



NACo 2018 Farm Bill Summit

PROGRAM | April 5-7, 2018
Palm Beach County, Florida



WELCOME!



On behalf of Palm Beach County, Florida and NACo's Rural Action Caucus, we would like to thank you for joining us for this landmark Farm Bill Summit. We are looking forward to helping provide context to many of the key county priorities in the upcoming Farm Bill reauthorization. Throughout our time together, we will examine the need for a comprehensive and long-term farm bill to help strengthen our national economy and provide critical services to all counties – rural and urban alike. We look forward to a productive, engaging and enlightening symposium, and we thank you for being a part of it!

In Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa McKinlay".

Hon. Melissa McKinlay
County Commissioner
Palm Beach County, Florida
Vice Chair, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J.D. Clark".

Hon. J.D. Clark
County Judge
Wise County, Texas
Chair, Rural Action Caucus

2018 Farm Bill Summit

April 5-7, 2018 | Palm Beach County, Florida

Join rural and urban counties from across the country as we examine how a comprehensive and long-term farm bill helps strengthen our national economy and provide critical services to all counties – rural and urban alike. The summit will host educational tours, workshops and panel discussions that examine how the farm bill touches every facet of American life, including conservation, trade, jobs, infrastructure, research, nutrition, disaster assistance and more.

ATTIRE

Reception: Business Casual

Friday Mobile Workshops: Close-toed shoes, pants, long-sleeves. Jewelry is prohibited on a few site visits during the mobile workshops – please be sure to bring a bag or container to leave on the bus with your belongings.

Friday Dinner/Reception: Business Casual

Saturday Session: Business

ON-SITE CONTACT

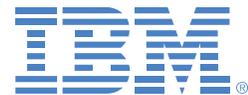
Arthur Scott: 423.292.9218 / ascott@naco.org

Hotel: Hilton Palm Beach Airport
150 Australian Ave. / West Palm Beach, FL 33406 / (561) 684-9400

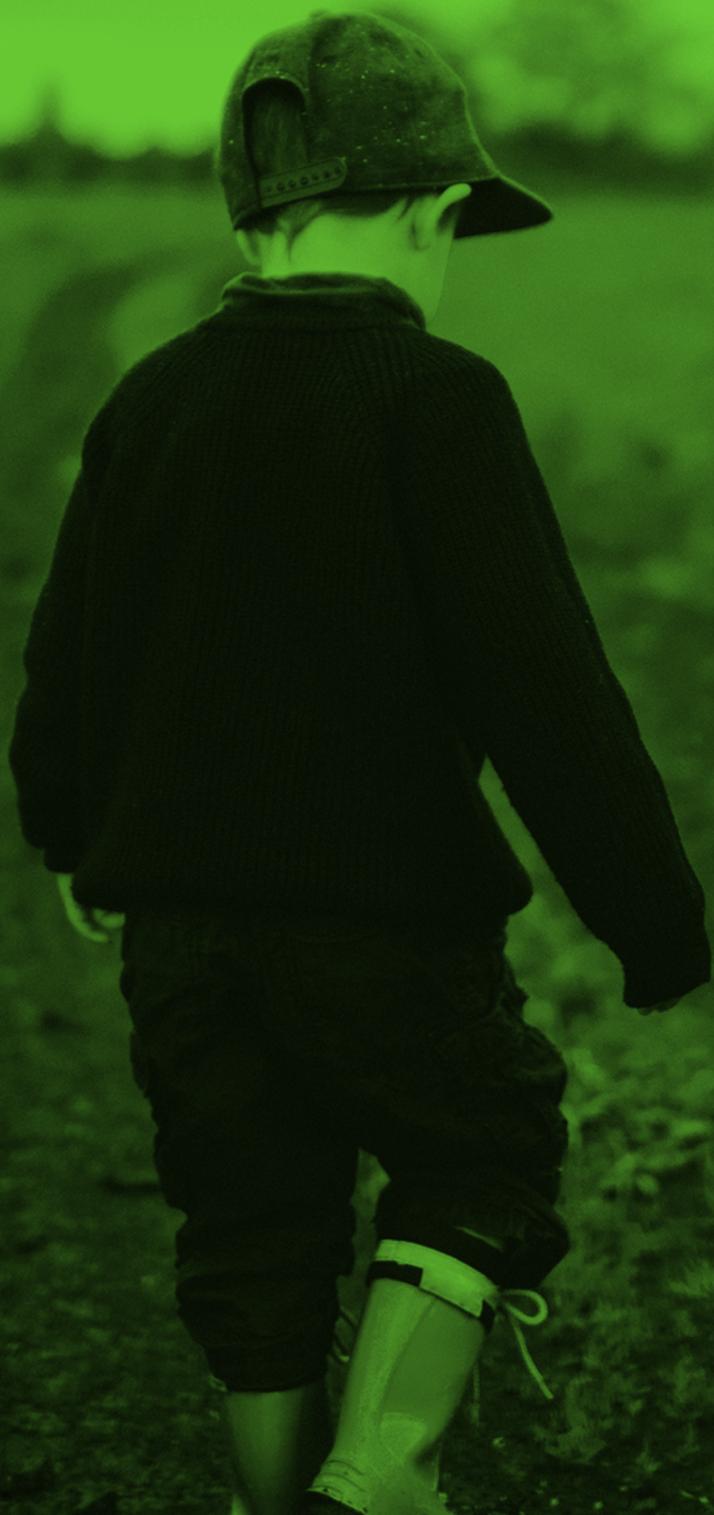
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MEETING AGENDA



THURSDAY, APRIL 5

5:30 pm **OPENING RECEPTION**

*Hilton Palm Beach Airport
150 Australian Ave.
West Palm Beach, FL 33406*

- **Hon. Ted Yoho (R-Fla.)**
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
House Committee on Agriculture

7:30 pm **BUS TO WEST PALM BEACH (OPTIONAL)**

A bus will be available for anyone interested in visiting downtown West Palm Beach for the evening. The bus will return to the hotel at 10:30pm.

10:30 pm **BUS RETURNS TO HOTEL**

*Hilton Palm Beach Airport
150 Australian Ave.
West Palm Beach, FL 33406*

FRIDAY, APRIL 6

7:15 am **NETWORKING BREAKFAST**

*Hilton Palm Beach Airport
150 Australian Ave.
West Palm Beach, FL 33406*

7:45 am **BUS DEPARTS HOTEL (Meet in Hotel Lobby)**

9:00 am **MOBILE WORKSHOPS** to 10:15 am

Members will spend the day on a mobile workshop tour as we examine key county priorities within the farm bill through the lens of Palm Beach County. Due to large turnout, members must register to participate in one of two groups. Both groups will experience similar site visits including a combined lunch which is provided to all participants.

GROUP 1: GLADES SUGAR HOUSE (SUGAR CANE GROWERS COOPERATIVE OF FLORIDA MILL)

The Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative owns and operates one of largest sugar mills in the world. Operating 24-hours a day, this state-of-the-art processor produces raw sugar crystals and blackstrap molasses. Additionally, the processor utilizes the processed waste as a fuel source conserving more than 31 million gallons of fuel oil each year, which is the equivalent of powering 79,000 households per year. Members will examine how this facility helps drive the local/regional economy while simultaneously conserving critical natural resources.

GROUP 2: FLORIDA CRYSTALS RICE MILL

Florida Crystals owns and operates the only rice mill in Florida. Everglades Agricultural Area farmers produced over 120 million pounds of rice in 2017, utilizing over 30,000 acres of farmland. That equates to enough rice to feed over four million people for a year.

10:30 am
to 11:15 am

GROUP 1: PIONEER PACKINGHOUSE

For more than 65 years Pioneer Growers has been known for quality, service, and food safety excellence. In 2012, Pioneer expanded again in partnership with Hundley Farms to build a state-of-the-art corn packing line. They can pack over 25,000 crates a day to the highest standards in the industry. Today, Pioneer Growers is one of the largest distributors of sweet corn in the world, growing over 13,000 acres annually in addition to growing more than 6,000 acres of green beans, radishes, celery and cabbage. Through this visit, members will get a close-up look at our nation's food supply chain and discuss the necessary investments in infrastructure to deliver food from the farm to the table.

GROUP 2: GLADES LAKE REGION WATER TREATMENT PLANT

The Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department (WUD) constructed this \$60 million Water Treatment Plant No. 11 (WTP 11) in 2008. WTP 11 was constructed in response to water shortages and water quality issues that resulted in the need to develop a new potable water source for the citizens of the cities of Belle Glades, Pahokee and South Bay. Members will discuss the regional demands on water resources and examine programs aimed at helping counties provide similar services in rural communities.

11:30 am
to 12:30 pm

LUNCH

Everglades Research and Education Center

The EREC is an agricultural and environmental research and education unit of the University of Florida's, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). The mission of the center is to conduct research and extension programs in southern Florida that will explore and promote profitable and sustainable agricultural systems.

- **Neal Combee**
Director, Florida USDA Farm Service Agency
- **Florida State Representative Rick Roth**
President, Roth Farms, Inc.

1:00 pm
to 1:50 pm

MOBILE WORKSHOPS

GROUP 1: LAKESIDE HOSPITAL

This 70-bed hospital was constructed and is operated by the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, a comprehensive safety-net system established by voters in 1988. Lakeside Medical Center is a top-ranked public hospital by America's Essential Hospitals. Some of our awards include Top Performer on Key Quality Measures by the Joint Commission in 2011, 2013 and 2014. In 2017, their Family Medicine Residency Program graduated its fifth class of Family Medicine Residents. They are Florida's only rural, teaching hospital. This session will underscore the importance of providing critical health services in rural settings and examine resources aimed at helping rural counties provide similar services.

GROUP 2: TKM PACKINGHOUSE

TKM Bengard Farms is the largest lettuce grower east of the Mississippi. While iceberg lettuce is their top crop, they also grow many other leafy products. To ensure that the products are properly grown and packed, TKM Bengard implements Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) on the farm and at the packing house. Members will get a close-up look at our nation's food supply chain and discuss necessary infrastructure investments for delivering food from the farm to the table.

2:00 pm
to 3:15pm

GROUP 1: FLORIDA CRYSTALS RICE MILL

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3:30 pm **BOARD BUS FOR HOTEL**

4:30 pm **RETURN TO HOTEL**

*Hilton Palm Beach Airport
150 Australian Ave.
West Palm Beach, FL 33406*

6:00 pm **BOARD BUS FOR DINNER**

6:30 pm **NETWORKING DINNER**

*Manatee Lagoon
6000 N Flagler Dr.
West Palm Beach, FL 33407*

9:00 pm **BOARD BUS TO HOTEL**

9:30 pm **RETURN TO HOTEL**

*Hilton Palm Beach Airport
150 Australian Ave.
West Palm Beach, FL 33406*

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

8:00 am NETWORKING BREAKFAST

*Hilton Palm Beach Airport
150 Australian Ave.
West Palm Beach, FL 33406*

8:30 am FARM BILL CONSERVATION: PROTECTING FARMS, FORESTS, FOOD AND FAMILIES

Authorized in the farm bill, programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Conservation Security Program (CSP), and others are important sources for technical assistance and are needed to help communities implement many important conservation measures. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has many programs that can help farmers and other landowners undertake water and conservation efforts on agricultural lands. This panel will examine how local farmers are utilizing farm bill conservation programs to retain, protect, and improve agricultural land, and conserve topsoil, consistent with local land use policies and controls.

- **Ernie Barnett**
Executive Director, Florida Land Council and Former Assistant Director of the South Florida Water Management District
- **Russell Morgan**
Florida State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture

9:30 am THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP): SERVING CRITICAL-NEED COMMUNITIES OF ALL SIZES

Currently serving an average of 42 million recipients a month, SNAP is an important program that offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families. In addition, SNAP has proven to be one of the most effective federal programs because benefits can reach families quickly during economic downturns as well as natural disasters. During this session, we are joined by local, state and federal representatives that will discuss the current state-of-play of the SNAP program, and what can be expected as we move towards the reauthorization of the program this fall.

- **Robin Safely**
Executive Director, Feeding Florida
- **Ellen Vollinger**
Legal/Food Stamp Director, Food Research and Action Center
- **Kerry Desjardins**
Policy Associate, American Public Human Services

11:00 am HELPING COUNTIES PROVIDE ACCESS TO HEALTHY/LOCAL FOODS

Many families across the country struggle when it comes to accessing healthy food in their local communities. Specifically, rural communities face additional obstacles when it comes to providing their residents with healthy and local food as they often lack access to healthy food options. During this session, we will examine initiatives within Palm Beach County and federal resources aimed at providing healthy and nutritious food in all communities.

- **Cyndi Longely**
Palm Beach County Extension Agent, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

12:30 pm ADJOURN

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Hon. Ted Yoho

(R-Fla)



Congressman Ted Yoho represents North Central Florida's 3rd Congressional District. He was elected to the 113th Congress in November 2012, and won re-election for his third term in the 115th Congress.

His approach to government is guided by constitutional principles, limited government, fiscal conservatism, Personal Responsibility, and free enterprise. These principles keep Congressman Yoho focused on supporting bills that help make America strong. Ted has been known to stand up and challenge the status quo for the better.

Prior to serving in Congress, he was a small business owner who operated several large animal veterinary practices for 30 years. During his successful career, he established a reputation of accountability and service.

Born in Minnesota, Ted moved to South Florida where he met his wife Carolyn in the fourth grade and married her at age 19. After completing his AA degree at Broward Community College, Ted and Carolyn moved to Gainesville where Ted enrolled at the University of Florida. He graduated in 1983 with his bachelor's degree in Animal Science and Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine, while Carolyn had created her own very successful court reporting agencies.

Hon. Rick Roth

Florida State Representative (R-FL85), President, Roth Farms, Inc.



Representative Rick Roth was elected in 2016 to serve in Florida House of Representative's District 85 that encompasses portions of Palm Beach County. He serves on the Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations and the Agriculture and Property Rights Subcommittees. Rep. Roth is also the President of Roth Farms, Inc. Founded in 1962, Roth Farms currently grows sugar cane, rice, sweet corn, green beans, radishes, leafy vegetables, and celery on their acreage in the glades region of Palm Beach County.

Neal Combee

Director, Florida USDA Farm Service Agency



Neal Combee has served as the Florida state director of the USDA Farm Service Agency since November 2017. Previously, he represented parts of northern Polk County and northwestern Osceola County in the Florida House of Representatives from 2012 to 2017.

Combee served on the Polk County Commission from 1988, to 2005. He was then appointed to the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, where he served until 2012 until his election to the Florida Legislature.

Ernie Barnett

Executive Director, Florida Land Council and Former Assistant Director of the South Florida Water Management District



Ernie Barnett has over 30 years of water resources management experience and public service, during which he contributed to several landmark environmental laws. He had a lead role in the successful passage by the Florida Legislature of the Lake Okeechobee Protection Act and the Everglades Restoration Investment Act, which has provided more than \$1 billion dollars for Everglades restoration. He also helped secure approval of the Water Resource Development Act of 2000, in which Congress authorized the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

Mr. Barnett has had a leadership role in developing and implementing numerous innovative environmental programs throughout Florida. Mr. Barnett has been actively involved as a policy and technical leader in Everglades restoration for over 20 years.

Mr. Barnett currently serves as Executive Director of The Florida Land Council which consists of 19 Principal Members who own over 3 million acres of land located throughout Florida and engage with regulatory and resource management agencies to help formulate public policies that allow its members to continue their stewardship of their lands.

Robin Safley

Executive Director, Feeding Florida



Safley has over 15 years of experience in promoting health within the education realm and over 20 years of experience implementing legislative development on behalf of various government organizations. Previously the Director for the Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness in the Florida department of Agriculture. Safley integrated Child Nutrition Programs from the Florida Department of Education and The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services merging the Food Distribution into a new Division dedicated to enhance the National School Lunch Program, the Summer Food Program and the Florida food system.

In her current role, Safley heads Feeding Florida, formerly Florida Association of Food Banks, the state's network of food banks working to solve hunger. The statewide network unites 14 member food banks to provide a healthy, adequate, and consistent food supply to 3.3 million Floridians facing hunger, including 1.1 million children and 700,000 seniors every year supporting more than 2,600 local charitable agencies.

Cyndi Longley

Extension Agent, Palm Beach County, IFAS

Cyndi Longley is an agriculture extension agent in Palm Beach County's Family & Consumer Sciences Division. She previously managed the Food and Nutrition Program (FNP). Like the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), the FNP grant funds outreach into socioeconomically challenged communities in the area of nutrition education. She has spent her career working in nutrition education practices in diverse communities in the region.

Ellen Vollinger

Legal Director, Food Research and Action Center



Ellen Vollinger is legal director for FRAC. She has responsibility for directing FRAC's advocacy on behalf of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps). Ellen has led FRAC's efforts to bolster SNAP/Food Stamps, particularly to serve working families, legal immigrants and victims of disasters. She has worked with administrators, elected officials, industry representatives, and nonprofit partners on strategies to provide a more accessible and effective nutrition assistance safety net. She serves on the eGovernment Payments Council.

Her prior positions include serving as director of the nonprofit National Committee for Full Employment as well as a practicing attorney with the Washington, DC law firm of Ross, Dixon and Masback.

Ellen has a B.A. in American Studies from Smith College, master's degree in Legislative Affairs from The George Washington University, and a J.D. magna cum laude from the American University's Washington College of Law.

Kerry Desjardins

Policy Associate, American Public Human Services Association (APSHA)



Kerry Desjardins is a Policy Associate for the Center for Employment and Economic Well-Being at the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA). Kerry's work focuses on modernizing the "welfare-to-work" system and promoting access to gainful employment and economic opportunity for low-income people and marginalized populations. She supports the Center in all of its operations including policy analysis and advocacy, best practice research, fundraising, program development, project management, and strategic planning. Kerry also has policy experience in the areas of health care, homelessness, and child welfare.

Kerry was driven to policy advocacy after working in direct human services for several years. She has worked as a case manager in both the non-profit and public sectors, and has experience working with a wide variety of special populations including people with disabilities and chronic health conditions, immigrants, racial and ethnic minorities, and people experiencing homelessness. Kerry holds a Masters in Social Work from George Mason University.



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