

Sustaining Diversity in Production Agriculture
First State African American Farmers Association - Black Farmers Conference
November 8 – 9, 2023

Time		Topics	Location	Panelists/Speaker	Facilitato
7:45am - 3:00pm	Day 1				
7:45am – 8:30am	Registration and Continental Breakfast	All Attendees NRCS Showcase	William B. Delauder EH Theatre		
8:30am – 9:00am	Opening General Session	General Session: Welcome Remarks	William B. Delauder EH Theatre	Dean of the College of Agriculture, Sciences and Technology (CAST), Dr. Cherese Winstead State of Delaware Lieutenant Governor, Bethany Hall-Long First State African American Farmers Association, President, Gwen Pierce USDA NRCS, Acting NE Regional Conservationist, Kasey Taylor DSU 1890 Scholar Alum & MANNRS President, Kayla M. King	
9:05am-9:25am		Address from the Secretary of the Delaware Department of Agriculture		Secretary of the Delaware Department of Agriculture, The Honorable Michael Scuse	
9:25am-10:10am		Farming and You	William B. Delauder EH Theatre	State Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Jayme Arthurs Farm Service Agency (FSA), County Executive Director, Caitlin Sheffer Rural Development, State Farm Credit System, Dr. J. L. Williams	
10:10am 10:35am		Address From the Deputy Undersecretary United States Department of Agriculture	William B. Delauder EH Theatre	Deputy Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation at USDA, Hn. Gloria Montano -Greene	
10:35am-10:50am		Greetings from US Department of Education	William B. Delauder EH Theatre	U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education Policy, Planning, and Innovation Accreditation Group, Dr. Nicole S. Harris	

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10:50am -11:00am		Address from Capital School District Superintendent Significance of Agriculture Science in Education	William B. Delauder EH Theatre	CEO and Superintendent, Capital School District, Dover Delaware, Dr. Vilicia Cade	
11:00am-12:30pm		Financing Your Dream Farm Finance (Lending 101) Growing your Stewardship		USDA Farm Service Agency, Farm Loan Program Chief, Joseph Scott USDA Rural Development State Director (Maryland, and Delaware), David Baker USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Assistant State Conservationist- Programs, Brooke Jone Senior Vice President Horizon Farm Credit, Kurt Fuchs	
12:30pm-1:30pm	Lunch and Presentation	First State African American Farmers' Association: Personal Journeys about Farming	Hospitality Tent	Members of First State African American Farmers Association	
1:30pm -2:15pm		Panel Discussion -Sustaining Diversity in Production Agriculture: Agricultural Landscape and Projections		Panel: Chair, DSU Agriculture Department, Dr. Kwame Matthews Chair, DSU Mass Communications, Farm Owner, Dr. Charlis Edelin Longshoremen International, Port of Wilmington, Mr.	
2:15pm-2:30pm		Address from the Secretary the Delaware Department of Labor	William B. Delauder EH Theatre	Secretary, Delaware Department of Labor, The Honorable Karryl Hubbard	
2:30pm-6:00pm	Music Networking Farmers Expo	"Farm to Table"			

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Time		Topics	Location	Panelists/Speaker	
8:00am – 3:00pm	Day 2				
8:00am – 8:30am	Registration and Coffee	All Attendees	MLK Parlors		
8:30am-9:00am	Welcome and Overview	Roadmap for USDA Services	MLK Parlors	Acting NE Regional Conservationist, USDA NRCS, Mrs. Kasey Taylor	
9:00am-10:00 am	Plenary 1	Black Farmers and Mental Health	MLK Parlors	Panel: Moderator(s): Dean of the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences, Dr. Gwen Scott- Jones DSU Trauma Academy Director, Ms. Kim Graham Director, Emergency Management at State of Georgia - Georgia Department of Agriculture, Ms. Venessa Sims Engagement and Equity Officer, Behavioral Health Crisis Coordinating Office, SAMHSA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Moderator(s): Dean of the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences, Dr. Gwen Scott-Jone
10:00am-10:45am	Special Plenary	Spotlight on USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service- An Agency Making a Difference	MLK Parlors	NRCS Acting NE Regional Conservationist, Ms. Kasey Taylor	
10:45am-11:00am	Special Remarks County Executives				
11:15am-11:50am	Plenary 2	Current State of Black Farming in the US: Opportunities and Challenges	MLK Parlors	Greetings by DSU Board of Trustee Member, Dr. Debbie Harrington President, National Black Farmers Association, Mr. John Boyd, Jr.	

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12:00pm-1:00 pm	Luncheon and Networking	Justice and Farming legislation: Policy Formulation and Implementation	MLK Parlors	Video Messages from Congress woman Lisa Blunt-Rochester and Senator Thomas Carper Address by Rep. Sherry Dorsey Walker	
1:00pm-2:00pm	Plenary 3	The Plight of the Black Farmers in the United States of America: A Legal Forecast	MLK Parlors	Entertainment Executive, Mrs. Cathleen Trigg -Jones Emmy Award Winner,	
2:00pm-2:30pm	Special Presentation	Discrimination Financial Assistance	MLK Parlors	Monica Rainge, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights, USDA	
2:30pm-3:30pm	Producers, Landowners and Growers	Appointments with Agencies	Various Rooms	USDA FSA: Joseph Scott, Brittany Benton, Courtney Jones, Robin Talley RD: Colleen Reed, Bruce Weaver NRCS: Kyle Hearn, Brooke Jones, Jayme Arthurs, Ann Baldwin DDA: Chris Brosch, Milton Melendez, George	Moderator: Delaware Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, NRCS, Shantel King
Concurrent	Community Groups and Nonprofits	Discussion of USDA Grant Programs for Nonprofits	MLK Parlor A	USDA RD: Marie Boys, Azhia Cagle, Rasheeda Onasanya NRCS: Chris Bohinski, Thelton Savage, Madison	Moderator: Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Bianca Soto
Concurrent	College Students and High School students	Students in Agriculture	MLK Parlor B	USDA FSA: Caitlin Sheffer, Maryann Reed RD: Anastasia Brugger, Letitia Nichols NRCS: Leon Tillman OPPE: Dr. Chandra Owens	Moderators: Dr. Antonette Todd, Assistant Professor of Genetics and Genomics, AGNR

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3:30pm-4:30pm	Producers, Landowners, and Producers	Emerging Technology Applications for Farming and Farm	MLK Parlor C	Dr. Bruce J. Erikson	
Concurrent	Producers, Landowners, Growers	Appointment with Agencies	Various Rooms	NRCS: Thelton Savage, Kyle Hearn, Brooke Jones, Jayme Arthurs, Ann Baldwin FSA: Joseph Scott, Brittany Benton, Courtney Jones RD: Bruce Weaver DDA: Chris Brosch, Milton Melendez, George	Moderator: Delaware Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, NRCS, Shantel King
Concurrent	Community Groups, Nonprofits	Urban Agricultural Grants	MLK Parlor A	USDA NRCS: Chris Bohinski, Madison Walter FSA: Maryann Reed RD: Marie Boys, Azhia Cagle, Lisa Fitzgerald	Moderator: Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Bianca Soto
Concurrent	DSU Students	USDA and Agricultural Scholarships and	MLK Parlor B		Moderator(s): 1890 Scholar, Amber Fitch
4:30pm	Adjourn				

Featured Speakers (other)

NRCS

Kasey Taylor

Acting NE Regional Conservationist

NRCS

Leon Tillman

Acting State Conservationist

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NRCS	Shantel King	Assistant State Conservationist for Field
NRCS	Jessica Duerstine	Public Affairs Specialist
NRCS	Jayne Arthurs	State Resource Conservationist
NRCS	Brooke Jones	Assistant State Conservationist for
NRCS	Phil King	State Soil Scientist
NRCS	Ann Baldwin	State Conservation Engineer
NRCS	Chris Bohinski	Area Resource Conservationist
NRCS	Thelton Savage	District Conservationist - Sussex County
NRCS	Kyle Hearn	District Conservationist - Newark/Kent
FSA	Robin Talley	State Executive Director
FSA	Joseph Scott	Farm Loan Program Chief
FSA	Maryann Reed	District Director/Program Specialist
FSA	Caitlin Sheffer	County Executive Director
FSA	Brittany Benton	Farm Loan Officer Trainee
FSA	Raven McBroom	Farm Loan Officer Trainee
FSA	Courtney Jones	Farm Loan Specialist
FSA	Lauren Shahan	Farm Program Specialist
FSA	Kurt Fuchs	Senior Vice-President, Horizon Farm Credit
FSA	Tyler Majchrzak	Gov't Affairs Officer, Horizon Farm Credit
RD	Lisa Fitzgerald	RD Business Director
RD	David Baker	RD State Director