinois State Office of Rural Development, Doug  
Wilson, Illinois Green Pastures Fiber Cooperative

### **5. *Alaska: A New Frontier for New American Farmers***

Presenters: Julie Riley, University of Alaska Extension  
Service, Anchorage; Yan Zhen Lin, Delta Junction, Alaska

Partners: Risk Management Agency David Wiggins,  
Catholic Social Services Refugee Assistance and  
Immigration Service, Evergreen Nursery,  
Municipality of Anchorage, Anchorage Farmer's  
Market and Festival

# Partners V - Conference Agenda

*Friday, August 8, 2008 (cont'd)*

**6. *Reinstitution and Preservation of the Moose Population  
Tyonek Tribal Conservation District***

Presenters: Angela Sandstol, Environmental Quality Improvement Program, Tyonek, Alaska.

Partner: National Resources Conservation Service, Tom Christensen

**7. *Caring for Mother Earth, Working Towards a Vision on  
Tiichám Tribal Conservation District, Tiichám, Alaska***

Presenters: Douglas Minthron and Woodrow Star

Partners: Farm Services Agency, Mike Hill, Resources Conservation Service, Tomas Christensen

**Presenters: USDA Representatives:** Mark Rey, Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment, and Dale Moore, Chief of Staff, USDA, *Washington, DC*

**CBO Representatives:** Edward "Jerry" Pennick, Federation of Southern Cooperatives Land Assistance Fund, *Georgia*, and Ross Racine, Intertribal Agriculture Council, *Montana*

**Conference Summary:** Solutions Follow-Up Team and Partners Planning Committee

**Closing Remarks:**

Shirley Sherrod, Chair, Partners Planning Committee, *Georgia*  
Margo M. McKay, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, *Washington, DC*

**Remembrances:** *Participants*

**Closing Circle...***Participant Reflections*

**Lunch-to-Go (Boxed Lunch)**

**-END-**

## Partners V

# Ground Rules: Meeting Protocols

- This is a working meeting. The focus is on free and frank conversation with meaningful dialogue between representatives of USDA, its community- and faith-based organization (CBO) partners, and minority serving institutions.
- The goal of the meeting is to emerge with a clear idea of what has been accomplished and what still needs to be done, particularly how the Partners and USDA can work together to make substantive, transformative and lasting change in their relationship. In 2008, we will focus on defining the challenges we still face, examining the choices, deciding the change we want, and determining the strategies for arriving at solutions.
- We will respect and protect the confidentiality of individual legal proceedings.
- In order to ensure honest dialogue and focus on the substance and content of the issues, the record of the meeting will not attribute comments to anyone by name or organization.
- In order to reach the goal, participants will stay on track within the framework of the dialogue, and keep to the points and issues at hand.
- As time allows, those who wish to speak will be provided time to speak. Priority will be given to participants from CBO's representing farmers, ranchers, farmworkers, rural communities, minority serving institutions, and faith-based and tribal organizations. Comments and remarks should be brief. The facilitator may ask an individual to complete his/her comments or remarks if they are longer than three (3) minutes.
- Comments should focus on systemic issues and proposed change rather than individual and organizational problems.
- Don't let the meeting get personal! Refrain from personal attacks. Keep the focus on collaboration and partnership: what can be done together.
- All issues that can't be addressed immediately will be placed in a "parking lot" and addressed in the on-going USDA/Partners dialogue.
- USDA and CBO Partners will issue press releases or other public releases on the findings of the meeting, except the final report or proceedings, by mutual agreement.
- Sessions will begin and end on time.

***During the sessions, cellular telephones are to be turned off or placed in vibration mode. Participants will leave the session to answer cellular phones.***

# Notes

# Notes

**Partners V - Intro to the 2008  
Conversations and Training Sessions**



**Building Bridges,  
Building Hope**

**Working Together to  
Strengthen Farming  
and Rural Communities**

# Partners V

## Introduction to the 2008 Conversations

The “conversations” format was successfully initiated during the 2005 Partners Meeting. Although the concept has been refined and expanded, it has become the cornerstone feature of Partners Meetings.

### Selection of Conversation Topics and Conversationalists

Traditionally, all conversation topics, along with questions and commentary that frame the topics, have been determined through collaboration between USDA staff, the CBO Partners Planning Committee, and Solutions Follow-up Team. Conversationalists are recommended and recruited by the Partners Planning Committee and USDA national and field office outreach staff. Only individuals with an in-depth knowledge of the topic, including policy, implementation, and outreach, are invited to serve as conversationalists.

The ten (10) conversation topics featured at Partners V focus on a critical provision of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill). The topics bring much to bear on the economic well-being of small, beginning, socially disadvantaged and minority producers and landowners and low income individuals. Two themes will guide the conversations:

1) Equitable Access to Programs, and 2) Equity and Accountability. The conversations are:

#### Equitable Access to Programs and the 2008 Farm Bill:

- #1 Conservation and Forestry Programs
- #2 Specialty Crops, Food Purchase Program, and the National Animal Identification System
- #3 Credit Programs
- #4 New and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers and Rural Value Added Programs
- #5 Energy and Renewable Energy Programs
- #6 Disaster Protection, Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE), and Disaster Tools

#### Equity and Accountability and the 2008 Farm Bill:

- #7 Tracking Progress Using the Census of Agriculture and the Transparency and Accountability Requirements
- #8 The Farmworker Coordinator, Emergency Disaster Grants to Farmworkers, and Related Programs
- #9 Settling Outstanding Claims and Forestalling Foreclosures
- #10 The Office of Advocacy and Outreach, Small and Beginning Farmers, 2501 Program and Related Matters.

# Partners V

## Introduction to the 2008 Conversations

### Implementation of the Conversations

The conversations are managed by a logistics support team that ensures the effective unfolding of each conversation. The team is comprised of a moderator, facilitator, reporter, evaluator, room monitor and documentarian, each with specific functions.

The conversation format features facilitated discussion that is interactive, spirited, and promotes participation between the audience and the conversationalists. Each conversation is approximately 1 1/2 hours in length. The facilitator manages the discussion portion of the conversation, approximately one hour. Prepared visual presentations, such as PowerPoint, are not used during the conversations in order to promote genuine discussion and dialogue; however, informational handouts can be used.

Each conversation is unique. Its unfolding will vary according to the subject matter, number of participants and style of the conversationalists, and interaction between the facilitator, participants and conversationalists. Another critical factor is the degree to which an individual is passionate about the issue being discussed. But in each case, all dialogue includes a diverse array of Partners and USDA representatives. This allows participants to gain new perspectives on the myriad of issues effecting the Nation’s peoples, especially farm, ranch and rural communities.

The conversations format also promotes active participation and breaks down barriers prevalent in a presenter-audience format. No one individual or group of individuals is allowed to monopolize the conversation...it is the facilitator’s responsibility to ensure that those who want to join in the conversation have an opportunity to do so. Translation (Spanish) and interpretation (hearing impaired) services are available upon request.

### Your Invitation to Join the Conversations

The 2008 conversations are presented in two time blocks as shown below; thus, a participant must select from those being offered. All participants—CBO and USDA representatives—are strongly urged to participate in only one (1) conversation during each of the two (2) blocks. “Session hopping” is not encouraged. If more than one individual is representing a CBO, we suggest that members and constituents identify the conversations of most interest and share the attendance responsibilities.

The 2008 conversations will take place as follows:

<p><b>First Session:</b>  <u>Thursday, August 7, 2008</u>          1:45 PM – 3:15 PM</p>	<p><b><u>Conversations</u></b>          Conversations #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, and #6</p>
<p><b>Second Session:</b>  <u>Thursday, August 7, 2008</u>          3:30 PM – 5:30 PM</p>	<p><b><u>Conversations</u></b>          Conversations #7, #8, #9 and #10</p>

# Partners V

## Introduction to the 2008 Conversations

Reporters and documentarians will keep a record of the discussion held during each conversation. The main points and recommendations for action and follow-up from each conversation will be reported during a report-out session at the closing plenary session.

You will have several opportunities for evaluation and feedback on this important process. We thank you for your contributions.

Additionally, we encourage you to submit your ideas for the 2009 Partners Meeting to the Partners Planning Committee or to any USDA outreach staff member.

### **Background Information on the 2008 Conversations**

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) became law in June 2008. The bill allocates almost \$287 billion through 2012 for many functions including nutrition, commodity programs, conservation, credit, crop insurance, research, forestry, horticulture and specialty crops, livestock, rural development, disaster assistance and energy.

Following the previous years of dialogue between the US Department of Agriculture and its CBO partners, each set forth proposals that would improve the participation of socially disadvantaged producers in commodity programs. Most notable are set-asides proposed by the Administration in conservation programs, and by the Partners in conservation and other areas. As a result of set-asides and other new policy, more than \$1 billion is allocated to reach socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and farmworkers.

The Miscellaneous Title (Title XIV) of the 2008 Farm Bill is also notable for its inclusion of substantive new policies aimed at (1) improving coordination of programs and services for socially disadvantaged producers; (2) securing the data systems needed to clearly measure socially disadvantaged producers' inclusion in farm programs provided in the 2008 Farm Bill; and (3) the economic impact of their participation.

The 2008 Farm Bill is now being implemented by the Department of Agriculture. The 2008 conversations will provide an overview of major portions of the 2008 Farm Bill, with particular focus on new policies to assure the inclusion of socially disadvantaged, beginning and other small farmers and ranchers and farmworkers. The conversations provide a timely and important opportunity for the Department to share the status of implementation and questions that may arise in the implementation process. They are also an opportunity for the Partners to provide input on how the implementation process, regulations, cross departmental coordination, and other policy can be constructed to help the Department assure the inclusion of producers and farmworkers in programs of the Department.

Each conversation will end with a succinct summary, including salient points and recommendations to USDA on the implementation of new policies in the 2008 Farm Bill. These recommendations will be shared at the plenary sessions on Friday morning.

# *The 2008 Conversations*



## Partners V - 2008 Conversations

### *Conversation #1 Equitable Access to Programs and the 2008 Farm Bill: Conservation and Forestry Programs*

The 2008 Farm Bill includes provisions for conservation, forestry, energy and tax policy in several titles. It broadens the purposes and clarifies authorities to preserve soil and water, conservation and forestry technical services and infrastructure, and promotion of agricultural production, and forest management. The bill provides set-asides in the Conservation Stewardship and EQIP Programs, and cost share incentives for limited resource, socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers or ranchers and Indian tribes, and authorizes up to 30% advance payments for these same producers under EQIP.

The bill also includes report language that producer associations and farmer cooperatives may act on behalf of their members in submitting applications and plans to participate in EQIP, and directs the Secretary of Agriculture to clarify this option in any rule or procedure written for EQIP.

This conversation will focus on the implementation of new authorities in the conservation and forestry titles. It will include a review of the new provisions, and how these provisions could be best implemented, including the calculation and implementation of set-asides at the State level, and the implementation of the advance payments and special cost share rates on any of the programs. Related issues include eligibility requirements, payment limitations for conservation and forestry programs on private lands, and questions related to the benefits surrounding multiple year easements verses permanent easements. Special attention will be given to EQIP and the Conservation Stewardship Programs as well as new forestry initiatives.

**Moderator:** Cheryl Bailey, Outreach Coordinator, Cooperative Forestry, FS, Washington, DC

#### **Conversationalists:**

Doug Lawrence, Conservation Farm Bill Coordinator, NRCS, Washington, DC

Ted Beauvais, Forestry Farm Bill Coordinator, FS, Washington, DC

Ross Racine, Executive Director, Intertribal Agriculture Council, Montana

Edward "Jerry" Pennick, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, Georgia

Archie Hart, Assistant to the Commissioner, North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, North Carolina

**Facilitator:** Arthur Phalo, Outreach Liaison, FS, Georgia

**Reporter:** Sonya Neal Reeves, Outreach Coordinator, NRCS, Washington, DC

**Evaluator:** Zakkiya Villegas, Intern, FS, Washington, DC

**Room Monitor:** Jocelyn Benjamin, Intern, NRCS, Washington, DC

**Documentarian:** Rosannah Taylor, Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Coordinator, NASS, Washington, DC

## Partners V - 2008 Conversations

### *Conversation #2: Equitable Access to Programs and the 2008 Farm Bill: Specialty Crops/Food Purchase Programs/National Animal Identification System*

According to USDA, almost one third of crop cash receipts in agriculture come from specialty crops—fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture). The percentage of cash receipts from this sector expands to 50% when floriculture, greenhouse, and nursery crop sales are included. In 2002, NASS data showed that minority farmers operated 11% of specialty farms and 89% were operated by white farmers. Specialty crops make up 21% of total farms operated by minorities and 9% of the farms operated by white farmers.

The 2008 Farm Bill includes a new Horticulture and Organic Agriculture Title (Title X) and other funding and policy directed at the specialty crop sector. This conversation will provide a brief summary of new programs related to specialty crops, including provisions in the Horticulture Title related to food safety and in the Nutrition Title to increase the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables to be purchased for USDA nutrition programs. It will also address changes related to the National Animal Identification System and the impact of these changes on CBOs. Particular attention will be paid to \$224 million in mandatory funding for a specialty crop block grant program, which provides each State with a grant to support marketing research and promotion to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops grown in the State. With respect to nutrition programs, the special role the groups represented by the Partners can play in providing culturally appropriate food will be discussed.

*Section 10109 of the 2008 Farm Bill amends Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 to provide grants to States for assistance to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. State departments of agriculture are encouraged to involve industry groups, academia, and CBOs in the development of applications and the administration of projects. Approximately \$10 million is made available to the Secretary of Agriculture to support the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.*

**Moderator:** Carmen Humphrey, Chief, Marketing Grants and Technical Assistance Branch, AMS, Washington, DC

**Conversationalists:**

Chukuo Thao, Executive Director, National Hmong American Farmers, *California*

Rudy Arredondo, Executive Director, HOLA/National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association, *Washington, DC*

Trista Etzig, Project Manager, Specialty Block Grant Program, AMS, *Washington, DC*

S. Duke Storen, Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives, Partnership and Outreach, FNS, *Washington, DC*

**Facilitator:** Samuel Scott, Executive Director, North South Institute, *Florida*

**Reporter:** Sharon Colbert, Rural Development Specialist, RD, *Washington, DC*

**Evaluator:** Mocile Trotter, Agency Outreach Coordinator, *Washington, DC*

**Room Monitor:** Ken Johnson, Specialist Assistant to the Administrator, APHIS, *Washington, DC*

**Documentarian:** Winona Scott, Management and Program Analyst, OASCR, *Washington, DC*

# Partners V - 2008 Conversations

## *Conversation #3: Equitable Access to Programs and the 2008 Farm Bill: Credit Programs*

**Access to credit has long been a critical factor in the ability of producers, especially socially disadvantaged producers, to access land, implement economically viable production and marketing strategies, and establish an economic and social base in their communities. For socially disadvantaged producers, the denial of equitable access to credit has been a critical factor that contributed to their inability to access land, build and maintain viable operations and expand economic contributions to their communities. As the economic base of the farm sector has expanded, many larger and mid-scale producers have had access to commercial and subsidized credit that remains unavailable to socially disadvantaged producers.**

In the 2008 Farm Bill, funding for credit programs has declined while at the same time the amounts per producer have expanded slightly. This session will focus on the new credit policies, including:

- Inventory Sales Preferences that restore priority to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers when USDA sells inventory property,
- Improved Lending Terms that give priority to socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers in credit programs as well as lower interest rates, better lending terms, and a higher maximum purchase price on first time land purchases, and
- FSA Loans to Purchasers of Highly Fractionated Lands to be extended to individual Indians to purchase “highly fractionated” parcels of land according to the Indian Land Consolidation Act amendments of 2004.

**Moderator:** Blong Lee, Program Coordinator, Fresno County Economic Opportunity Commission, *California*

### **Conversationalists:**

Lou Anne Kling, Project Administrator, National Tribal Development, *Minnesota*

Luz Gutierrez, Executive Director, Rural Community Development Resources, *Washington*

Calvin King, President/Chief Executive Officer, Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation, *Arkansas*

Jim Radintz, Director, Loan Making Division, FSA, *Washington, DC*

Donnetta Rollins-Rigney, Loan Specialist, *Washington, DC*

Melvin Padget, Loan/Grant Specialist, RD, *Washington, DC*

**Facilitator:** Patrick Field, Consensus Building Institute, *Massachusetts*

**Reporter:** Geraldine Herring, Program Manager, OASCR, *Washington, DC*

**Evaluator:** Sversha Kumar, Program Manager, OASCR, *Washington, DC*

**Room Monitor:** Dan Abeyta, Outreach Coordinator, FSA, *New Mexico*

**Documentarian:** Rhonda Brown, Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Coordinator, *Washington, DC*

## Partners V - 2008 Conversations

### *Conversation #4: Equitable Access to Programs and the 2008 Farm Bill: New and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers and Rural Value Added Programs*

The average age of primary farm operators continues to rise, increasing by nearly 5 years from 50.5 in 1982 to 55.3 in 2002. A failure to focus on increasing the entry of new and beginning farmers will compromise the future of the agricultural enterprise; refugee, immigrant and women farmers and ranchers comprise the fastest growing source of new entrants. New entry producers need additional assistance in order to overcome a myriad of barriers to their entry into farming, including rising farmland values and their effect on the capital costs of acquiring an efficient farm operation. The 2008 Farm Bill includes numerous provisions and set-asides related to socially disadvantaged, limited-resource, and small and beginning farmers designed to help them access land and achieve financially sound farming operations. The 2008 Farm Bill also expands the Rural Value Added program that provides direct assistance to beginning and other small farmers.

This session will focus on the changing climate for beginning and new entry producers in agriculture programs, including a focus on the implementation of the aforementioned expanded and new beginning farm programs, including the Beginning Farmer Development Grant Program, and new set-asides in many areas of the 2008 Farm Bill. Recommendation from the 2007 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on Beginning Farmers will be discussed, including cross departmental coordination to assure new entry farmers have access to the full range of services needed to enter agriculture under current market and land access conditions. The role and function of the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Advisory Committee will also be addressed, as will special provisions to assure that socially disadvantaged producers are more widely included in beginning farms programs and the Rural Value Added Program.

**Moderator:** Sharon Hestvik, Small Farms and Beginning Farmer and Ranchers Coordinator, RMA, *Washington, DC*

#### **Conversationalists:**

Aimee Witteman, Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, *Washington, DC*

Maria Moreira, Flats Mentor Farm and member, Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee, *Massachusetts*

Andrew Jermolowicz, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Cooperative Programs, RD, *Washington, DC*

Gail Thuner, Agricultural Economist, RD, *Washington, DC*

Janie Hipp, National Program Leader for Risk Management, CSREES, *Washington, DC*

Franklin E. Boteler, Deputy Administrator, Economic and Community Systems, CSREES, *Washington, DC*

Sam Snyder, Senior Appraiser, FSA, *Washington, DC*

**Facilitator:** Mapy Alvarez, Executive Director, National Immigrant Farming Initiative, *New York*

**Reporter:** Edith Morigeau, Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Coordinator, NRCS, *Washington, DC*

**Evaluator:** Maxine Hillary, FSIS, *Washington, DC*

**Room Monitor:** Edgar Lewis, Outreach Coordinator, RD, *Washington, DC*

**Documentarian:** Sibyl Wright, Agency Outreach Coordinator, FSIS, *Washington, DC*

## Partners V - 2008 Conversations

### *Conversation #5: Equitable Access to Programs and the 2008 Farm Bill: Energy/Renewable Energy Programs*

Concerns over the cost, supply and security of petroleum make it a national priority to reduce foreign energy dependence. The Federal government largely supports greater bio-energy research, development, and capital investment by agricultural producers and small businesses. These concerns and the public interest regarding renewable energy helped shape the 2008 Farm Bill, although continuing research remains critical to understanding the impact of changing investment in bio-energy and its impact on food prices and other factors. Diversification of American agriculture to include the production of bio-energy feedstock presents many opportunities and challenges.

This conversation will focus on questions such as: (1) Has the increased use of grain crops as a feedstock for ethanol production raised the cost of food and feed (for livestock) and at what percentage? (2) What research is being done to address this situation? (3) How does the 2008 Farm Bill benefit bio-energy research, development, and investment? (4) Which agencies and programs are best to implement these programs? and (5) How will socially disadvantaged producers be able to access these programs? Alternative sources for bio-fuel, other than corn, may present a more all around cost effective means of production. What research is being conducted on this issue? Is there funding for alternative crop development?

**Moderator:** Dick Gooby, Executive Director, Indian Nations Conservation Alliance, Montana

#### **Conversationalists:**

Doug Faulkner, Deputy Undersecretary for Rural Development, Washington, DC

Paul Johnson, Forest Service Energy Coordinator, FS, Washington, DC

Tom Buis, President, National Farmers Union, Washington, DC

Dorathy Barker, Executive Director, Operation Spring Plant, North Carolina

**Facilitator:** Quinton Robinson, Congressional Liaison, Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural, Washington, DC

**Reporter:** Carl Butler, 1890 National Scholars Program Manager, OASCR, Washington, DC

**Evaluator:** Stephanie Koziski, Program Manager, OASCR, Washington, DC

**Room Monitor:** Velma Charles-Shannon, Environmental Justice Program Manager, OASCR, Washington, DC

**Documentarian:** Dwight Guy, 1890 Agricultural Liaison Officer, Oklahoma

## Partners V - 2008 Conversations

### *Conversation #6: Equitable Access to Programs and the 2008 Farm Bill: Disaster Protection, ACRE and Disaster Tools*

**The 2008 Farm Bill expands risk protection and disaster assistance for producers and attempts to cover gaps and mitigate problems in previous Farm Bill programs. Almost \$4 billion in new Supplemental Disaster Assistance, with a standing disaster fund, was included in the 2008 Farm Bill. Also provided is a continuing investment of \$22 billion supporting crop insurance, with new provisions to improve coverage for specialty crops, an industry where market risk has expanded not only with typical weather-related risks but with market risks related to food safety.**

The 2008 Farm Bill also reduced the very small funding pool that includes support for the critical RMA Community Outreach Partnership Grants program. Since the implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill, a major portion of the reductions in this fund have been taken from the Community Outreach Partnership Grants Program, which has currently been reduced by some 70% from the past fiscal year.

This conversation will focus on the 2008 Farm Bill tools related to disasters assistance and risk protection and what they will mean for socially disadvantaged producers underrepresented in the best risk-protected sectors such as commodity crops, and overrepresented in specialty crops and livestock, with few risk protections. It will also address the continuing gaps in coverage for socially disadvantaged producers and the importance of maintaining strong risk management outreach and education programs, particularly in the face of any continuing gaps in other methods of risk protection.

**Moderator:** Rudy Perez, Outreach Liaison, RMA, *California*

#### **Conversationalists:**

Scott Stofferhan, Senate Agriculture Committee, *Washington, DC*

Ross Racine, Executive Director, Intertribal Agriculture Council, *Montana*

Edward "Jerry" Pennick, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, *Georgia*

Dennis, Shields, Agricultural Economist, FSA, *Washington, DC*

Bill Murphy, Deputy Administrator, Insurance Services, RMA, *Washington, DC*

**Facilitator:** Willard Tillman, Executive Director, Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project, *Oklahoma*

**Reporter:** Rick Chavez, Outreach Coordinator, CSREES, *Washington, DC*

**Evaluator:** Lisa Mason, Program Marketing Specialist, OASCR, *Washington, DC*

**Room Monitor:** Tracy Jones, Senior Loan Officer, FSA, *Washington, DC*

**Documentarian:** Doris Newton, Economist, ERS, *Washington, DC*

## Partners V - 2008 Conversations

### *Conversation #7: Equity and Accountability and the 2008 Farm Bill: Tracking Progress using the Census of Agriculture and the Transparency and Accountability Requirements*

Access to USDA programs and services continues to impact the sustainability of small, socially disadvantaged, and limited resource producers and rural communities. The long history of exclusion of these populations from USDA programs and services, coupled with changing demographics and the multitude of other social and economic factors in defining rural America, has increased the need to establish systems for objective and continuous monitoring of program delivery and impacts on rural America. One critical long-term barrier to securing stronger policies for socially disadvantaged producers is the lack of reliable statistics to document their economic contributions to their communities and to the national economy. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) administers the Department's program for collecting and publishing national, State and county agricultural statistics. NASS' statistical program includes the Census of Agriculture, which provides comprehensive, county-level information about the Nation's agriculture every five years.

In this session, new policies in the Miscellaneous Title (Title XIV) of the 2008 Farm Bill will be reviewed and discussed. Topics include broad provisions that strengthen requirements 1) USDA accurately reflect the population and economic contributions of socially disadvantaged producers in the Census of Agriculture and in studies of the Economic Research Service; 2) to provide public transparency and accountability in tracking the number and percentage of producers by race, gender and ethnicity in all programs of the Department that serve producers, and their participation on Farm Service Agency County Committees; 3) to provide a receipt for service to allow producers to receive documentation of any service provided or denied by the Department; 4) for USDA agencies to collect responsive data; and 5) call for the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights to use the aforementioned data collected to conduct oversight and evaluation of civil rights compliance. This session will include a report on the work done by NASS with both external and internal Partners to improve coverage of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

**Moderator:** Georgia Good, Executive Director, Rural Advancement Fund, *South Carolina*

**Conversationalists:**

Savonala Horne, Executive Director, Land Loss Prevention Project, *North Carolina*

Lorette Picciano, Executive Director, Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural, *Washington, DC*

Joe Reilly, Associate Administrator, NASS, *Washington, DC*

Charles Smith, Regional Outreach Specialist, OASCR, *Washington, DC*

**Facilitator:** Alfonzo Drain, NASS, *Washington, DC*

**Reporter:** Mary Ahearn, ERS, *Washington, DC*

**Evaluator:** Sheila Bryant, Program Manager, OASCR, *Washington, DC*

**Room Monitor:** Anetra Harbor, OBPA, *Washington, DC*

**Documentarian:** Altivia Jackson, RD, *Washington, DC*

## Partners V - 2008 Conversations

### *Conversation #8: Equity and Accountability and the 2008 Farm Bill: The Farmworker Coordinator, the Emergency Disaster Grants to Farmworker and other Related Programs*

**The Nation's 4 million farmworkers are fundamental to the viability of the agriculture sector and the food system. This important group remains largely unrecognized—without a place at the table to represent their interests and concerns for dignity and fair working conditions—within agriculture. Since the inception of the USDA-CBO Partners process, the Partners have called for the establishment of a farmworker coordinator at USDA to begin the process of dialogue and coordination on the many issues within agriculture that affect farmers, and ultimately producers. They have also called for the expansion and better implementation of an emergency grants program to assist farmworkers during times of agricultural disaster.**

This session will focus on provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill related to farmworkers. This includes the farmworker coordinator position established within the Office of Advocacy and Outreach, and the specific functions and purposes assigned to the coordinator, including serving as a liaison to CBOs working with farmworkers and coordinating entities and administering the emergency program previously authorized to ensure that farmworker needs are met during disasters and other emergencies. Housing programs, pesticide protection and ways to better engage farmworkers in the agriculture sector will also be discussed, as will the importance of coordination between farmworker and new entry producer programs that allow workers access to land.

**Moderator:** William “Bill” Buchanan, Director, Civil Rights and Community Outreach, RMA, *Washington, DC*

#### **Conversationalists:**

Milly Trevino Saucedo, Organización en California de Lideres Campesinas, *California*

Rudy Arredondo, HOLA/National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association, *Washington, DC*

Heladio Zavala, Chief Executive Officer, MAFO, *Minnesota*

Juan Marinez, Special Assistant to the Director of Extension, Michigan State Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan

Sue Harris-Green, Deputy Director, Multi-Family Housing, RD, *Washington, DC*

Jorge Comas, Outreach Coordinator, FSA, *Washington, DC*

APHIS representative

**Facilitator:** Rick Lopez, State Executive Director, FSA, *New Mexico*

**Reporter:** Sae Mi, Diversity Specialist, OASCR, *Washington, DC*

**Evaluator:** Jacquea Howard-Brock, Intern, RMA, *Washington, DC*

**Room Monitor:** Lisa Razzi, Intern, RD, *Washington, DC*

**Documentarian:** Alicia Rodriguez, Program Manager, OASCR, *Washington, DC*

## Partners V - 2008 Conversations

### *Conversation # 9: Equity and Accountability and the 2008 Farm Bill: Settling Outstanding Claims and Forestalling Foreclosures*

**The 2008 Farm Bill contains provisions related to unresolved civil rights claims and new action to stem accelerations and foreclosures related to such claims.**

This conversation will focus on the implementation of relevant sections of the Miscellaneous Title (Title XIV) of the 2008 Farm Bill including a moratorium on loan acceleration and foreclosure proceedings if a claim of discrimination is involved. The 2008 Farm Bill also waives interest and offsets accrued during the moratorium and requires the USDA Inspector General to issue a report on socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers loan foreclosure proceedings within a year of the legislation's enactment.

**Moderator:** Dan Schofer, Deputy Director, Outreach Staff, FSA, *Washington, DC*

**Conversationalists:**

Savonala Horne, Land Loss Prevention Project, *North Carolina*

Lloyd Wright, Consultant, *North Carolina*

Veldon Hall, Director, Loan Servicing and Property Management Division, FSA, *Washington, DC*

Farook Sait, Special Counsel to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, OASCR, *Washington, DC*

David Grahn, Attorney, OGC, *Washington, DC*

**Facilitator:** Phillip Farlane, Advisor, North Carolina Minority Cooperatives, *North Carolina*

**Reporter:** William Scaggs, Program Manager, OASCR, *Washington, DC*

**Evaluator:** Rozier Crew, Outreach Coordinator, RD (Retired), *Virginia*

**Room Monitor:** Robert Ragos, Deputy Director, Civil Rights, FS, *Washington, DC*

**Documentarian:** Tracy Jones, Senior Loan Officer, FSA, *Washington, DC*

## Partners V - 2008 Conversations

### *Conversation #10: Equity and Accountability and the 2008 Farm Bill: The Office of Advocacy and Outreach, Small and Beginning Farmers, and 2501 Program and Related Matters*

**A wide range of programs and services are necessary for socially disadvantaged and other small scale producers and new entry farmers and ranchers to succeed amid the complexities of the current agriculture system—programs and services. In the 2008 Farm Bill, Congress addressed the need for coordination within the Department among programs and services. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has also outlined the need for improvement in coordination.**

A major focus of this Partners Meeting, in addition to the focus on the 2008 Farm Bill implementation, is the emerging and ongoing structure of relationships between the Partners and the Department. This conversation will focus on the 2008 Farm Bill authorities and the Office of Advocacy and Outreach, which is authorized to establish a coordinated function for small, beginning and socially disadvantaged producers at USDA. It is to include (a) a Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Group, comprised of the 2501 Program, Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers, Farmworker Coordinator, and the functions and duties previously assigned to the Office of Outreach and Diversity under the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights; and (b) a Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Group, to include the Office of Small and Beginning Farms Coordination, a liaison to the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, and the Advisory Committee for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.

The 2008 Farm Bill also provides \$15-20 million annually in mandatory funds for the Socially Disadvantaged Farmer and Rancher Outreach and Technical Assistance Program (2501 Program), and strengthens its ability to assist socially disadvantaged producers to participate in agriculture programs.

**Moderator:** Melvin Crum, Rural Advancement Fund, *South Carolina*

#### **Conversationalists:**

Shirley Sherrod, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, *Georgia*

Aimee Witteman, Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, *Washington, DC*

Dionne Tombs, National Program Leader for Integrated Programs, CSREES, *Washington, DC*

Dennis Kopp, Assistant Administrator for Program and Analysis, CSREES, *Washington, DC*

Sherie Hinton Henry, Associate Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, OASCR, *Washington, DC*

**Facilitator:** Patrick Fields, Consensus Building Institute, *Massachusetts*

**Reporter:** Rene Cochise, Program Manager, Cooperative Forestry, FS, *Washington, DC*

**Evaluator:** Gwendolyn Smith, EEO Specialist, APHIS, *Washington, DC*

**Room Monitor:** Connie Simpson, EEO Specialist, FAS, *Washington, DC*

**Documentarian:** Renata Robinson, EEO Specialist, RD, *Washington, DC*

# *The 2008 Training Sessions*



# Partners V

## Introduction to the 2008 Training Sessions

Training sessions were introduced at Partners IV as a dimension of the conference agenda. These sessions are conducted by USDA and land-grant university staff credentialed in the training subject, and are designed to help increase access to USDA programs and services. Three (3) training sessions will be conducted:

- #1: Good Handling Practices/Good Agricultural Practices
- #2: Grantsmanship
- #3: Requirements and Practices for Implementing Microenterprise and Individual Development Account (IDA) Programs

The Training Sessions will be offered one time only, shown below:

**Thursday, August 7, 2008**  
**3:30 to 5:30 PM**

The descriptions of these sessions follow. We urge participants to take advantage of these training opportunities.

# Partners V

## 2008 Training Sessions

### **Session #1: Good Handling Practices/Good Agricultural Practices**

The number of food-related outbreaks linked to fresh fruits and vegetables have been rising steadily in recent years. In this workshop you will learn how good agricultural practices and good handling practices can help minimize food safety hazards common to the growing, harvesting, washing, sorting, packing and transportation of fresh fruits and vegetables.

**Moderator:** Geraldine Herring, Outreach Specialist, OASCR, Washington, DC

**Presenters:** Kathleen Staley, Agricultural Marketing Service, *Washington, DC*

**Documentarian:** Sharon Colbert, Rural Development Specialist, *Washington, DC*

### **Session #2: Grantmanship**

***Strategies for Applying and Succeeding in Competitive Programs.*** Successful proposals share many common characteristics regardless of the program. This presentation will share what you must do to be successful in preparing and submitting proposals. It will include an overview of proposal preparation, the electronic grants process including Grants.gov, and the review process.

**Moderator:** Denis Ebodaghe, National Program Leader for Small Farms, CSREES, *Washington, DC*

**Presenters:** Mark Poth, Ph.D., Research Director, Competitive Programs, CSREES, *Washington, DC*

**Documentarian:** Rhonda Brown, Faith-Based Community Initiatives and Outreach Coordinator, RD, *Washington, DC*

# Partners V

## 2008 Training Sessions

### **Session #3: “Requirements and Practices for Implementing Microenterprise and IDA Programs.”**

The 2008 Farm Bill authorized the Farmers Individual Development Account Program and the Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program. Each of these programs is to be implemented in 15 pilot states. The first part of this session will discuss the specific provisions for these programs under the 2008 Farm Bill and the status of the implementing rules and regulations. The second part will provide information on successful IDA and Microenterprise Programs administered within the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Procedures and effective practices that have been modified during several years of experience will be discussed by representatives of the ACF Office of Community Services (OCS) and Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), and the Institute for Social and Economic Development (ISED). For several years ISED has been the technical assistance provider to ORR for both Microenterprise and IDA Programs. Incorporated in the training session will be summaries of program results and effective methods for working with clients, banks and other entities.

**Moderator:** Larry Laverentz, Program Manager, Office of Refugee Resettlement, US Department of Health and Human Service (DHHS), *Washington, DC*

**Presenters:**

Jim Gatz, Office of Community Services, DHHS, *Washington, DC*

Lisa Campbell, DHHS, Office of Refugee Resettlement, *Washington, DC*

Dan Krotz, Senior Consultant, Refugee Agricultural Partnership Project, ISED, *Arkansas*

**Documentarian:** Susan Kyle, DHHS, Office of Refugee Resettlement, *Washington, DC*

# The Partners

## Partners V

# Brief History of the Partners Meeting

In March 2003, USDA established the position of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR), a result of a provision in the 2002 Farm Bill strongly supported by community-based organizations (CBOs) that serve small farmers and farmworkers. Soon thereafter, in April 2003, USDA appointed the first ASCR. The new Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (OASCR) became the central point for the Department's civil rights dimension, bringing like functions under a common umbrella. Thus, the staffs of the Office of Civil Rights (now the Office of Adjudication and Compliance), the Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center, the Office of Outreach, along with the Offices of USDA/1890 and 1994 Programs, became part of the new office.

The new office worked closely with staff, internal partners, and CBO partners to initiate several innovative strategies to open dialogue with limited-resource and underserved farmers and ranchers across the United States. These included listening sessions, where the ASCR convened meetings across the Nation with representatives of African American, Latino, Asian American/Pacific Islander, and American Indian farm and ranch organizations in communities where they lived and worked to hear their deeply held and passionate concerns. These early sessions provided a "space" for CBO representatives and the ASCR staff to begin working together to tackle the tough issues faced in providing equitable access to USDA programs.

The OASCR staff and the CBO partners, many of whom had worked together externally for many years, sought opportunities to focus on resolving specific issues. In the summer of 2003, a group of CBOs convened in Washington, DC, to meet with the ASCR and the then USDA Secretary. The idea was advanced that USDA should find ways to interact with the CBO constituency as a group. In April 2004, USDA and the partners jointly convened a "stakeholders" meeting. Representatives of CBOs helped to develop the agenda and participated in a 1-day meeting in Washington, D.C., which provided an opportunity for approximately 40 small farm and minority stakeholders to meet with USDA agency administrators and program staff to discuss USDA programs and services. A second such meeting was held in August 2004. The result was that participants felt the meeting process masked the real issues and failed to advance dialogue to the satisfaction of anyone. Subsequently, USDA and the partners worked for more than a year to determine how best to proceed.

The partners pointed out that while USDA had formal relationships with many other entities, it lacked any formal or informal mechanism to work with CBO partners. As a result, a planning team, including Outreach staff, re-conceptualized the stakeholders' event as a working meeting of partners. The team elected to focus on building a relationship of mutual respect, honesty, and a desire to work on ending long-standing issues that separated USDA from some of its constituents. "Conversations"—reasoned civil discourse—would be the keystone for the meeting.

## Partners V

# Brief History of the Partners Meeting

Thus since 2005, the Annual Partners Meetings have become a signature program of OASCR and USDA. These meetings give representatives of CBOs, including faith-based organizations, USDA administrators, headquarters and field staffs, and representatives of minority-serving institutions, an opportunity to exchange ideas and explore solutions to challenges faced by traditionally underserved farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. The meetings also serve as a “call to action” for leaders of CBOs to work with USDA’s administrators and their staffs to propose and think through issues that can be used to develop policies and practices that impact the underserved and to work collaboratively toward these ends.

In sum, since the first meeting in April 2004, the meeting has evolved into a remarkable journey, benchmarked by continuous year-round dialog among representatives of community-, faith-based, tribal, immigrant and refugee organizations, minority-serving institutions of higher education, Federal, state and local USDA administrators, and outreach staff. The Partners Meetings serve as both a point of departure and a culminating event.

The Partners Meeting has four purposes: (1) continue the dialogue that has emanated from the previous meetings; (2) continue the annual forum through which USDA Agency Heads and their staffs hear the voices and concerns of underserved constituents; (3) broaden understanding of the depth and scope of USDA programs and services; and (4) recognize successful collaborative efforts that have resulted in enhanced well-being for small, socially disadvantaged and minority farmers and ranchers.

Beginning with the 2007 conference, three new features were added: (1) an award to a CBO and a USDA agency for outstanding outreach effort, (2) training sessions on critical programs/issues affecting the capacity to farm, and (3) success stories of collaborative effort that has transformed the lives of underserved producers. At the 2008 meeting, the Partners will discuss a structure and process through which an on-gong relationship with USDA can be established.

Participation in the Partners Meeting has increased 10-fold from the first stakeholders meeting. And the number of CBOs represented at the meetings is now more than 150 organizations. African American, Asian Americans, European-Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans are a part of “The Partners.”

And so it was, and so it is.

# Partners V - 2008

## Participating CBO Partners

• African American Family Farmers	GA	• East Arkansas Enterprise Community	AR
• Agricultural Land-Based Training Association	CA	• East Side Hmong Association	WA
• Alianza Hispana	AR	• Economic Expansion Project of South Texas	TX
• American Heartland Produce	AR	• Ethiopian Community Development Council	VA
• American Indian Mothers	NC	• Family Farmers Cooperative	TN
• Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation	AR	• Farm to Table	NM
• Association for the Advancement of Hmong Americans	MN	• Farmworker Association of Florida	FL
• Attala County Self-Help Cooperative	MS	• Federation of Southern Cooperatives	GA
• Beartooth Mountain Christian Ranch	MT	• Fernandez Ranch	WA
• Belgrade Community Action Association	NC	• First Baptist Church	VA
• Bethel Christian Fellowship	MD	• Five Star Family Cooperative	NC
• Black Cultural Enlightenment Society	SC	• Flats Mentor Farm	MA
• Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association	NC	• Fresh Farm Markets	DC
• Black Small Farmers Association	KY	• Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission	CA
• Bullock/Barbour Farmers Organization	AL	• Ft. Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District	AZ
• California Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association	CA	• Georgia Organics	GA
• CASA del Llano	TX	• Global Fuels AltE LLC	CA
• CMC Cooperative	NC	• Growing Power	WI
• Community Farmers Organization	OK	• Heifer International	IL
• Community Food Security Coalition	OR	• HELP-New Mexico	NM
• Concentric Management Applications	NC	• Hispanic Farmers and Ranchers of America	NM
• Corporation for Economic Opportunity	SC	• Hmong American Community	CA
• Cottage House Women's Farmers Organization	AL	• Hmong National Development	DC
• Cox Brothers' Farms	AR	• HOLA/National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association	DC
• Davila Farms	TX	• Howland Chapel Futuristic Outreach	MD
		• Idaho Office for Refugees	ID
		• IMPACT	MS

# Partners V - 2008

## Participating CBO Partners

• Indian Nations Conservation Alliance	MT	• Minority Agricultural Producers Cooperative	TX
• Institute for Social and Economic Development	DC	• Mississippi Association of Cooperatives	MS
• Intertribal Agriculture Council	MT	• Mississippi Faith-Based Coalition for Community	MS
• Kansas Black Farmers Association	KS	• Mississippi Faith-Based Coalition for Community Renewal	MS
• Kentucky Minority Farmers Association	KY	• Mississippi SRBWI Women in Agriculture	MS
• Kiowa Tribal Conversation District	OK	• Missouri Rural Crisis Center	MO
• Land Loss Prevention Project	NC	• National Black Farmers Association	VA
• Landowners Association of Texas	TX	• National Carbon Offset Coalition	MT
• League of United Latin America Citizens	AR	• National Center on Appropriate Technology	CA
• Liberty Restoration Community Development Center	LA	• National Congress of American Indians	DC
• Licea Farm	WA	• National Family Farm Coalition	DC
• Life and Liberty	PA	• National Hmong American Farmers	CA
• Macon County Farmers Market	AL	• National Immigrant Farming Initiative	NY
• Macon County Farmers Organization	AL	• National Tribal Development Association	MN
• MAFO	MN	• National Association of Women in Agriculture	OK
• Magee Farm	LA	• New American Sustainable Agriculture Project	ME
• Manzaneros Mexicanos de Washington	WA	• New Entry Sustainable Farming Project	MA
• Markham Center	VT	• New York Sustainable Agriculture Working Group	NY
• Mennonite Economic Development Association	PA	• North Carolina Coalition of Farm and Rural Families	NC
• Mexico Border Cooperative	TX	• North Carolina Minority Cooperatives	NC
• Michigan Coalition of Black Farmers	MI	• North Carolina Willing Workers	NC
• Michigan Food & Farming Systems	MI		
• Michigan Integrated Food & Farming Systems	MI		
• Mid-South Progressive Agricultural Group	MS		
• Minnesota Food Association	MN		

# Partners V - 2008

## Participating CBO Partners

• North Central Growers Cooperative of North Carolina	NC	• Sacrificio Non-Profit Corporation	TX
• North South Institute	FL	• Sandhills Family Heritage Association	NC
• Northern New Mexico Stockman's Association	NM	• Sea Island Farmers Cooperative	SC
• Northern Rio Grande RC & D	NM	• Silas H. Hunt CDC	AR
• Northern Tennessee Farmers Association	TN	• Sin Fronteras Organizing Project	TX
• Northumberland County Community Center	VA	• Sisters in Unity Ministries	VA
• Oaks Indian School	OK	• Small Farmers and Minority Farmers of America	NC
• Oklahoma Black Farmers Association	OK	• Small Farmers Marketing and Education Association	AL
• Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project	OK	• Small Hispanic Farmers Group	FL
• Operation Spring Plant	NC	• Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)	NM
• Organización en California de Lideres Campesinas	CA	• Southeast Asian American Farmers Association	AR
• Oyster Point Farms	DC	• Southeastern Appalachian Rural Alliance	WV
• Penn Center Small Farmer Cooperative	SC	• Southern Alternatives	GA
• Pequeños Agricultores de California	CA	• Southwest Georgia Project for Community Education	GA
• Phoenix Youth and Family Services	AR	• Southwest Indian Agriculture Association	AZ
• Refugee Agriculture Partnership Program	KY	• Step Up To Success	VA
• Resource One Nursery	LA	• Taos County Economic Development Corporation	NM
• Rhema Ranch	AL	• Tello's Green Farm	NY
• Rural Advancement Fund	SC	• Texas Landowner Association	TX
• Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural	DC	• Texas Small Farmers & Ranchers	TX
• Rural Community Development Resources	WA	• Texas/Mexico Border Coalition	TX
• Rural Community in Transitions	WA	• Tiicham Conservation District	OR
• Rural Development Leadership Network	NY	• TSAHBIIKIN Chapter The Navajo Nation	AZ
• Southeastern African-American Farmers Organic Network	GA	• Twin Rivers Small Farmers Cooperative	NC
		• Tyonek Tribal Conservation District	AK

# Partners V - 2008

## Participating CBO Partners

- UMOS WI
- United Farmers USA SC
- United Growers WA
- United Hmong Association NC
- Urban Agricultural International Program VA
- Urban Rural Learning Lenkage Living Institute Inte VA
- ViDon Entertainment MD
- Whitaker Small Farm Group NC
- Winston County Self Help Cooperative MS
- Women, Food and Agriculture Network IA
- Youth Development and Capacity Building GA

# Partners V - 2008

## Participating University Partners

### 1890 Universities

- Alabama A&M University AL
- Delaware State University DE
- Fort Valley State University GA
- Kentucky State University KY
- Langston University OK
- Southern University and A& M College LA
- Tuskegee University AL
- University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff AR
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore MD
- Virginia State University VA

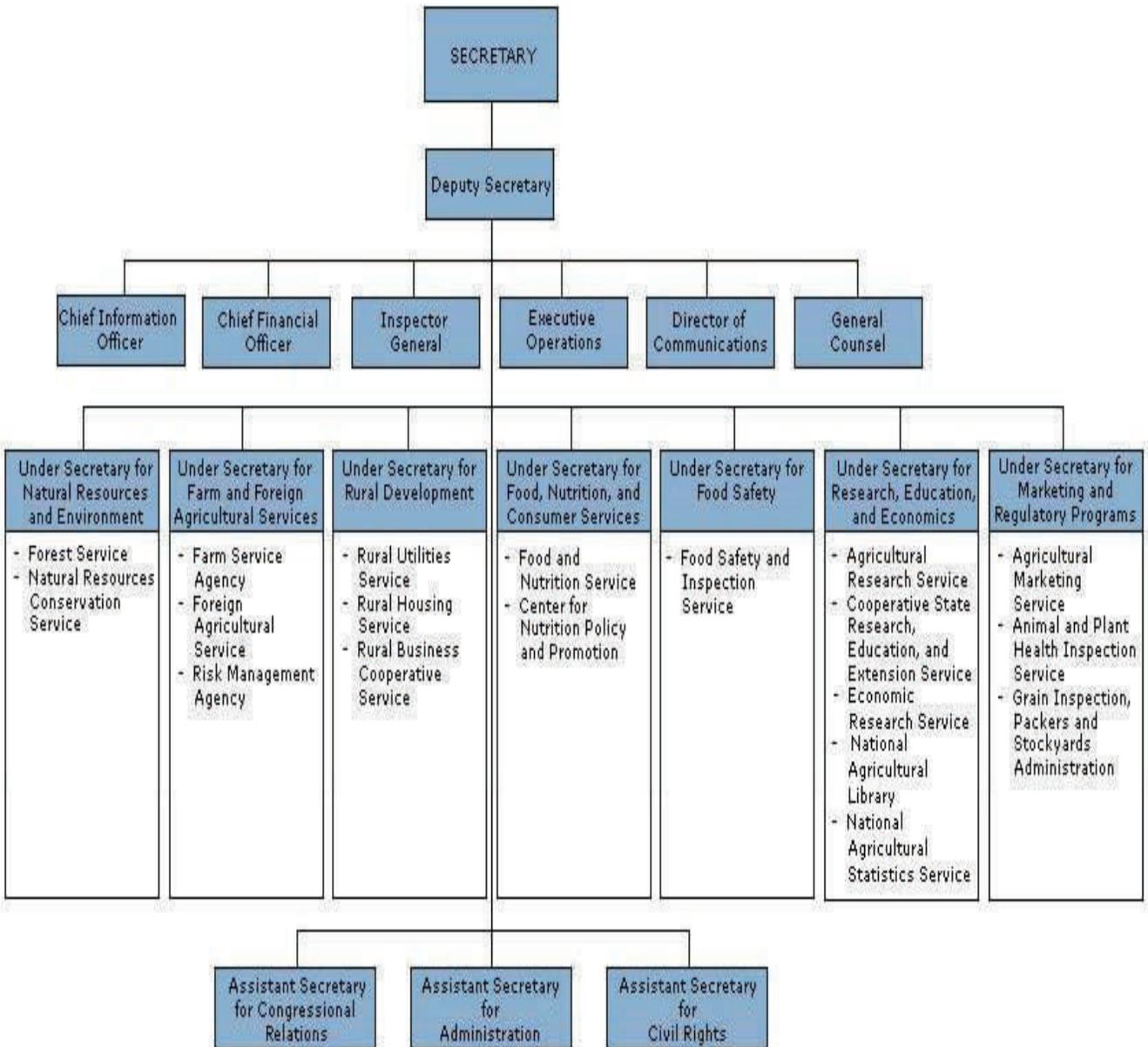
### 1994 Colleges

- Dine Beina College AZ

### 1862 and Other Colleges & Universities

- Michigan State University Extension MI
- Tufts University MA
- Palm Beach Community College FL
- Valencia Community College FL

# Partners V - USDA Organization Chart\*



\*This image displays the current Headquarters Organization, including the Secretary, Chief Officers, Under Secretaries, and Assistant Secretaries for various agencies within USDA

# Partners V

## U.S. Department of Agriculture

### **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS (ASCR)**

ASCR's mission is to facilitate the fair and equitable treatment of USDA customers and employees, while ensuring the delivery and enforcement of civil rights programs and activities. ASCR ensures compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies for USDA customers and employees regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital or familial status, political beliefs, parental status, protected genetic information, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all bases apply to all programs.)

<http://www.usda.gov/cr/index.html>

### **AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE (AMS)**

AMS facilitates the strategic marketing of agricultural products in domestic and international markets while ensuring fair trading practices and promoting a competitive and efficient marketplace. AMS constantly works to develop new marketing services to increase customer satisfaction.

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/>

### **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)**

ARS is USDA's principal in-house research agency. ARS leads America towards a better future through agricultural research and information.

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/main/main.htm>

### **ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE (APHIS)**

APHIS provides leadership in ensuring the health and care of animals and plants. The agency improves agricultural productivity and competitiveness and contributes to the national economy and the public health.

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>

### **CENTER FOR NUTRITION POLICY AND PROMOTION (CNPP)**

CNPP works to improve the health and well-being of Americans by developing and promoting dietary guidance that links scientific research to the nutrition needs of consumers.

<http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/>

# Partners V

## U.S. Department of Agriculture

### **COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND SERVICE (CSREES)**

In partnership with land-grant universities, and other public and private organizations, CREES provides the focus to advance a global system of extramural research, extension, and higher education in the food and agricultural sciences.

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/>

### **ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE (ERS)**

ERS is USDA's principal social science research agency. Each year, ERS communicates research results and socioeconomic indicators via briefings, analyses for policymakers and their staffs, market analysis updates, and major reports.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/>

### **FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)**

FSA implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster and farm marketing programs through a national network of offices.

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/>

### **FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE (FNS)**

FNS increases food security and reduces hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthy diet, and nutrition education in a manner that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence.

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/default.htm>

### **FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE (FSIS)**

FSIS enhances public health and well-being by protecting the public from foodborne illness and ensuring that the nation's meat, poultry and egg products are safe, wholesome, and correctly packaged.

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

# Partners V

## U.S. Department of Agriculture

### **FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE (FAS)**

FAS works to improve foreign market access for U.S. products. This USDA agency operates programs designed to build new markets and improve the competitive position of U.S. agriculture in the global marketplace.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/>

### **FOREST SERVICE (FS)**

FS sustains the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/>

### **GRAIN INSPECTION, PACKERS AND STOCK-YARDS ADMINISTRATION (GIPSA)**

GIPSA facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products. It also promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture. GIPSA ensures open and competitive markets for livestock, poultry, and meat by investigating and monitoring industry trade practices.

<http://www.gipsa.usda.gov/>

### **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE (NASS)**

NASS serves the basic agricultural and rural data needs of the country by providing objective, important and accurate statistical information and services to farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and public officials. This data is vital to monitoring the ever-changing agricultural sector and carrying out farm policy.

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/>

### **NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)**

NRCS provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

# Partners V

## U.S. Department of Agriculture

### RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY (RMA)

RMA helps to ensure that farmers have the financial tools necessary to manage their agricultural risks. RMA provides coverage through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, which promotes national welfare by improving the economic stability of agriculture.

<http://www.rma.usda.gov/>

### RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RD)

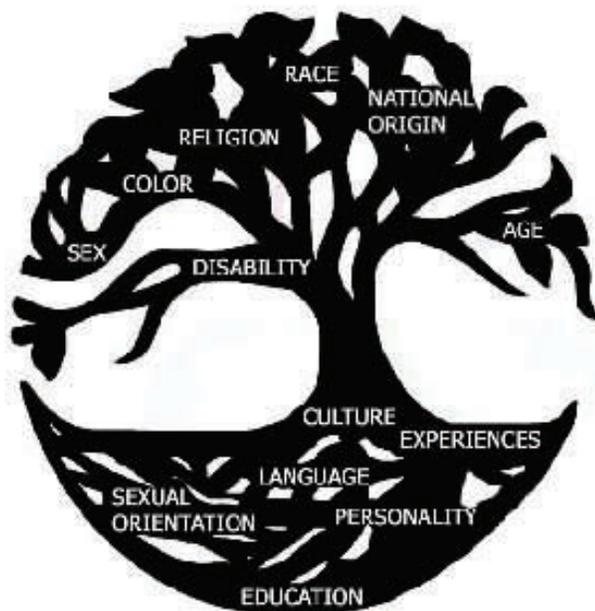
RD helps rural areas to develop and grow by offering Federal assistance that improves quality of life. RD targets communities in need and then empowers them with financial and technical resources.

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>





*Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (OASCR) ensures compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies for USDA customers and employees regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital or family status, political beliefs, parental status, protected genetic information, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.*



Cultivating Diversity  
Producing Change

Office of Diversity  
USDA

## USDA's Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

- To embrace diversity and inclusion as core values of the department
- To promote a workplace environment where every employee is trusted, valued and respected
- To build diversity through raising awareness and appreciation of differences
- To evaluate and analyze employment and program delivery practices in order to remove barriers to an inclusive environment

[diversity@usda.gov](mailto:diversity@usda.gov)

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

[www.usda.ascr.gov](http://www.usda.ascr.gov)



# Office of Adjudication and Compliance

(formerly the Office of Civil Rights)

*The Office of Adjudication and Compliance ensures that activities and programs within USDA are carried out in accordance with Federal anti-discrimination laws. The Office meets this responsibility through*

*compliance reviews, civil rights training and civil rights policy development. In addition, the Office of Adjudication and Compliance receives and adjudicates complaints of discrimination. The Office*

*manages the Department's EEO complaint process and serves as the liaison with EEOC on compliance related to decisions issued by the EEOC. Complaints of discrimination arising from USDA conducted and Federally-assisted programs are also adjudicated by the Office of Adjudication and Compliance.*



Office of Adjudication and Compliance  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-9410  
Tel: (202) 260-1026 (local)  
(866) 632-9992 (toll free)  
(202) 401-0216 (TDD)  
Email: [cr@usda.gov](mailto:cr@usda.gov)



Are you looking for a faster way to get a workplace dispute resolved?

Do you need assistance managing differences with a co-worker or your supervisor?

Are you dealing with a difficult peer or employer?

If you answered yes to any of these questions ... Help is Here!!!

*Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 4029-S  
Washington, DC 20250-9407  
202-720-7664 or 1-888-428-8961 or at  
[http://www.ascr.usda.gov/usda\\_employee\\_adr.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/usda_employee_adr.html)*

*Any employee involved in a conflict may contact the  
Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center for assistance.*

*Our mission is to increase the prevention and early  
resolution of both workplace and program conflicts at  
USDA through the enhancement of conflict management  
skills and the widespread use of Alternative Dispute  
Resolution (ADR).*



USDA/1890

# NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

*A partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions*



Alabama A&M University  
Alcorn State University, Mississippi  
Delaware State University  
Florida A&M University  
Fort Valley State University, Georgia  
Kentucky State University  
Lincoln University, Missouri  
Langston University, Oklahoma  
North Carolina A&T State University  
Prairie View A&M University, Texas  
South Carolina State University  
Southern University and A&M College, Louisiana  
Tennessee State University  
Tuskegee University, Alabama  
University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff  
University of Maryland-Eastern Shore  
Virginia State University  
West Virginia State University



Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
USDA/1890 Programs  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
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Washington, D.C. 20024  
Telephone Number: (202) 205-5692; Fax Number: (202) 205-2641  
email: 1890init@usda.gov

United States Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

**USDA/1994 PROGRAM (Tribal Colleges and Universities)**

**The 1994 Land Grant  
Institutions (Tribal  
Colleges and  
Universities)**

The 1994 Land Grant Institutions are American Indian tribally controlled colleges and universities that were granted land grant status under an Act of Congress in 1994. The USDA/1994 Program Office is the result of a partnership between the USDA's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC).

**USDA/1994  
Program Office**

The USDA/1994 Program Office was established to develop policy guidelines and procedures; coordinate and oversee further participation in the Department's programs and activities; and monitor, evaluate, and report on agency compliance with policy and Executive Orders to increase participation of 1994 land grant institutions. For more information about this program contact:

USDA/1994 Program Office  
USDA, Office of the Assistant  
Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW,  
Room 1034  
Washington DC 20250  
(202) 205-4490 or (202) 720-1772  
[www.usda.ascr.gov](http://www.usda.ascr.gov)



**Tribal Colleges and Universities**

The thirty-two Tribal Colleges and Universities are located primarily in the Northern Plains, Northwest, and Southwest United States. They are:

- \* Bay Mills Community College, Brimley, Michigan
- \* Blackfeet Community College, Browning, Montana
- \* Cankdeska Cikana Comm. College, Fort Totten, North Dakota
- \* Chief Dull Knife College, Lama Deer, Montana
- \* College of Menominee Nation, Keshena, Wisconsin
- \* Diné College, Tsaile, Arizona
- \* Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College, Cloquet, Minnesota
- \* Fort Belknap College, Harlem, Montana
- \* Fort Berthold Community College, New Town, North Dakota
- \* Fort Peck Community College, Poplar, Montana
- \* Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, Kansas
- \* Ilisagvik College, Barrow, Alaska
- \* Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico
- \* Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, Hayward, Wisconsin
- \* Leech Lake Tribal College, Cass Lake, Minnesota
- \* Little Big Horn College, Crow Agency, Montana
- \* Little Priest Tribal College, Winnebago, Nebraska
- \* Navajo Technical College, Crownpoint, New Mexico
- \* Nebraska Indian Community College, Macy, Nebraska
- \* Northwest Indian College, Bellingham, Washington
- \* Oglala Lakota College, Kyle, South Dakota
- \* Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, Mount Pleasant, Michigan
- \* Salish Kootenai College, Pablo, Montana
- \* Sinte Gleska University, Mission, South Dakota
- \* Sisseton Wahpeton College, Sisseton, South Dakota
- \* Sitting Bull College, Fort Yates, North Dakota
- \* Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- \* Stone Child College, Box Elder, Montana
- \* Tohono O'odham Comm. College, Sells, Arizona
- \* Turtle Mountain Community College, Belcourt, North Dakota
- \* United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck, North Dakota
- \* White Earth Tribal & Community College, Mahanomen, Minnesota

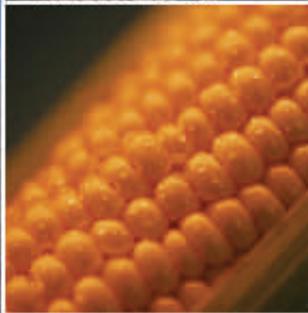
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# The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

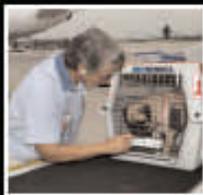
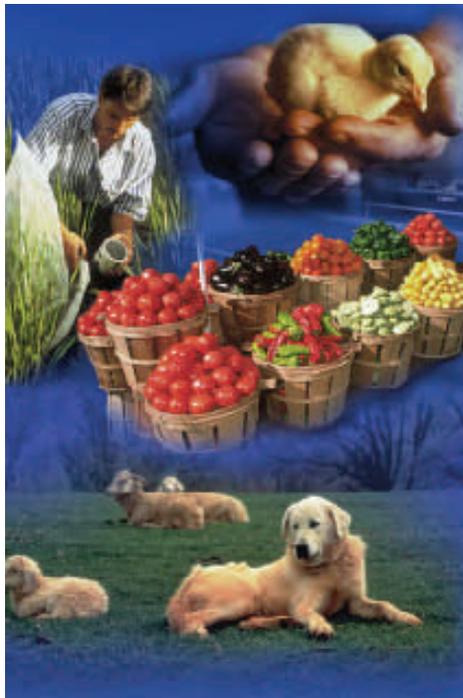
Our mission is to facilitate the strategic marketing of agricultural products in domestic and international markets, while ensuring fair trading practices and promoting a competitive and efficient marketplace, to the benefit of producers, traders, and consumers of U.S. food and fiber products.

For more information about AMS, visit our Web site at:

[www.ams.usda.gov](http://www.ams.usda.gov).



United States Department of Agriculture



## United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

***"Protecting American agriculture"*** is the basic charge of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). APHIS provides leadership in ensuring the health and care of animals and plants. The agency improves agricultural productivity and competitiveness and contributes to the national economy and the public health. The APHIS mission is an integral part of USDA efforts to provide the Nation with safe and affordable food. Without APHIS protecting America's animal and plant resources from agricultural pests and diseases, threats to our food supply and to our Nation's economy would be enormous. Plant and animal pest and disease threats could cost billions of dollars in lost domestic and international markets and have a huge impact on U.S. consumers, but APHIS has aggressively and successfully worked to prevent and respond to these situations. In recent years, the scope of APHIS' protection function has expanded beyond pest and disease management. Because of its technical expertise and leadership in assessing and regulating the risks associated with agricultural imports, APHIS has assumed a greater role in the global agricultural arena. Now, the agency must respond to other countries' animal and plant health import requirements and negotiate science-based standards that ensure America's agricultural exports, worth over \$50 billion annually, are protected from unjustified trade restrictions. APHIS' protection role also includes wildlife damage management, the welfare of animals, human health and safety, and ecosystems vulnerable to invasive pests and pathogens. In carrying out its diverse protection responsibilities, APHIS makes every effort to address the needs of all those involved in the U.S. agricultural sector. For more information, visit the APHIS website.

**Visit the APHIS website at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)**

APHIS is an agency of USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs  
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



[www.csrees.usda.gov](http://www.csrees.usda.gov)

## Investing in Science, Securing Our Future



The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), supports research, education and extension programs in the Land-Grant University System and other partner organizations through federal funding and leadership. CSREES provides annual funding to land-grant universities and competitively granted funds to researchers in partner organizations. CSREES also helps universities identify and meet research, extension and education priorities in areas of public concern that affect agricultural producers, small business owners, youth and families and others.

CSREES focuses on critical issues affecting people's daily lives and the nation's future. The advanced research and educational technologies we support empower people and communities to solve problems and improve their lives at the local level.

CSREES' broad areas of interest include:

- Agricultural & Food Biosecurity
- Animals & Animal Products
- Economics & Commerce
- Families, Youth & Communities
- International
- Pest Management
- Technology & Engineering
- Agricultural Systems
- Biotechnology & Genomics
- Education
- Food, Nutrition & Health
- Natural Resources & Environment
- Plants & Plant Products



**Whether at a land-grant or other university partner, government research agency, or small business, CSREES funds are helping today's scientists and educators secure tomorrow's agricultural future.**

Visit <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension/> to find your local Extension Office and learn how CSREES impacts your community.



As the premier source for agricultural economic information and analysis, ERS provides a window into the critical agriculture-related issues of today...

- Agricultural trade
- Conservation and environment
- Farm and commodity policy
- Farm income and costs
- Food and nutrition assistance
- Food safety
- Organic farming and marketing
- Rural income and welfare
- Structure of the farm and food sectors

...and helps you make decisions affecting tomorrow.

## About ERS

**The Economic Research Service**, U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides timely research and analysis to public and private decisionmakers on topics related to food, agriculture, the environment, and rural America. ERS provides more than just the economic facts; the agency brings the perspective of economic analysis to many critical issues facing farmers, agribusiness, consumers, and policymakers.

**ERS helps decisionmakers** probe the issues of the day with peer-reviewed social science research. This research is published in print and on the Internet in ERS research reports, professional journals, and in *Amber Waves* magazine. *Amber Waves* is published five times per year and covers the full range of ERS research and analysis, including articles on food, agriculture, rural America, and the environment. ERS also provides timely market analysis and outlook information and a wide range of data products.

**All ERS products**—magazines, research reports, data, and market analysis reports—are available on the ERS website.

[www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov)



**Serving the Agricultural Needs of Women, Minority, Disadvantaged and Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers All Over America**

FSA's Outreach Office helps FSA equitably serve all American farmers and ranchers, specifically, those who have not participated in, or have not received benefits from USDA or FSA programs. The FSA Outreach staff coordinated outreach efforts and initiatives through partnerships with diverse community-based organization, farm groups, land grant universities, and local, State, Tribal and Federal governments to ensure the Agency reaches socially disadvantaged, limited resource farmers and members of racial and ethnic minority groups to encourage equitable participation in agency programs and services.

There are a variety of FSA programs and services offered through FSA state and county offices. Here are just a few. Which program or service is right for you?



# FSA Outreach Office



## Farm Loans

(Direct/Guaranteed, Operating/Ownership, Youth and Beginning Farmers' Loans)

Special Lending Programs

Loan Deficiency Payments

Agricultural Marketing Assistance

Agricultural Payment Assistance

Agricultural Risk Management

Confidential Mediation Dispute Resolution

Conservation, Environmental and Natural Resources

Dairy Assistance

Disasters and Emergency Assistance

Price Support and Disaster Relief

Explanation and Translation of Program

Materials, Requirements and Sign up Procedures

Explanation of Agricultural Policies and Farm Bill

Reduced Interest Rate Loans

Farm Management and Financial Planning

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## A VITAL ROLE IN FARM EXPORTS

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) works to improve foreign market access for U.S. products, build new markets, improve the competitive position of U.S. agriculture in the global marketplace, and provide food aid and technical assistance to foreign countries.



### FAS MAJOR SERVICES

- ⇒ Market intelligence, access, and development
- ⇒ Trade policy formulation and monitoring
- ⇒ Food Aid
- ⇒ Linkages to global resources and international organizations

### HANDY FAS LINKS

- ⇒ Programs and Opportunities  
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/programs.asp>
- ⇒ Commodities and Products  
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/commodities.asp>
- ⇒ U.S. Exporter Assistance  
[http://www.fas.usda.gov/agx/exporter\\_assistance.asp](http://www.fas.usda.gov/agx/exporter_assistance.asp)
- ⇒ Market and Trade Data  
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/markettradedata.asp>



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Food and Nutrition Service



**Programs**

- Food Stamp Program
- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- Summer Food Service Program
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
- Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
- Special Milk Program
- Child & Adult Care Food Program
- Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
- Nutrition Assistance Block Grants
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program
- Disaster Assistance

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers the nutrition assistance programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The mission of FNS is to increase food security and reduce hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and low-income people with access to food, a healthful diet, and nutrition education in a manner that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence.

USDA's 15 nutrition assistance programs are the first line of our Nation's defense against hunger. These nutrition assistance programs reach 1 in 5 Americans over the course of a year.

FNS has elevated nutrition and nutrition education to a top priority in all its programs. In addition to providing access to nutritious food, FNS also works to empower program participants with knowledge of the links between diet and health.

The Agency was established Aug. 8, 1969, but many of the food programs originated long before FNS existed as a separate agency within USDA.

FNS ensures that all eligible people know about nutrition assistance programs and participate in national and regional events that target underserved (elderly and working poor) and disadvantaged groups (Hispanics, African Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans-Alaskan Natives).

For additional information on the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, visit [www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov).



*The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



**Food Safety and  
Inspection Service**

**FSIS**



## **The Food Safety and Inspection Service**

### *Our Mission:*

**The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is the public health agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged.**

**[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)**



## The Forest Service— Embracing Today's Challenges and Opportunities



For more than 100 years, the Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has built on the American tradition of conservation by caring for the land and serving people. Over time, the challenges we face have changed. Today, three great challenges cut across the conservation work we do—climate change; abundant, clean water; and getting kids back to nature. The Forest Service is acting on a national scale to meet these challenges and we invite you to join us.

Here are some ways you can help:

- \* Plant a tree—as it grows, it takes up carbon from the atmosphere and provides shade and beauty.
- \* Join a neighborhood stream cleanup or water quality monitoring effort.
- \* Take a child outdoors to show him or her what it was that you found so special about the natural world as a child.

These are just a few simple steps that every American can take. Multiplied by the actions of many, the impact would be enormous.



Gail Kimbell  
Forest Service Chief

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## **Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products, and promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture. GIPSA's Federal Grain Inspection Service provides the market with terms and methods for quality assessments; maintains the integrity of the marketing system by enforcing the provisions of the U.S. Grain Standards Act, and provides for a third-party national inspection system comprised of Federal, State, and private providers. The Agency's Packers and Stockyards Program (P&SP) is a regulatory program that ensures open and competitive markets for livestock, meat, and poultry by providing payment protection, and guarding against deceptive trade practices and anti-competitive activity. As an impartial, third-party entity, GIPSA helps ensure a fair and competitive marketing system for all involved in the merchandising of grain and related products, livestock, meat, and poultry.

### GIPSA's Values

GIPSA values integrity and professionalism; innovation among individuals and teams; diversity in the workforce; employees and customers; and fiscal responsibility in carrying out its mission.

### GIPSA Accessibility

GIPSA maintains a toll-free hotline (1-800-998-3447) to allow any person to report to GIPSA violations or suspected violations and abuses in the grain, livestock, meat, and poultry industries. GIPSA's hotline is available to all, including small and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, 365-days a year. Callers may remain anonymous if they wish.

GIPSA continuously strives to reach out to all members of the grain and livestock sectors of American agriculture, and especially to producers of all sizes, with an emphasis on small- and medium-sized farmers and ranchers, by hosting town hall meetings and forums, and by participating in industry-sponsored conferences and events. These activities allow GIPSA personnel to communicate with and seek input from all facets of the marketplace, and to learn more about the challenges facing today's grain, livestock, and poultry producers.

### How To Contact Us

#### **GIPSA Administrator**

Stop 3601, Room 2055-South Building  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-3601  
Tel: (202) 720-0219  
Fax: (202) 205-9237

## USDA'S NATIONAL APPEALS DIVISION: "FACE TO FACE FAIRNESS"



U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Appeals Division (NAD) has announced "Face to Face Fairness," a nationwide effort to educate farmers and other USDA program participants about the availability of the NAD appeal process. If you've been turned down for a farm loan, had your rural housing mortgage accelerated, or been denied USDA program payments, assistance, or a grant, you may appeal to the National Appeals Division.

The National Appeals Division is an independent office that reports directly to the Secretary of

Agriculture. Any person who receives an adverse program decision from USDA's Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the three USDA Rural Development agencies may file an appeal with NAD.

Filing an appeal gives you a chance to explain why you do not agree with what the agency decided. You'll be able to present your side of the story and any evidence you have to show the agency was in error. You may choose a face-to-face hearing in your state, a telephone hearing, or a review of the documents by a NAD Hearing Officer.

NAD employs a two-stage appeal process. A participant has a right to a hearing in his state of residence before a NAD Hearing Officer. Thereafter, either the appellant or the agency may ask the NAD Director to reverse the Hearing Officer's determination. Last year, more than 3,000 cases were filed with NAD. Of those, 30 percent resulted in a favorable outcome to the appellant.

More information about the NAD appeal process is available on its web site located at <http://www.nad.usda.gov>. All NAD determinations are published there, after NAD deletes location and personal identifying information to protect the privacy of appellants. Any visitor to the NAD web site can conduct a full text search of these determinations. Questions can be e-mailed to [NADinfo@usda.gov](mailto:NADinfo@usda.gov), or you may call NAD's toll-free number: 1-877-4USDA NAD.



**The USDA Rural Development Mission:**  
 To increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans.



Community Facilities



Housing Assistance



Business Programs



Utilities and Communications

Today, rural America is creating new economies able to compete in global markets by employing digital connectivity, developing new technologies, and harnessing ingenuity. It is advancing new sources of renewable energy through the utilization of America's natural resources and bringing greater quality of life to areas where enhanced education and health care services previously didn't exist.

Our USDA Rural Development team of professionals is working every day to meet the challenges and opportunities facing our rural residents and communities. With our customers in mind, we have adopted streamlined underwriting and investment delivery approaches that we believe better serve our customers.

Rural America is full of inventive, hard-working, ambitious people with robust dreams and determined attitudes. USDA Rural Development is, and will continue to be, ready to help turn their dreams into realities, hard work into sustainable economic gain, and problem-solving minds into nationwide solutions. USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities.

Thomas Dorr  
 Under Secretary





**Office of Small and Disadvantaged  
Business Utilization  
(OSDBU)**

**Our Mission: To provide maximum opportunities for small  
businesses to participate in USDA contracting activities.**

**HUBZone Program  
SBA Section 8(a) Business Development Program  
Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Program  
Small and Disadvantaged Business Program  
Subcontracting Program  
Women-Owned Business Program**

USDA OSDBU  
AG STOP 9501  
Room 1085, South Building  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20250-9501  
Phone: (202) 720-7117  
Fax: (202) 720-3001  
Website: <http://www.usda.gov/osdbu>





## USDA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS

The Committee's mission is to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on:

- The administration of the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) beginning farmer loan programs
- Methods for increasing participation between Federal and State loan programs to provide joint financing to beginning farmers and ranchers
- Methods to create new farming or ranching opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers

In addressing Beginning Farmer and Rancher issues, the USDA Advisory Committee supported efforts to achieve:

- **Increased funding** and more **loan flexibility** for beginning farmer and rancher down payment loans, farm ownership and farm operating loans
- **Increased funding** for the Outreach and Technical Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Program (**Section 2501**)
- **Incentives to transfer land to beginning farmers and ranchers** by retirees or non-farming heirs holding expiring CRP contracts
- **Higher Cost Share Payments** & other incentives to beginning farmers and ranchers to encourage conservation practices
- **Increased funding opportunities** to groups offering **research, educational and technical assistance** to beginning farmers and ranchers

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=bfl-er>





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<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=bfl-er>



# OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS

The program Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (OASDFR) provides funds to institutions and organizations that conduct training, outreach, and technical assistance to assure increased opportunities for socially disadvantaged producers.

OASDFR grants increased the participation of socially disadvantaged producers in USDA programs resulting in many positive local and regional impacts. For example, socially disadvantaged producers who participate in OASDFR-funded projects develop profitable new farming or ranching practices, receive loans more rapidly, increase their farm or ranch income, continue farming or ranching longer, and are less likely to go out of business.

OASDFR is an annually run competitive grants program. Eligible recipients work at institutions of higher education and community-based non-profit organizations that provide capacity-building training and assistance to local farmers and ranchers.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Dr. Dionne Toombs  
dtoombs@csrees.usda.gov  
(202) 401-2138

[WWW.CSREES.USDA.GOV](http://WWW.CSREES.USDA.GOV)





Agricultural Marketing Service

## Farmers' Market Promotion Program (FMPP)

*'Encouraging the Development, Promotion,  
Expansion of Direct Marketing'*

The Farmers' Market Promotion Program (FMPP) is administered by the Marketing Grants and Technical Assistance Branch of the Marketing Services Division (MSD). An annual, competitive grant program, FMPP is designed to assist eligible entities in promoting the domestic consumption of agricultural commodities by expanding direct producer-to-consumer marketing opportunities. Approximately \$5 million in grant funds will be available in fiscal years 2009 and 2010. All applicant corporations shall be domestic entities, i.e., owned, operated, and located within one or more of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia only. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

### Eligible Entities

- agricultural cooperatives, producer networks, or producer associations
- local governments
- non-profit corporations
- public benefit corporations
- economic development corporations
- regional farmers' market authorities, and
- Tribal Governments.

### Project Duration

Proposed projects should be 18 months in duration, beginning in October.

### Grant Funding Details

The maximum award per grant is \$75,000. Matching funds are not required. AMS will announce awards in September. An applicant is limited to no more than one award winning grant in a grant-funding year. Funds will be available beginning in October.

For further information about the Farmers Market  
Promotion Program, visit our website at:

[www.ams.usda.gov/FMPP](http://www.ams.usda.gov/FMPP)

# CONSERVATION

## Our Purpose. Our Passion.

*The purpose and passion for conservation is shared among many. It is shared between NRCS employees and partners who help people help the land. And it is shared by the landowners with whom we work. Our passion is manifested through the benefits derived from stewardship of private lands – benefits we all enjoy, such as cleaner water and air, improved soils and abundant wildlife habitat.*

*To learn about our stories, the stories of conservation made possible through a shared purpose, a shared passion and a shared commitment to conservation, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).*



The Gwinn Brothers  
Suwannee County, Florida



The Garcia Family  
Yakima, Washington



The Ho Family  
Oahu, Hawaii



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Helping People Help the Land**

[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)



## U.S. Department of Agriculture's **Office of Communications**

The Office of Communications is USDA's central source of public information. It ensures USDA's policies and programs are clearly and accurately conveyed to the media and to the public through web content, photographs, news releases, speeches, exhibits, audio and visual materials and special events. The office takes the lead in coordinating communications efforts throughout USDA and in developing new products and services that keep the public informed about USDA activities and initiatives.

For more information, call (202) 720-4623.



## OFFICE OF SMALL FARMS COORDINATION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Small Farms Coordination facilitates the coordination of USDA's activities related to small farms, beginning farmers and ranchers.

The primary purpose of the Office is to provide a focal point to coordinate USDA small farms policy and programs within the Department. The Office also facilitates the coordination of small farms related activities within the Department and USDA activities with educational institutions, community, civic and faith-based organizations, and the private sector.

### Office of Small Farms Coordination has four basic objectives:

- Facilitate integration of the concepts of small farms into USDA's policies and programs;
- Ensure USDA participation in interagency efforts are relevant to small farms and USDA participation with other Federal and State agencies on small farms related issues;
- Ensure USDA and the Secretary are represented on key international and national small farms and sustainable development efforts; and
- Foster and/or maintain open communication with organizations about small farms and develop collaborative partnerships to deliver USDA policy and programs to better serve constituents.

Small farms @USDA  
[www.usda.gov/oce/smallfarm](http://www.usda.gov/oce/smallfarm)



# Partners V - Safety and Security Features



## The Emergency Procedures Manual

This hotel has an Emergency Procedures Manual, which covers a wide variety of crisis situations. The hotel's Executive Committee reviews these procedures semi-annually.

## Emergency Power

This hotel has an emergency generator for designated lighting and power to key systems and equipment.

## Human Resources

- Drug Free Workplace policy is in place
- Workplace Violence policy/training is in place

## Guest Room Security

- Electronic locks
- Secondary locking device for entry and connecting doors
- Entry door viewer
- Smoke detectors in every guest room

Diagram for evacuation in every guest room showing nearest exit

## Fire Protection

- This hotel is sprinklered throughout and each guestroom has a smoke detector.
  - The closest Fire Station is in Crystal City, approx 1 mile away.
  - Emergency Number within the hotel is 0.
  - This hotel meets the "*Hotel & Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990*".
  - Fire Drills are conducted at least semi-annually involving all team members.
  - The fire alarm system includes one way voice communication to all floors.
- Lodging Certified Fire Safety Directors are on duty 24/7.

## Medical

- Local Hospitals are: Arlington Hospital. 3 miles from the hotel.
- **Ibid; Alexandria Hospital**

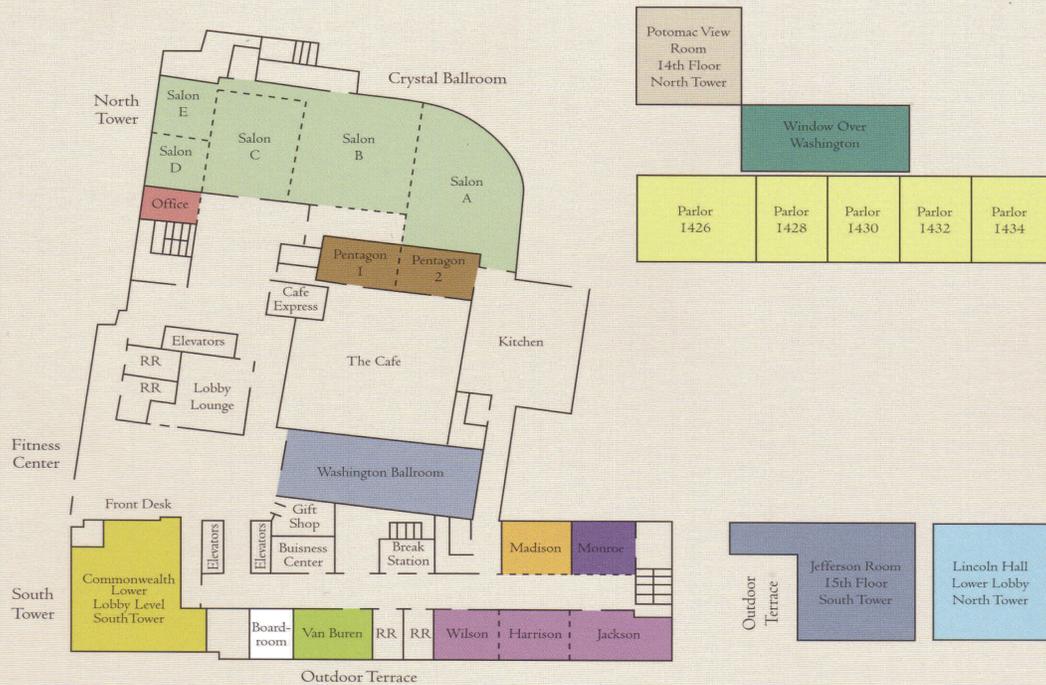
There are CPR trained personnel on every shift

## Security

- In house security officers are trained in CPR, First Aid and Fire Emergencies
- The closest Police Station is Arlington County. Approx 3 miles away.
- 24 hour Security, extension 3879
- Security cameras are provided in public areas
- Security Officers certified by the Lodging Association of America

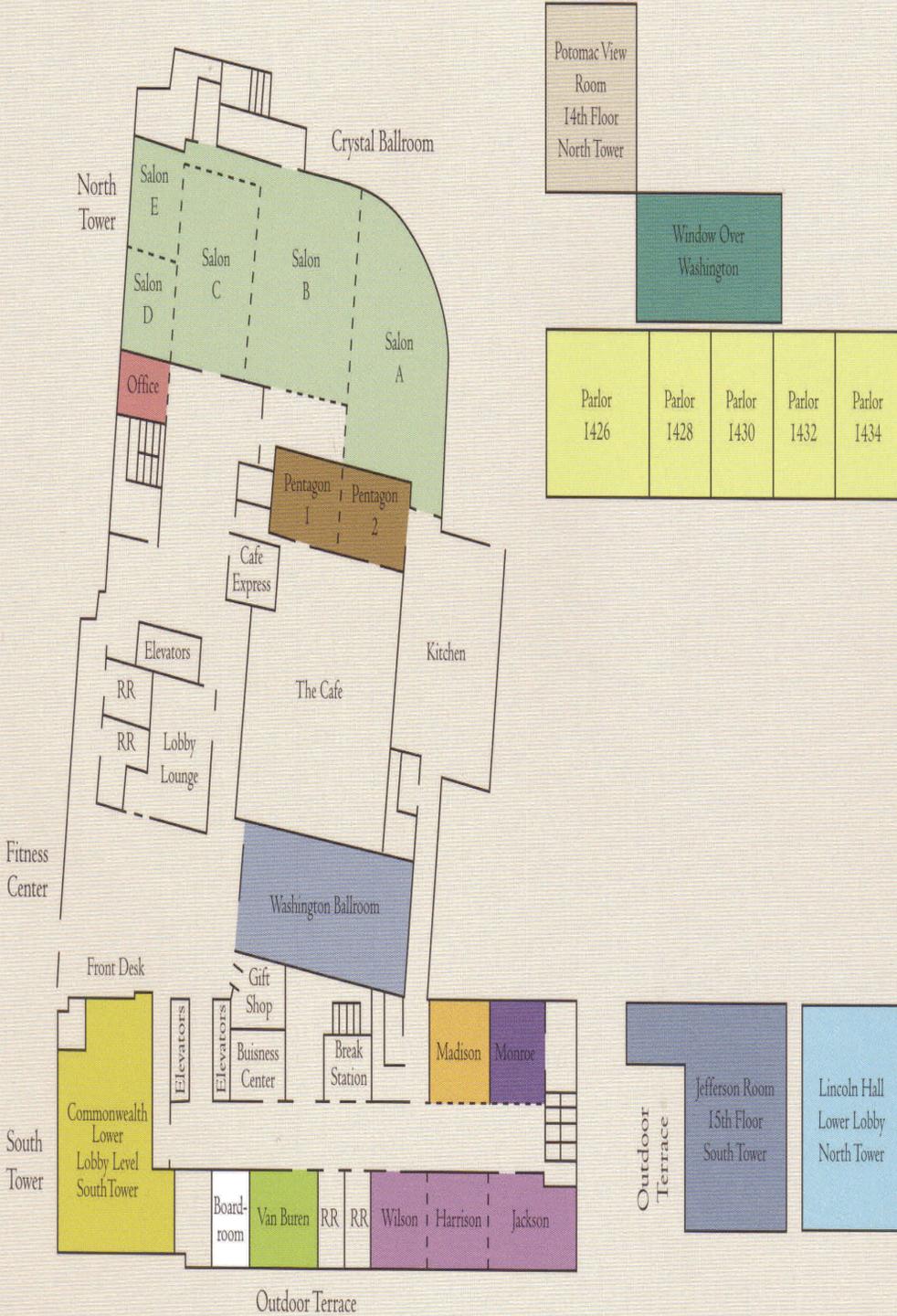
# Partners V

## Map of hotel w/room sizes



Name of Room	Total Sq. Ft.	Room Size	Classroom	Theater	Banquet 10	Reception	Conference	U-Shape	H-Sq.	Exhibit Space	6ft Table
Boardroom	378	14' x 27'	-	-	12	-	12	-	-	-	-
Crystal Ballroom	9,084	148' x 75'	500	1,100	600	1,000	-	65	65	34	76
Crystal Ballroom-Salon A	3,000	51' x 58'	160	325	210	350	60	50	60	11	22
Crystal Ballroom-Salon B	2,394	42' x 58'	150	250	180	275	60	50	30	13	23
Crystal Ballroom-Salon C	2,304	35' x 58'	65	200	120	200	50	25	-	7	14
Crystal Ballroom-Salon D	450	18' x 24'	15	50	20	40	16	-	-	-	5
Crystal Ballroom-Salon E	630	18' x 34'	25	65	30	60	30	-	-	-	5
Wilson, Harrison and Jackson	2,528	104' x 26'	128	240	180	250	-	-	-	8	20
Wilson	780	30' x 26'	36	70	50	60	25	20	25	4	6
Harrison	780	30' x 26'	36	70	50	60	25	20	20	2	6
Jackson	968	44' x 26'	48	100	80	125	40	36	45	2	8
Madison	728	28' x 26'	32	70	50	50	25	25	30	-	4
Monroe	728	28' x 26'	32	70	50	50	25	25	30	-	4
Office	250	18' x 14'	-	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
Van Buren	810	30' x 27'	32	70	50	70	25	25	30	-	5
Washington Ballroom	3,204	84' x 36'	180	300	220	27	60	60	70	14	32
Lincoln Hall	4,088	56' x 73'	80	150	250	300	60	50	60	23	27
Commonwealth	1,827	29' x 62'	110	250	160	250	50	55	60	10	22
Potomac View Room	1,260	21' x 60'	80	150	100	100	45	40	45	-	14
Windows Over Washington	2,756	80' x 35'	-	-	140	150	20	-	-	-	-
Pentagon 1	409	18' x 23'	12	30	30	40	20	20	20	-	-
Pentagon 2	476	17' x 28'	14	40	30	40	24	20	20	-	-
Parlor 1426	451	24' x 18'	16	30	40	40	10	12	16	-	5
Parlor 1428	331	18' x 18'	18	40	30	40	18	18	24	-	5
Parlor 1430	331	18' x 18'	18	40	30	40	18	18	24	-	5
Parlor 1432	331	18' x 18'	18	40	30	40	18	18	24	-	5
Parlor 1434	331	18' x 18'	18	40	30	40	18	18	24	-	5
Jefferson Room	1,334	58' x 23'	80	150	150	150	45	36	45	-	20

# Partners V - Hotel Map



# Partners V - 2008 Acknowledgments

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