



## Items of Interest

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### Registration Open for Understanding Heirs' Property at the Community Level Workshop

**Target Audience:** This workshop is designed for Land-Grant professionals who will use the curriculum materials to provide training to families and communities in their home states. Please feel free to share this opportunity with other LGU professionals. **Priority will be given to first-time attendees.**

#### **Workshop 1: Fundamentals in Kentucky**

**Dates:** September 25 & 26, 2025

**Location:** Hyatt Regency Louisville, 320 West Jefferson Street, Louisville, KY 40202

**Schedule:** Begins at 8:30 AM on September 25 and concludes at 3:30 PM on September 26

**Focus:** We will explore the three core modules of the curriculum.

**Registration:** [https://msudafvm.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_a3sAO3kiPdVNZPg](https://msudafvm.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a3sAO3kiPdVNZPg)

#### **Workshop 2: Advanced in North Carolina**

**Dates:** September 29 & 30, 2025

**Location:** Grand Bohemian Charlotte, 201 West Trade Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

**Schedule:** Begins at 8:30 AM on September 29 and concludes at 3:30 PM on September 30

**Focus:** We will explore Land Use and Heirs' Property Navigator.

**Registration:** [https://msudafvm.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_08vvhfQuU6PisOq](https://msudafvm.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_08vvhfQuU6PisOq)

#### **Workshop 3: Fundamentals in North Carolina**

**Dates:** October 1 & 2, 2025

**Location:** Grand Bohemian Charlotte, 201 West Trade Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

**Schedule:** Begins at 8:30 AM on October 1 and concludes at 3:30 PM on October 2

**Focus:** We will explore the three core modules of the curriculum.

**Registration:** [https://msudafvm.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ahZOaV8VVaAPusu](https://msudafvm.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ahZOaV8VVaAPusu)

Don't miss out – The National Policy Research Center at Alcorn State University will cover registration, materials, and your hotel, plus breakfast and lunch on the days of training. Just plan your travel and dinners – register now to secure your place.

**Learn more:** [https://srdc.msstate.edu/programs/heir\\_property](https://srdc.msstate.edu/programs/heir_property)

For more information, contact Roseanne Scammahorn at [r.scammahorn@msstate.edu](mailto:r.scammahorn@msstate.edu)

## NDEET Strategic Planning Update: National Leaders Convene to Shape the Future of Digital Extension Efforts



Group photo of the NDEET Strategic Planning Team in Denver, Colorado.

In the final week of July, 27 participants from 17 states of the National Digital Education Extension Team & ECOP Broadband & Digital Access Program Action Team gathered in Denver, Colorado for an energizing and forward-focused convening to identify the emerging digital and broadband needs shaping the future of Cooperative Extension. Hosted by the Extension Foundation, the event served as a catalyst for strategic planning and collaboration across key issue areas.

The NDEET Strategic Planning Team is excited to announce the identification of three priority areas for research and content development:

- **Economic Development**
- **Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technology**
- **Cybersecurity**

Each focus area has defined a clear set of goals and action steps to support Cooperative Extension's evolving role in digital equity and innovation.

To learn more about the three priority areas goals and their leads, please visit the SRDC news page at <https://srdc.msstate.edu/news>

Thank you for your continued commitment to digital transformation and innovation in Extension. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected, and digitally resilient future for our communities.

For questions or further information, please contact the Program Action Team leaders.

- **Dr. Roseanne Scammahorn**  
([r.scammahorn@msstate.edu](mailto:r.scammahorn@msstate.edu))
- **Dr. Kristopher Elliott**  
([kristopher.elliott@oregonstate.edu](mailto:kristopher.elliott@oregonstate.edu))



NDEET Strategic Planning Meeting participants discussing emerging digital and broadband needs.



Representatives from the Extension Foundation and Regional Rural Development Centers (RRDCs).

## INRPHA Webinar: Panel to Present on Publishing on Rural Population Health and Aging

On Friday, October 3, at 10 AM PT, 11 AM MT, 12 PM CT, and 1 PM ET, the [Interdisciplinary Network on Rural Population Health and Aging](#) will host a webinar with a panel of journal editors from across the country who will share their insights and tips for publishing research related to rural population health and aging.

Panelists include Elizabeth Crouch (University of South Carolina), *Journal of Rural Mental Health*; Ty Borders (Texas Christian University), *Journal of Rural Health*; Joseph Gaugler (University of Minnesota), *The Gerontologist*; and Leif Jensen (Pennsylvania State University), *Rural Sociology*.

The moderator will be John Green from the Southern Rural Development Center and editor of the *Journal of Rural Social Sciences*.

Webinar registration:

<https://msstateextension.zoom.us/meeting/register/BlfhGQnTSkaEHxRtWejzEQ>



## RRDC Webinar: The Landscape of Mental Health and Financial Support for Midwest Farmers

On Tuesday, September 30, at 12 p.m. CT/1:00 p.m. ET, the [Regional Rural Development Centers](#) will host a webinar focused on the range of mental health programs that were developed in response to the challenges facing farmers amid the farm-income crisis of the late 2010s and the COVID-19 pandemic. Presenters will share findings from the first two years of a five-year research project to understand what the landscape of support in the Midwest looks like and how farmers engage with it. Programmatic and policy implications, along with the project's next steps, will also be shared. [Learn more and register.](#)

### The Landscape of Mental Health and Financial Support for Midwest Farmers

The farm income crisis of the late 2010s and the COVID-19 pandemic amplified mental health challenges in agriculture, which resulted in the development of a range of mental health programs. In this webinar, we will present the findings from the first two years of a five-year research project to understand what the landscape of support in the Midwest looks like and how farmers engage with it. Programmatic and policy implications of these findings, along with the project's next steps, will also be shared.

#### Presenters:

- Florence Becot, Ph.D., Penn State
- Carrie Henning-Smith, Ph.D., University of Minnesota
- Andrea Bjornestad, Ph.D., South Dakota State University
- Sarah Ruskowski, MA, Penn State



WEBINAR - SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 - 1:00 PM (ET)



REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/46vwwTE>

Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity / Equal Access University.

## Upcoming Webinar from the Local and Regional Food Systems Southern Extension and Research Activity (SERA-47) Working Group: September Tea & Coffee Hour

Save the date for the upcoming webinar from the SERA-47 Tea & Coffee Series, set for Thursday, September 11, 1 pm to 2 pm CT/2 pm to 3 pm ET. SERA 47 is a multistate group focused on strengthening local and regional food systems. This webinar is a great opportunity to connect, learn, and engage with the SERA 47 community.



Featured speakers and topics for the upcoming webinar are:

- Dr. Audrey King, Oklahoma State University - "The Rural Renewal Symposium"
- Dr. Kayle South, Virginia Tech - "CEA (Controlled Environment Agriculture) Summit East"
- Jessica Joyce & Dr. Joshua Stoll, University of Maine - "The Local Catch Network and the Local Seafood Summit"

Registration Link: <https://msstateextension.zoom.us/j/94729624100?pwd=HIT1xYJl1fzd8bTr2WuOvqa7Ziq5JO.1>

To catch up on previous webinars from SERA 47 visit <https://sera-47.extension.org/webinars/>

## Call for Proposals: 2026 National Rural Grocery Summit



The National Rural Grocery Summit Planning Committee is seeking presentation proposals for the 2026 National Rural Grocery Summit scheduled for May 5-7, 2026, in Fargo, ND.

This biennial convening is the premier networking and resource-sharing venue for independent grocers and rural food access stakeholders across the country. In 2026, it will be co-hosted by the [Rural Grocery Initiative at Kansas State University](#), [University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships](#) and the [North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives](#).

The committee is seeking presentations, panel discussions, workshops and posters that relate to summit objectives and suggested topic areas. [Full guidelines may be viewed at](#)

[www.ruralgrocery.org/summit/proposals](http://www.ruralgrocery.org/summit/proposals).

**Who:** Past presenters have included grocers, researchers, community leaders, and many more.

**What:** Relevant presentations may include stories of partnership to support rural grocery, innovation in rural food access, approaches to building resilience in a small-town store, and more!

All proposals must be submitted online via Oxford Abstracts by **October 1, 2025**, at 11:59 PM Central.

For questions contact Clara Misenhelter [clarawicoff@ksu.edu](mailto:clarawicoff@ksu.edu)

Learn more at: [www.ruralgrocery.org/summit/proposals/](http://www.ruralgrocery.org/summit/proposals/)



## SRDC Repository Readership Snapshot Update

In July 2025, the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) Repository collection had a total of **463 downloads**. The publications were downloaded from **55 institutions** in **60 different countries**.

The repository is hosted on Mississippi State University Library's platform, Scholars Junction, which allows users to explore published content from the SRDC and its partners. [Access the SRDC's repository.](#)

## Job Opportunity

### Director, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Auburn University invites nominations and applications for the position of Director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, who serves as Alabama Extension's chief academic and administrative officer, providing vision and leadership to enhance the system's tradition of excellence in education, research, service, and educational outreach. The director reports directly to the presidents of Auburn University and Alabama A&M University.

View more information and access the application for the director's position at <https://ssl.acesag.auburn.edu/posannc/files/Alabama-Extension-Director-20250604.pdf>

## Conferences, Workshops, Trainings

### Rural Grocery Transition Specialist Program

**Virtual: Sept. 1, Sept. 9, Sept. 23, Oct. 14, Nov. 4, Nov. 30, 2025**

[ACCESS COURSE INFORMATION](#)

### 2025 Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) National Conference

**In-person: October 6-9, 2025, Sheraton Fort Worth Downtown, Fort Worth, Texas**

[ACCESS CONFERENCE INFORMATION](#)

### 2025 NETtra Conference

**In-person: October 7-10, 2025, Mill Falls at the Lake Resort, Meredith, New Hampshire**

[ACCESS CONFERENCE INFORMATION](#)

### 2025 Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) Annual Meeting

**In-person: November 9-11, 2025, Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

[VIEW ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION](#)

## 2025 Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC)

**In-person: November 16-18, 2025, Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa, Montgomery, Alabama**

[ACCESS CONFERENCE INFORMATION](#)

## 2026 Southern Rural Sociological Association (SRSA) Conference

**In-person: February 1-2, 2026, Omni Louisville Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky**

[VIEW ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION](#)

## 2026 Extension Leadership Conference (ELC)

**In-Person: February 4-5, 2026, Savannah, Georgia**

[ACCESS CONFERENCE INFORMATION](#)

## 2026 Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Conference

**In-person: April 20-21, 2026, in Bethesda, Maryland**

[CONFERENCE INFORMATION COMING SOON](#)

## 2026 National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP) Conference

**In-person: June 15-18, 2026, in Wichita, Kansas**

[ACCESS CONFERENCE INFORMATION](#)

## 2026 Community Development Society (CDS) Annual Conference

**In-person: July 19 – 22, 2026, Georgia Southern University, Savannah, Georgia**

[ACCESS CONFERENCE INFORMATION](#)

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