

USDA Equity Commission Public Meeting #1 - February 28, 2022

Zoom Chat Comments

*Note: These comments were written in the Zoom chat by a live audience throughout the duration of the meeting. Some comments may be in response to specific statements made during the meeting and some may include spelling errors

Time	Commentor Name	Comment*
11:33:53	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY	why are we holding a meeting in the middle of the day, when most stakeholders are at work?
11:35:27	From Mama Lynne Tillman To All Panelists	Good morning, I'm here to speak about a concern I have as a disabled veteran.
11:36:54	From Joe James To All Panelists	Mr. Secretary Thanks for appointing me to a six-year term on the federal Biomass Research and Development Advisory Committee. Regards,
11:37:00	From liz o'gilvie To All Panelists	Southern farmers might be farming but BIPOC farmers in the midwest and northeast are here! Grateful that this is being recorded so that we can share with other stakeholders.
11:37:01	From Hershel Daniels To All Panelists	When I spoke to the Deputy Secretary on Nov 19th through the White House Rural Stakeholders Call and asked (1) will the commission be based around EO 13985 (2) will you create a subcommittee that will look into the \$300B Farmer MAC GSE. 1 has happened and 2 has not. Is effort around EO13985 in line with the OMB guidance? Why no investigation into Farmer Mac system?
11:40:05	From liz o'gilvie To All Panelists	Also relieved that Sec. Vilsack acknowledged the historic and ongoing discrimination.
11:41:10	From Brooke Sinclair	I hate when they play favorites with minorities
11:41:16	From Hershel Daniels To All Panelists	Will the USDA through this commission evaluate proposals like our farm bill proposal submitted to Senator Warnock "We need Senator Warnock to help us structure with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as a creditable public partner for 5 years, as part of the next farm bill this \$50B proposal using the Daniels IDIQ. In either case they, the lender, get their money back each year, but PNC if lender or the like gets the Environment, Social and Governance and CRA credit for doing the deal." \$47 billion for home purchase mortgage loans to people and communities of color, and borrowers and neighborhoods with LMI.
11:41:56	From Cayla Lawe To All Panelists	How will this commission serve our community any different than the Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers?
11:42:30	From J. DeVon Nolen	I appreciate the diversity of the members represented here. Thank you for stepping up.
11:42:49	From Brooke Sinclair	A variety of lawsuits were filed by an insider who works for us at the Texas Department of Agriculture
11:43:20	From Hershel Daniels To All Panelists	What penalty for those financial institutions who ignored your guidance. With Rod Bradshaw we have a case where they ignored you.
11:43:34	From Constance Folsom	Where is the Minority and Ranchers Congressional Committee? Is this not duplicity?
11:43:52	From Wendy Moschetti	Well said, DeVon. We will all be better and do better thanks to your leadership here today.
11:44:03	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Panelists	We can't move forward without addressing the wrongs of the past. Too much has happened to just gloss over it. Recommendations were made last year from the Minority Farmers, Ranchers and Advisory Committee, a Congressional mandated Committee.
11:44:15	From Hershel Daniels	FYI on the \$88B agreement that stands behind our proposal - https
11:44:29	From Cayla Lawe To All Panelists	Sadly the diversity isn't nearly as proportionate to the underserved community the equity commission is here claiming to serve.
11:44:31	From Vanessa Lee	Hello everyone. I am wondering if some previous complaints will be revisited.
11:45:06	From Hershel Daniels	Is there no final agreements with those organizations who received those \$75M in contracts?
11:45:15	From vjames	I acknowledge that discussions are going on but there are Agencies like APHIS that do need a closer look. The number of individuals in STEAM are less than 2% in PPQ and in field operations. I do not recognize any members or DFOs, etc. representing APHIS or it's employees from those groups. Will that be rectified?

11:45:52	From Brooke Sinclair	Unfortunately underserved does not mean Black and that's whose land is being stolen from underneath their feet
11:46:45	From Hershel Daniels	1006 gave the secretary the ability to shape its \$1B in spending anyway he chose to do so. We proposed that he spend money on a disparity study around the USDA - he ignored that proposal.
11:46:52	From Rishma Lucknauth To All Panelists	Will these values (access to capital, recourses, land ownership, etc.) extend to the current legal and emerging cannabis markets (medical and adult-use cannabis cultivation)?
11:47:34	From Morris Hodges	Eligibility requirements, why do farmers must first be denied a loan from another institution before applying through USDA and must use land for collateral. Isn't that how millions of Black farmers lost their land historically.
11:47:57	From Mama Lynne Tillman	I'm here to hold you accountable right now about the advisory committee for minority farmers and ranchers who charter hasn't been renewed. WHY!!!
11:48:21	From Hershel Daniels	A disparity study helps ensure any race-or gender-based remedial programs will withstand scrutiny in a court of law. The primary goal of the study is to assess, quantify, and evaluate the prevalence, significance (degree and weight) and scope of discrimination in the marketplace, if any, against minority- and women-owned business enterprises. We proposed one that went back to the start of the USDA, cost \$280M.
11:48:30	From vjames	APHIS is mired with egregious and abhorrent behaviors and actions against employees, our trading partners and the general public that request our assistance and services that we provide.
11:49:27	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Panelists	How was this Committee formed without stakeholders involvement. It's more f the same.
11:51:57	From John Hussman To Mama Lynne Tillman and All Panelists	County Boards need oversight to correct lack of service
11:52:15	From vjames	The APHIS SUCCESSION PLAN Quarantine, Program Planning and Development, and Veterinary Services identified several key recommendations that were never addressed.
11:54:16	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Panelists	Where is the Minority Farmers, Ranchers Advisory Committee? When will they reconvene?
11:54:41	From Tia Stuart To All Panelists	Is there a way to find out how many people are attending this meeting outside of the members of the commission?
11:55:11	From Hershel Daniels	At the USDA Heirs' property has been recognized as perpetuating racial and social inequities and is the leading cause of involuntary land loss among African Americans. This session will outline the history and current status of
11:55:34	From Rosa Saavedra To All Panelists	can you put her email in the chat please --Cinnamon Butler
11:55:58	From Karen Ashikeh	Contact for Cinnamon Butler for complaints?
11:56:17	From Constance Folsom	What is Cinnamon Butler's contact info please?
11:56:30	From vjames	Could the contact and or link mentioned be included in the chat for individuals to voice those grievances?
11:57:03	From Tia Stuart To All Panelists	Please provide Cinnamon Butlers' contact information.
11:59:07	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Panelists	This Administration did not keep their promise. They promised the people of color farmers, that their loans would be handled and 20% would be given to pay taxes. The Secretary looked us in our eyes and promised that it would happen. What happened to the promise?
11:59:18	From Hershel Daniels	Remember that the country started on March 4th 1789 in genocide of Native Americans and enslavement of Africans. It then became a nation of apartheid that denied people of color participation through the USDA and government at all levels in the business of farming and then in 1965 we entered in a era of support of the rights of all American citizens. Now with the Biden administration American citizens started with EO 13985.
11:59:39	From Hershel Daniels	That means American workers should have those jobs?

12:05:54	From Lila To All Panelists	we want to know where is the Minority Farmers and Ranchers Committee and when will they reconvene?
12:09:02	From Hershel Daniels	Will this commission look at the USDA and the UN Food Systems Summit submission?
12:09:47	From Rosa Saavedra To All Panelists	Is it possible to put the contact info for Cinnamon Butler in the chat please
12:13:40	From Hershel Daniels	can we get a copy of this deck?
12:15:05	From vjames	On February 6, 2019, the USDA Office of Human Resources Management released the revised DR 4040-430, "Employee Performance Management." DR 4040-430, Section 14 provides provisions for addressing performance. Has this Department Regulation been revised?
12:16:39	From Richard Schulerbrandt Gragg III, PhD To All Panelists	Will we receive recording/slides?
12:16:40	From Hershel Daniels	Drawn from EO 13985
12:16:49	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Panelists	The issues have well been outlined by the Minority Farmers and Ranchers Advisory committee. Review those recommendation and stop the redundancy and government waste.
12:16:55	From vjames	When will this Departmental Regulation be revised and reverted back, rescinded any wording that contradicts the Biden Administration's Executive Order (EO) 13992.
12:17:06	From Hershel Daniels	So has all members read EO13985 and OMB guidance around this
12:18:02	From Hershel Daniels	https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/01/25/2021-01753/advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government
12:18:25	From Hershel Daniels	https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/briefing-room/2021/08/06/meeting-a-milestone-of-president-bidens-whole-of-government-equity-agenda/
12:18:37	From Hershel Daniels	Meeting a Milestone of President Biden's Whole-of-Government Equity Agenda
12:18:43	From Michael Harris	Executive Order #13985 may be the correct reference
12:18:48	From Ronald Friday To All Panelists	How many veterans are currently on your equity Commission ?
12:19:20	From Hershel Daniels	OMB announces the completion of "Study to Identify Methods to Assess Equity Report to the President," as required by section 4 of Executive Order 13985, On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government. Acting OMB Director Shalanda Young, "Meeting a Milestone of President Biden's Whole-of-Government Equity Agenda," blog, August 6, 2021 https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/briefing-room/2021/08/06/meeting-a-milestone-of-president-bidens-whole-of-government-equity-agenda/ OMB, "Study to Identify Methods to Assess Equity: Report to the President," July 2021 https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/OMB-Report-on-EO13985-Implementation_508-Compliant-Secure-
12:19:55	From Michael Harris	https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/06/25/executive-order-on-diversity-equity-inclusion-and-accessibility-in-the-federal-workforce/
12:21:24	From vjames	This Departmental Regulation in its current version aims to disparage, invoke severe disciplinary actions, suspend, or fire non-white employees without going through the standard Human resource or appeals processes. It undermines "Whistleblower Protections." It hinders recruitment and retention efforts.
12:22:51	From Joe James To Ximena Bustillo and All Panelists	Ximena I would like to talk with you about ongoing discrimination I have incurred. Joe James
12:22:58	From Karyn Bigelow To All Panelists	Will USDA examine the racism within regional USDA offices?
12:23:49	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Panelists	Rural Communities cannot wait! They are suffering now, because of lack of funding and access to information and training. They are always last on the list!!!!!!@

12:26:31	From Hershel Daniels	Will you look at Farmer Mac which also guarantees and purchases general obligations of lenders that are secured by pools of these three types of eligible loans (comprising the assets eligible for the Institutional Credit line of business). As of December 31, 2020, the total outstanding business volume in all of Farmer Mac's lines of business was \$21.9 billion.
12:27:51	From vjames	The Office of Diversity and Inclusion needs to be reorganized and reporting lines should not include IG.
12:29:02	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Panelists	When does stakeholders speak?
12:29:02	From Constance Folsom	Where is the Congressional Agriculture Committee? Where do they fit in this process?
12:29:05	From Sylvia Brown	Member Rainey's question is an important one for an FAQ. I believe sharing that info helps to enforce the thought the Commission is building on past work & is not performative.
12:29:44	From Brooke Sinclair	We are doing a horrible job of upholding the constitutional rights of the citizens of this country we don't need to provide any MORE support of immigrants. Biden is giving them all sorts of free money as it is
12:30:34	From Hershel Daniels	People with Disabilities access
12:30:40	From Constance Folsom	Considering that USDA has a negative history around racial issues, what procedures are in place to ensure that ALL public comments and complaints are fully addressed?
12:30:44	From Amy Krigsman To All Panelists	How can you help us act at our state-wide level to help inform our state about these issues. In Florida there is a SB7028 that is passing a
12:30:56	From vjames	This is problematic when the group charged with addressing grievance is not independent or has any authority to address grievances or complaints from both employees, stakeholders and the general public.
12:31:03	From Amy Krigsman To All Panelists	... FLORIDA FOOD Policy Advisory Council Tha tis not looking at equity.
12:31:35	From liz o'gilvie To All Panelists	I hope that the language inclusion might be based in part of demographics, Spanish seems an obvious choice.
12:31:41	From Igalious Mills	What about the recommendations submitted from the existing Minority Farmers Advisory Committee in place?
12:32:34	From Mily Trevino-Sauceda To All Panelists	These kind of conversations will need to have language justice/access including various language like Spanish and what have been mentioned here by members. Gracias!
12:32:50	From vjames	We have not engaged with USDA Coalition of Minority Employees.
12:33:24	From Constance Folsom	What about the recommendation submitted from the existing Minority and Farmers Advisory Committee already in place? How is this "commission" submitted to the Advisory Committee already in place. Is this not duplicity here?
12:35:10	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Panelists	As a taxpayer and a community advocate, I am aggrieved by this group and its lack of representation of local, on the ground people. It's not genuine about its mission.
12:35:51	From Brooke Sinclair	I hear a lot of non-active words studying, thinking, considering.....
12:36:18	From Constance Folsom	For you to better access who has been left out, perhaps you would do better to allow the public to address commission members directly instead of being screened by USDA office.
12:36:58	From liz o'gilvie	whether it be language or outreach, I encourage this commission to overreach. Let's do our work so that today's "farmworkers" are tomorrow's farmers and that Latinx and other BIPOC folks who grow our food equitably share in the benefits learned from the exclusion and marginalization of my black sharecropping and farming ancestors.
12:38:56	From Constance Folsom To All Panelists	Lots of non-active wording- studying, thinking, considering. Is this another smokescreen?
12:39:55	From Igalious Mills	What immediate actions will this Commission take to address the current issue regarding funding held up in court currently by Sid Miller and others? A immediate recommendation by this commission can include an Executive Order for President Biden. Black farmers need action NOW!!!

12:41:42	From liz o'gilvie	So well said Member Corcoran! Were it not for the farmworkers in Massachusetts and elsewhere many would go hungry. We all understand that the folks who farm for the benefit of others would far out farm those for whom they work but for equitable pathways to land.
12:41:42	From Cayla Lawe To All Panelists	The government has failed to address previous recommendations! How will this groups recommendations be any different? We don't need new committees we need enforcement of previous recommendations!
12:42:55	From Hershel Daniels	The question is the transition from American farmworkers to foreign farmworkers need to be explored and how do we reverse this.
12:43:52	From Hershel Daniels	African American Farmers lost land worth \$120B from 1920 to 2018 according to a Tufts University study.
12:44:25	From Constance Folsom	We also want to know where is the Minority Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee that is already in place?
12:45:36	From Constance Folsom	Where are we with the lawsuit that has prevented African-American farmers being funded? Is that totally off the table now?
12:45:40	From vjames	For stakeholder who do not have access to online websites. How will that be addressed? Especially for folks that are in rural areas.
12:46:35	From Hershel Daniels	The committee works in the interest of the public to ensure socially disadvantaged farmers have equal access to USDA programs. The committee advises the Secretary on the implementation of section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279); methods of maximizing the participation of socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers in USDA The Minority Farmers Advisory Committee host public meetings to deliberate on recommendations for USDA Secretarial consideration. These recommendations provide advice and recommendations to the
12:47:26	From Hershel Daniels	The 2021 meeting recommendations by the public are not posted
12:47:34	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Panelists	We want more than recommendations. We want the Committee that was mandated by Congress's charter reinstated....
12:48:40	From Brooke Sinclair To Hershel Daniels and All Panelists	Are there positions open for the Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers?
12:49:10	From Angela French-Bell To All Panelists	Will there be an ongoing or separate committee responsible for implementing the recommendations from this committee? I believe that one of the reasons that reports/recommendations have failed in the past is because of the lack of follow up. My concern is that this committee will develop a cogent, well-thought out report that will sit on a shelf, particularly if the political winds shift.
12:49:13	From Mama Lynne Tillman	We need boots on the ground people that help directly minority farmers and ranchers. The advisory committee on minority farmers & ranchers have been and are presently doing this. We need the to be able to continue so renew their charter ASP. I've been busy following their guidance an this is the most help I've had ever
12:49:28	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Panelists	We would like a copy of the recipients of the \$75 million, that Secretary Vilsack stated has been disbursed.
12:49:38	From Hershel Daniels	Eston Williams, DFO USDA Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement open the floor for Public Comments. Several comments were mentioned from the public. Our comments are not mentioned nor our written recommendations.
12:50:17	From Hershel Daniels	Will the functioning of the committee be any different?
12:51:01	From John To All Panelists	As a Native American we seem to be overshadowed by the size of the Black American community. We need a separation because of our differing relationships with the federal government.
12:51:15	From KALEY GRIMLAND	I would suggest that new programs be developed to meet the needs of historically underserved populations be a recommendation to the secretary. Many USDA programs do not work for farmers of food. Please consider equity in development of new programs that will provide equal benefit to all farmers in terms of scale, commodity, and practice

12:51:17	From Ronald Friday To All Panelists	Mr. Rawls you are absolutely right that programs aren't designed for smaller and minority farmers.
12:51:35	From Michael Harris	What is very exciting and salient to another round of investment of time, talent and treasure to make systemic change. In complete alignment with Secretary Vilsack inclusion of California to identify impactful change and transformation. As we expand equity and inclusion throughout our "People's Department" the Biden/Harris EO #13985 clearly addresses how "previous condition of servitude, modern undocumented ag workers and high level scientific Agribusiness inputs" Ready and Forward.
12:51:47	From Constance Folsom	And Equity for Southern farmers-- There is nobody on this commission from AL, MS, New Orleans. Southern coverage needs to be addressed.
12:52:01	From Brooke Sinclair	@john I concur. Natives and Black Americans each need their own separate designation for farmland
12:52:28	From Mama Lynne Tillman	We are having food shortages, and continued food deserts. Charles Rawls is hitting the nail on the head, we need everyday people boots on the ground people working with us.
12:52:45	From vjames	It is not just the structure but those charged with implementation who we do not have buy-in.
12:53:18	From Stewart Fried	The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the largest portion of USDA's budget. and provides nutrition assistance to more than 40 million Americans. Most of the 250,000 SNAP-authorized retailers are owned by minorities, especially immigrants or childrens of immigrants from the Middle East, South Asia, and East Asia. The Equity Commission's materials appear to be focused primarily on impacts on farmers and ranchers. Can you please confirm that the Equity Commission's jurisdiction, investigations, and report will address USDA programs other than those that impact farmers and ranchers, especially those adversely impacted by disparate impacts of FNS's SNAP retailer administrative system.
12:53:48	From liz o'gilvie	The traditional AG groups informed what we live with now and for them the programs work just fine. Equity advocate Karen Washington reminds us that "keys are lost, Land is stolen"
12:54:37	From Constance Folsom	How will you address Member Reed's suggestions for informing rural areas without internet access? Please don't ignore his action request.
12:54:56	From Ronald Friday To All Panelists	How many minority farmers are on this committee that actually farm?
12:54:59	From Member Shari Rogge-Fidler To All Panelists	Dial in is possible for all public meetings, correct?
12:55:26	From Richard Schulerbrandt Gragg III, PhD To All Panelists	Can these meeting be broadcast on public radio and Cspan?
12:55:27	From Stephanie Miller	Member Rawls, You are correct we need diverse people in all spaces to advocate for small, disadvantaged farmers. Local offices are still very homogeneous.
12:55:46	From Lorette Picciano	@charlesrawls - those changes are necessary and overdue. Hopefully the Commission generates substantive recommendations for reorienting ag programs towards long term investments in a new and more equitable generation of producers who engage in a resilient agriculture that produces nutritious food to nourish their local communities while sustaining the ecology for the future.
12:56:14	From Rod Debs To All Panelists	Cultuarally appropriate technology should have significant attention, promotion and respect as well as high tech processes.
12:57:11	From Ronald Friday To All Panelists	Ms. Horne, please contact me in South Carolina since you are civil rights Attorney @ 803-210-6103. Got some questions regarding USDA on civil rights.
12:57:16	From Lorette Picciano	The Commission also needs urgently to monitor huge transfers of land to absentee owners investing to harvest climate payments.
12:57:17	From Brooke Sinclair	Why are we constantly talking about credit and loans when what we need and want is money?? CASH. Cold hard cash. Write a check or make a direct deposit

12:57:40	From Igalious Mills	It is critical that this commission review current USDA discriminations lawsuits to understand the history moving forward. Some of the final recommendations should include/follow through with a Executive Order if this commission is to be truly effective.
12:57:45	From Stephanie Miller	We need less committees and more ACTION. I'm a small minority farmer and everything at the local level hasn't worked because those in power locally don't help us the way they should.
12:57:47	From Mama Lynne Tillman	Yes YES Ertharin Cousin, let's have some solutions not just talk. While you all are getting a nice check we are trying to figure out how to plant household, community gardens and small farms. We're standing in food lines given scraps and junk food and very little of it. What are you all having for lunch after this???
12:59:06	From Cassandre Tassy	So true, the emerging culture is forgetting about town hall or person to person interaction
12:59:36	From Constance Folsom	Where is the Advisory Committee?
12:59:37	From Cassandre Tassy	Local representatives engaging the community is integral
12:59:56	From Sylvia Brown	can you incorporate the on-the-ground structures in place now--fsa, conservation district committees, the universities charged with engagement
13:00:00	From Member Shari Rogge-Fidler To All Panelists	Phone and radio are key communication tools.
13:00:04	From Brooke Sinclair	Translation How do we stop being racist? Our grandparents wrote and started racist policies and I like benefiting from those polliicies. How do we stop being racist without losing our privilege?
13:00:06	From Mama Lynne Tillman	Have you seen the 13 pages given just to get a farm number??? This mess is tiring and turns people off leaving communities hungry!!!
13:00:20	From Erika Allen	Congrats on this historic activation. Looking forward to contributing actionable change and policy.
13:00:28	From Igalious Mills	This Commission MUST go out to where the people are.
13:00:32	From Sylvia Brown	...to fill gap with internet coverage
13:00:33	From Constance Folsom	How will you find ways to meet people on the ground. Farmers are working hard and don't have time to chase you.
13:00:43	From Richard Schulerbrandt Gragg III, PhD To All Panelists	Funds could supplement extension services to facilitate information and access sharing
13:02:50	From Constance Folsom	But we need actionable actions ASAP. We have wasted too much time already.,
13:03:16	From Tia Stuart To All Panelists	Really, I was thinking... they are just talking, so I really appreciate that comment.
13:03:28	From Savanah Williams	I have been using the telephone to participate with zoom calls because of the lack of broadband services. I have also been very appreciative of calls being in the evenings rather than in the middle of the day when often I am outside taking care of various farm and forest land responsibilities.
13:03:44	From Jose Martinez To All Panelists	In its efforts to help people deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress created the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program in late 2020. The Federal Communications Commission will run the program, starting it in Spring 2021. The program offers discounts off of people's monthly internet access bills to help connect households that find it hard to afford broadband service. Households can also get discounts on a laptop, desktop, or tablet computer. Additional funding was enacted to address infrastructure. Perhaps consider a report from FCC on the progress in the utilization of these funds or a member representative to present and provide a report. I believe each state has develop a taskforce in the uses of these funds.
13:04:00	From Dexter Wakefield	I agree, a commission must go to where the farmers are; implement some type of outreach to reach out to them and inquire about their needs and concerns.
13:04:23	From Rosa Saavedra	the information has got to get TO the people
13:04:40	From Sylvia Brown	lets be clear too that outreach doesn't equal engagement

13:05:13 From Stephanie Miller	We small black woman farmers NC,WV,VA,GA,AK,TX- have had experiences where FSA agents have lied about qualifications for help and this was last week. This is an ongoing issue at the local level.
13:05:49 From Ronald Friday To All Panelists	Please understand just like large companies do not visit small growers normally USDA engage with larger farmers instead meeting at a small farmer location about programs.
13:06:27 From Lila To All Panelists	Where is the advisory committee for minority farmers and ranchers and when will they reconvene?
13:06:34 From Mama Lynne Tillman	You can start being accountable by making this chat savable,
13:08:05 From Dexter Wakefield	I am wondering if any modified and or updated rules on equity include non-farmers in the federal workplaces - will the change reach far and wide.
13:08:41 From Kelly To All Panelists	We need local food distribution centers that serve as multifunctional facilities, small farm support, community outreach, land/environmental stewardship education and training.
13:13:58 From Dexter Wakefield	I think this is great. I hope all things will be covered.
13:18:54 From Vanessa Lee	This is Vanessa Lee. Not sure why my messages are reflecting on this chat as " DW - Dexter Wakefield". Nevertheless, I think that inclusion should be provided to all person equally and old programs should be revisited for updates, modification and even omissions.
13:22:16 From Vanessa Lee	Is there anyone to talk to about racial inequality that is non-farmer related? I would enjoy communicating with someone on giving my ideas and the new ideas and strategies that will provide for a more uniform system of the civil rights forum.
13:27:35 From Kelly To All Panelists	Also, I would like to get our area more recognized for small farms/funding. Everything always seems to go to the same areas. North, South, west coast, center state (in some instances) of Florida. Not much east coast between Jacksonville and South Florida. We were consumed with the Citrus industry in our county (now cows or up for sale).Land Use meetings currently being held. We are advocating for small farms and local food artisans. New farming technologies. Soil regeneration. and more
13:29:09 From Michael Harris	The Biden/Harris Administration is clearly listening as previous efforts did not include representation from the #1 Ag Economy in America. Co-Chair Rodriguez, speaks volumes and will balance well the needs of Industrial Ag,
13:34:25 From Constance Folsom	@Sylvia, many rural farmland don't even have internet companies serving their areas. That program is only good as the areas that are served. We are told that by internet companies, that it is too expensive to lay cable in some rural areas that are sparsely populated.
13:36:24 From Cayla Lawe	The recommendations made from previous committees and your committee need to made available to the public for full transparency. It seems that using tax payer money to fund group after group as stakeholders we should also be on the frontline to hold those accountable for wasting our time and money! Time and time again the members of these committees get in the face of the people and want to wash their hands and pass the buck! Your salaries go paid and we the people are taking the hits. No more singing the tune and dancing we need ACCOUNTABILITY being an EO committee and not a congressionally mandated committee such as the Advisory Committee for Minority Farmers and Ranchers, how can we the people be secure in anything being done with this particular Equity Commission? If Biden gets another term and at the current rate that's a strong if who will then be responsible for the work this committee is to do?
13:44:28 From Randi Iverson To All Panelists	Will this meeting be repeated at any time or will there be a transcript. I missed the first half hour.
13:44:51 From Constance Folsom	Some of us remember what USDA tried to do to Shirley Sherrod. She more than qualified to lead any USDA initiative. Why was she not selected to lead this commission?
13:46:54 From Constance Folsom	What is Goldman's history in fighting for racial equity in USDA? How can we have equity when we place people in position that have no history in fighting for equity?

13:48:11	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Panelists	Again, I ask where is the Minority Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee? Wasn't Goldman a part of that Committee, as well. What did he do on the Committee?
13:49:53	From Constance Folsom	Sir, we don't use the term Negro anymore. Are really prepared to fight for racial equity?
13:50:01	From Michael Harris	It is essential to utilize Negro, given the ongoing challenge (Negro) Spanish for Black, since that is whom brought "immigrants" from Africa.
13:51:01	From Gale Stewart To All Panelists	Speaking of equity, please advise where things stand with the millions of dollars that were promised to black farmers? I really get concerned when we are trying to move forward but have not communicated clearly how the monies promised were disseminated, or point me to the website or report where I can find the details I seek. Your response/feedback is greatly appreciated. Let's continue to strive to be transparent.
13:51:19	From Whitney Long Jones	He also stated he's using terminology utilized during the time that he's referencing.
13:51:40	From Constance Folsom	That's an excuse
13:52:09	From Hershel Daniels	Historical terms are historical terms.
13:52:11	From Whitney Long Jones	I hear you I'd like to think that's not everyday language.
13:53:31	From Michael Harris	Cognition of his report essential, the "People's Department" established when we were far worse... today, we have amazing opportunity if we focus and listen.
13:54:49	From Hershel Daniels	The question is has he now read the OMB 13985 reports and guidance? On Nov.3rd he had not.
13:54:50	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Panelists	I have witnessed these meetings for 2 years and unless someone can tell me what makes his role here any different from his last role? Maybe, he can answer the question, what happened to the Congressional mandated Minority, Farmers, Ranchers Advisory Committee. We want answers about how to contact them. They submitted some recommendations based on our feedback. None of those things have been or are being addressed.
13:56:40	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Panelists	Transparency is doing things in an open manner and allowing the stakeholders to be involved in the process. It's not picking a handful of people, whom we have no affiliation with to address our concerns. No one asked us.
13:57:32	From Constance Folsom	Baseline information is good. We can all see that minority, particularly African-American, farmers have been omitted continuously over the years. That is why this work is so urgent.
13:58:36	From Constance Folsom	It seems this baseline information should have helped the lawsuits so that funding to African-American farmers would not have been stopped.
14:00:16	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Panelists	I represent a group of 7000 diverse farmers from around the world-majority people of color. They are not being heard by any of the USDA organizations. We are training 6 days a week. Now, tell me how do you meet their requests.
14:02:13	From ume' warren To All Panelists	What is reverse racism anyway?
14:04:09	From Rhea Jack	I'd like this committee to recommend an Executive Order to prohibit US farmland grabs by the wealthiest white Americans and foreign investors. For instance, regulating the acquisition of 100s of thousands acres by multi-billionaire, Bill Gates (now reported as the largest owner of private US farmland). In addition, are USDA conservation reserve programs expended to promote these wealthy landowners?
14:04:46	From Brooke Sinclair	@Ume reverse racism does not exist. Like a unicorn it only exists in the minds of people who take drugs. The drug is power
14:05:35	From ume' warren To All Panelists	With a history of racial discrimination how will you insure people of color can trust the USDA?
14:06:20	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Panelists	This is a waste of taxpayers dollars! We are rehashing the same thing over and over. Where are the real solutions? This is why The American people have no confidence in bureaucracy; committee after Committee and sub committee.
14:07:47	From Ed Hunt To All Panelists	Thank you Ms Eubanks. That is a big word in my community with Native Farmers. Trust has to be earned by doing what we say we are going to do.

14:08:07	From Constance Folsom	But you've had opportunity to change things. But, have you?
14:08:28	From vjames	On January 20, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order (EO) 13992 Revocation of Certain Executive Orders Concerning Federal regulation, it repealed regulatory policies that hindered the federal government's ability to confront the Covid-19 pandemic, economic recovery, racial This Executive Order (EO) rescinded Executive Order 13893 issued by President Donald Trump "Promoting Accountability and Streamlining Removal Procedures Consistent with Merit System Principles". On February 6, 2019, the USDA Office of Human Resources Management released the revised DR 4040-430, "Employee Performance Management." DR 4040-430, Section 14 provides provisions for addressing performance. Which is based on the Trump Administration's Executive Order. When will this DR be changed? It is over a year now since the EO was published.
14:10:25	From Gale Stewart To All Panelists	What happened to the Minority Farmers and Ranchers Committee? What reports came out of their efforts?
14:10:30	From Joe James To All Panelists	Will there be time for those of us scheduled, to make our verbal comments? Regards,
14:10:47	From Amy Krigsman To All Panelists	Will attendees to this meeting be able to get the recording and notes? This is a great opportunity for all of us. I am hearing a lot of positive intention and would like to stay involved and learn more and stay on top of what you are all working on.
14:10:51	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Panelists	The Dept is fine, it's the inequality for people of color is the issue.
14:11:16	From Hershel Daniels	Does the commission have a twitter handle
14:11:26	From Brooke Sinclair	I'm sick of hearing BIPOC. Just say not white. Cause that's what you mean
14:12:07	From Hershel Daniels	A agreement between BIPOC is what is needed. we do so in the UN.
14:12:15	From Constance Folsom	I urge you to consider Shirley Sherrod's experience. That could be a restorative start with the racial histories of USDA. How do we trust the people positioned as leaders but very little background?
14:12:25	From vjames	When will the civil rights division address the bias, discriminatory practices, disparaging treatment, harassment, abusive conduct, toxic environment, and retaliation occurring at APHIS and the ongoing obstacles and challenges employees face with getting their complaints addressed. The fact that the statutory report has not been produced for over a decade that is one of the accountability components on civil rights in USDA.
14:13:13	From vjames	These attacks on non-white federal employees have led to an increase in discriminatory discourse, violations of employee rights, suppression of civil rights while advancing bias and cronyism into the HR and EEO processes. These actions undermine merit-based civil service, resulting in a less effective organization and more corruption.
14:13:27	From Constance Folsom	Good point VJames. Seems like the DOJ should have been involved. When will USDA be made accountable for its' long history of racial discrimination?
14:13:42	From Waymon Hinson	What is the role of OGC and will it be examined in terms of its intrusion into the affairs of OASCR?
14:14:25	From vjames	No Fear policy is ignored by Mangement.
14:14:32	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Panelists	It's the dog and pony show. They are not trying to fix this issue. There's an easy fix reparation. They have done so for everyone except Black farmers.
14:14:35	From ume' warren To All Panelists	As minorities continue to struggle for financing how does the USDA plan to compensate farmers who have been systematically forgotten about?
14:15:15	From vjames	Employee operate in toxic and hostile work environments.
14:15:36	From Lorette Picciano	How do you address the fact that many BIPOC producers do not complain about mistreatment or even try to run for county committees because they have seen retaliation against producers. And also,, most do not ever receive the required
14:15:40	From Amy Krigsman To All Panelists	What about qualitative data? Are we all prepared to ensure listening first and quantifying the crucial information from communities, farmers, etc.?

14:17:29 From Amy Krigsman	What about qualitative data? Are we all prepared, is the comission able to support and ensure listening first and quantifying the crucial and necessary information/perspectives/experiences/kowledges from communities, farmers, etc>
14:18:26 From Hershel Daniels	will the data warehouse be open to the public?
14:18:50 From carolyn mugar	Can you put report Dr Goldman read from info in chat pls
14:19:00 From Hershel Daniels	cover from the start of the county on March 4th 1789
14:19:27 From Amy Krigsman	Will we be able to access the transcript/minutes of this meeting?
14:19:27 From Hershel Daniels	cover from the start of the country on March 4th 1789
14:19:53 From vjames	Especially excluded were Japanese and Pilipino farm workers
14:21:09 From vjames	Especially after the Spanish American War and after the Bombing of Pearl Harbor
14:23:00 From liz o'gilvie	Farm workers and domestic workers were also excluded and when that exclusion started those workers were predominantly black. While other POC have moved into that work that work is still disproportionately held by migrant, immigrant and refugee persons of color including farmers without land of southeast asian descen
14:23:08 From Hershel Daniels	These foreign farmworkers make up an estimated 73% of agriculture workers in the United States today. Farm labor is absolutely essential work that puts food on our tables across the country, powers the economy and supports our communities, from dairy farms in Wisconsin to strawberry fields in Florida and apple orchards in Washington.
14:23:49 From Brooke Sinclair	@VJames I agree. We should have special provisions that recoup the land stolen from the victims of chattel slavery especially since they were legally prohibited from reading and the government knew that
14:23:49 From Herman Strumpf	Inclusion of Cis gender gay males needs to be adressed. We are just now emerging from sexual outlaw status where by even being suspected of being gay we were sent to mental institutions to be treated.
14:27:01 From Cayla Lawe	All of this talk... no data at hand... whats this commission for? Trust has been broken by generations of collecting data and doing studies to no avail. We all know the history it shouldn't take rocket scientist to implement equity to those who has been historically disenfranchised. Adding in bigger words and more newly identified groups is a slap in the face to the very groups you claim to represent.
14:36:10 Panelists	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All Why haven't you called on me, my hand has been up forover an hour?
14:37:00 From Anita Lee To All Panelists	Please consider increasing staff to do outreach on site in-person at bipoc farms/producers to help navigate them through the process to get the support/grants they need. Perhaps even assigning caseworkers to specific stakeholders or having a dedicated call center for those that fit in the disadvantaged group. Large companies can afford consultants and have the time to manage them. Small farmers/producers don't, unfortunately, they are very busy and as mentioned just trying to get through the day.
14:38:42 From Anita Lee To All Panelists	Person-to-person help is most effective. They can adapt in real-time to what the other understands, this is better than handing over information in the form of papers/websites at them. Real conversations.
14:39:03 From liz o'gilvie	The majority land trust community is white and has historically excluded BIPOC folks with the exception of those trusts created by BIPOC community members.
14:39:20 From ANITA LARAN	My name is Anita LaRan and I represent the Mora Land Grant in Northern New Mexico. Mora County is comprised of 81% Hispanic residents. I want to know how this committee could help us recoup some of the land the US Forest Service and other individual that have taken the livelihood of Hispanics in our communities.
14:39:25 From Amoura Bryan To All Panelists	@Brooke Sinclair. I truly appreciate your inquiry and commentary. Well said. I hope it will receive a response.
14:39:35 Panelists	From LINDA DANIELS-FORTENBERRY To All We registered over the weekend and were notaddressed

14:40:02	From Dr. Michael Huff	QUESTION Black farmers have seen their ranks fall from more than a million to fewer than 40,000 in the last century (due to systemic racist barriers, industry consolidation and onerous loan terms). Black farmers want/need to see results! What can the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Equity Commission do to facilitate implementation, action and bring resources to farms (specifics please; no more research or listening sessions)?
14:40:05	From Brooke Sinclair	Linda you want to email me your comments?
14:40:48	From Michael Harris	Great first meeting, see everybody downstream in a good way...
14:41:16	From Mily Trevino-Sauceda To All Panelists	We will definitely provide a written comment. Gracias!
14:41:24	From Jasmine Green To All Panelists	Thank you for opportunity to attend and participate. I look forward to the progress that will be made.
15:04:09	From Constance Folsom	Will these goals have timelines and benchmarks?
15:04:49	From Constance Folsom	How will "improvement" be measured and "improved" to what extent?
15:06:45	From Stewart Fried	Will the Equity Commission create a sub-committee charged with investigating discrimination against SNAP retailers at FNS? Dr. Goldman has been aware of this issue for months and there is a pending discrimination complaint at FNS's Civil Rights Division. I trust the Equity Commission not ignore and will seek to address discrimination at USDA other than those impacting African American farmers and ranchers. Note that the impacts on minority SNAP retailers of FNS's discriminatory actions affects far more people of color (who are SNAP beneficiaries) than discrimination at other USDA agencies.
15:06:55	From Mama Lynne Tillman	I'm a black female disabled veteran, new farmer. I sent in my concerns in writing, I was here in this chat early and ask to speak. I don't see you being inclusive or accountable in this meeting. I seems you set it up to limit the everyday person voice, how re we to trust you have our best interest at heart!!!
15:07:20	From Lisa Sundberg To All Panelists	The biggest challenge I have is access to well versed grant navigators and writers.
15:08:58	From Mily Trevino-Sauceda To All Panelists	Gracias Erica Lomeli; we would love to see the documentation you have and maybe we can also share with you and the commission additional data about women farmworkers (campesinas). Gracias
15:10:01	From Gloria Tinubu	Since there is overlap/synergy between the two subcommittees, when will the rural community and economic development subcommittee be created?
15:10:51	From Constance Folsom	Improved customer service is critical and should include agency offices providing intentional outreach and awareness programs of what is available.
15:11:07	From Brooke Sinclair	Does improved customer service include hiring/firing racists working at the USDA?
15:13:00	From Constance Folsom	Very good point. The actions of USDA boils down to the employees of USDA. Perhaps, better hiring practices.
15:13:36	From Sylvia Brown	Highlighting TRANSFORMATIVE performance metrics tied to understanding/appreciating historical challenges with gaining trust among participants. It's tough to get past "hearts and minds" but there is so much research and clear models of addressing this to shift the staff expectations.
15:14:06	From Stephanie Miller	It took 6 months to get my farm number and even after multiple attempts via phone and email NO RESPONSE was returned nor any receipts for service. That staff in the office is exactly the same, how can I trust when we are being treated like this on first contact?
15:14:50	From Mama Lynne Tillman	We need a team that can help minority & people of color who live in areas where no one in the USDA forks well, hold information or not willing to help us understand the programs and paper work. We shouldn't be forced or limited to dealing with these personalities and lose out on opportunities!!!
15:15:14	From Constance Folsom	Yes. We need immediate actionable items that will impact people on the ground asap, particularly farmers who potentially may lose their land due to USDA funding failures.
15:15:16	From Brooke Sinclair	Why would anything be a hirer priority than access to capital. Write the check! If Black Americans had been paid reparations would've had the capital to keep our farmland
15:16:11	From Constance Folsom	Farmers who are waiting on debt relief checks is priority! Fulfill the current promises.

15:16:17	From Joe James	I also hope the Commission will look to the future and make sure we, who have been excluded, are included in the new, ag-based bio-economy. My company was honored, this February, to be among the first 16 grantees of the new, federal BioMADE Program, which is helping us to commercialize the bio-based products mentioned in my oral remarks.
15:16:47	From Sylvia Brown	incorporating anonymous surveys to gauge customer perception, measuring at points in time to see if perceptions shift could be another measurement tool
15:18:11	From Constance Folsom	Farmers who are waiting on debt relief checks needs immediate attention.
15:18:18	From Dr. Michael Huff	Presidential Executive Order QUESTION researching problems aren't making changes soon enough! PLEASE use what you know to craft an EXECUTIVE ORDER!!
15:18:20	From Brooke Sinclair	Instead of Civil rights can we start saying Constitutional rights? Minorities are done being civil we demand your uphold our constitutional rights!
15:20:55	From Sylvia Brown	Expanding the narrative beyond agri-stimulated economy to rural prosperity that helps residents thrive in the ways they define prosperity--being welcome, feeling safe, & having access to resources/supports.
15:25:24	From Brooke Sinclair	But if you write the checks then our communities are smart enough to take care of ourselves
15:25:41	From Gloria Tinubu	What is the Commission's theory of change? Without one, how do you measure progress?
15:26:43	From Constance Folsom	Thank you for recognizing the chat. Trusting the commission starts with feeling as if we are being heard, and many of you have dismissed questions today.
15:27:54	From Constance Folsom	Farmers who are waiting on debt relief which has already been promised is priority.
15:28:03	From Constance Folsom	We don't need more surveys and committees.
15:28:17	From Amy Krigsman	This is why I was requesting the transcript. Could we make sure some of our questions do get addressed at some point? I think giving continuity to the chat and our questions would be a great start practice for the commission to fulfill feedback with interested community members and stakeholders who want to work more intentionally with you all. Thank you!
15:28:52	From Constance Folsom	@Amy. Click on Live Transcript at the bottom. You can save the Live Transcript.
15:28:55	From Gloria Tinubu	Access to final demand is critical as well...you can land and capital, but limited access to markets...you get nowhere.
15:28:58	From Dr. Michael Huff	KEYYep, I will tie it all back to the Social Determinants of Health (see below) AND mention the national security implications of a resilient food system! Social determinants of health (SDOH) have a major impact on people's health, well-being, and quality of life. Examples of SDOH includeLanguage and literacy skillsPolluted air and waterEducation, job opportunities, and incomeSDOH also contribute to wide health disparities and inequities. For example, people who don't have access to grocery stores with healthy foods are less likely to have good nutrition. That raises their risk of health
15:29:48	From Brooke Sinclair	No there's not. Don't spread that lie, there are NOT limited funds
15:30:37	From Brooke Sinclair	Limited resources is a white supremacy talking point. They want you to believe there are infinite financial resources
15:30:48	From Constance Folsom	Funding is not limited. You started with 8B, and it keeps getting dwindled down.
15:31:33	From Stephanie Miller	Agreed, Trump had plenty of money for large white farmers.
15:32:00	From Brooke Sinclair	@stephanie the money never stops flowing for white people near or far
15:32:19	From Constance Folsom	Not just access- honor prior promises
15:32:29	From Lorette Picciano	@DrHuff-the concentration of land ownership relates to all the SDOH you are mentioning. - See

15:32:38 From Pam Sigue Moon	Easy solution to it all! Clear up this existing Debt Relief court hold up ASAP and this RACISM across American will heal itself, weed out the bad in the local rural Louisiana office and this will STOP. Same racist people are still employed in these offices. We keep ignoring what is the right thing to do, you promise these Disadvantage Farmers RELIEF but almost a year later and still unresolved. I'm a black farmer from Louisiana, 87 yrs old and this problem is still the same since my early farming in my 30's.
15:33:05 From J. DeVon Nolen	I also heard access to CASH! liquid..
15:36:07 From Shannon Pitsch	Why was this debt relief even announced if there was no plan in place to implement it? A solid plan should have been in place, then announced. This would have been a huge step forward for many many producers.
15:37:16 From Brooke Sinclair	@Shannon maybe there was a real plan to cut checks but then they allowed the racist head at the Texas Department of Agriculture and his KKK friends to file a personal lawsuit that stopped the money
15:39:34 From Brooke Sinclair	We don't trust you to introduce you to our children and second generations
15:41:41 From Brooke Sinclair	yup culture of supporting KKK with good government job
15:42:36 From Dr. Michael Huff	QUESTION would it be prudent to discuss AND prepare for the impact of climate change on the farmers and RURAL constituents?
15:42:56 From Lorette Picciano	The limitation of USDA data systems has been a challenge for many years in collecting, analyzing and publishing data - for example on applications and participation in USDA programs. But also, it matters not only in farm credit for example, if FSA considers a loan in 30 days, but how long it took from the time the farmer applied until they had completed application, but the in the season they receive the loan - late approved loans can be as bad as no loan at all.
15:43:19 From Gloria Tinubu	Where do federal commissions like ARC, Delta, and the recently activated Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (created via Farm Bill) fit into your deliberations?
15:44:05 From Pam Sigue Moon	That's exactly right @Member Hang, the bottom is not being cleaned up in the local level offices so the changes will never happen. Get in touch with the local customers to find out the problems and make the CHANGES IMMEDIATELY.
15:45:57 From Brooke Sinclair	How about the structure of reparations? Cause if you paid us reparations and left the black farmers alone then most of these issues would solve themselves
15:47:11 From Stephanie Miller	We are losing unfunded minority farms everyday. Big farms get whatever they want through lobbying.
15:47:37 From Dr. Michael Huff	THANK YOU for your proactive comments Mr. Rawls!
15:47:56 From Brooke Sinclair	We don't need it to reach everybody cause the people at the top are doing just fine
15:50:10 From Morris Hodges	Well spoken the Rawls, I have experience exactly what you stated.
15:50:12 From Lorette Picciano	@member Hang - important points - a related issue is that there are inherent conflicts of interest in many areas when someone else wants your land. We have heard of many examples like a farmer apply for an operating loan on a farm he inherited and was told first he had to sign a certified lease to allow his neighbor to claim benefits on the wheat he was growing on the new entry farmer's land. The farmer told the county office he had sent his neighbor a cease and desist letter telling the neighbor not to farm on his property. The office told him not to report this to USDA as "it would get the retired SED in trouble" and was asked if he wanted to sell his land. The point is there are many conflicts of interest with more powerful land owners.
15:51:55 From Amy Krigsman	Yes! We need your support with our local Depts.!!!
15:53:14 From Brooke Sinclair	hundreds of years of neglect
15:53:35 From Stephanie Miller	Hundreds of years of free labor
15:53:56 From AL ANDERSON-LAZO	Two important points raised by a Member speaking a moment ago, data needs to illuminate REG down to the county level, and community-based research can help assure that the people experiencing the barriers contribute to the veracity/verifiability of the data, stories etc.

15:54:05	From Shannon Pitsch	If things don't happen fast.... many producers will not make it another year of operation. Thank you all for your help in moving forward.
15:54:10	From Autumn Lankford	Ms. Vogel, would love to connect with you about NASDA's efforts in this space.
15:55:45	From Kolu Zigbi	Access to broadband in all rural communities is also a baseline need.
15:56:15	From Hershel Daniels	Yes because the pro bono lawyers had given up the right of discovery
15:58:03	From Whitney Long Jones	Can you make this chat available along with the recording?
15:58:55	From Whitney Long Jones	Also, my daughter and I thank you for providing the ASL interpreters! Great job!
16:00:12	From Mama Lynne Tillman	Yes please make the chat available to the people as it should be. There's great info and contacts here. Thank you all for satying the course.
16:00:40	From Sylvia Brown	the virtual setting & the open chat has been an advantage for those of us in the states. please keep this as a venue. I appreciate the need to build community among the commission members. that, I believe, can be accomplished in other ways.
16:00:42	From Autumn Lankford To All Panelists	Ms. Vogel, I am a manager of public policy at NASDA handling our rural development portfolio, would love to connect and talk about your time as a Commissioner and what NASDA is doing now.
16:01:35	From Stephanie Miller	6 months to get a farm # means I was denied access to all the programs I could have applied for.
16:01:54	From Stephanie Miller	...during that time
16:02:35	From Mama Lynne Tillman	I second keeping this zoom meeting so all of us where ever we are can be involve. We are limited as you have already stated you know so don't shut us out further!!!!!!!
16:02:39	From Brooke Sinclair	we didn't even mention the white farmers in Mississippi who are importing white south africans into the states to work their farms
16:03:46	From Pam Sigue Moon	@member Gina Eubanks - Louisiana farmers need the trust. AMEN
16:03:51	From Sylvia Brown	Are commission members authorized to contact each other outside of meetings? Are commission members authorized to communicate with stakeholders?
16:06:22	From Constance Folsom	Is there a commission rep for each state?
16:06:23	From Hershel Daniels	There never was trust with Black Farmers
16:07:01	From Brooke Sinclair	If you want us to trust you then make good on your word, cut them checks
16:07:03	From Hershel Daniels	We now have the MBDA.
16:07:35	From Hershel Daniels	MBDA is the only federal agency tasked with promoting the growth and competitiveness of minority-owned businesses.
16:08:46	From Member Shari Rogge-Fidler To All Panelists	Panelists - Interestingly, our mission (Farm Foundation's) is to build trust and understanding at the intersections of agriculture and society. In various trust studies that have been done, government and big companies are low trust and farmers are at the top for trust! Maybe we need more and diverse farmers as the external face of the USDA as part of the trust building.
16:09:16	From Hershel Daniels	U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is made permanent and will be expanded and elevated with the passage of this historic legislation. This action allows the agency to increase their programs and outreach to the Nation's more than 9 million minority-owned businesses. President Biden has made clear his commitment to not just rebuilding to how things were before COVID-19, but to building back better and more equitably," said U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gina M.
16:10:16	From Brooke Sinclair	We need Wypipo to stop using Black Americans words and phrases. You don't respect us, you wont pay your overdue reparations bill, and you are trying to replace us with illegal immigrants
16:10:21	From Constance Folsom	Honor the Minority Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee
16:11:41	From Stephanie Miller	Agreed. The Minority Farmers and Ranchers committee have submitted recommendations, are they being reviewed?

16:11:56	From Mama Lynne Tillman	How often does this committee meet, when is the next meeting?
16:12:06	From Hershel Daniels	So there needs to be a MOU between the USDA and DOC/MBDA along with SBA and a BIPOC coalition. at least that is our goal with the \$410B in federal reserve bank community reserve agreements in existence we are signature of.
16:13:14	From Dr. Michael Huff	Thank you member Sias-Hernandez for your comments about moving forward with the data that is already available - no more delays with "kicking the can down the road by requesting additional research"
16:13:47	From Brooke Sinclair	Who did she say was family? The committee?
16:14:44	From Hershel Daniels	FYI - On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which included statutory authority within the Minority Business Development Act (the Act) for the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) to establish a Rural Business Center Program. MBDA is seeking public comment on various issues related to rural areas and rural minority business enterprises to inform the agency and provide fundamental information regarding this sector of the economy.
16:15:04	From Constance Folsom	What's happening with Minority Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee? Where do they fit in this process?
16:16:23	From Constance Folsom	If they were serious, why is the Advisory Committee being dismissed? Why haven't ANYONE addressed this question today?
16:17:42	From Mama Lynne Tillman	You have not mention our concern about the advisory committee on minority farmers & ranchers? When will you reinstate their charter because we know they are doing the work while you are thinking about trying to figure out what to do. Let them do their work, We don't have time to wait for you to catch up. Your 2 yrs will be up, they have been doing this work for years!!!
16:20:13	From Whitney Long Jones	Will the chat be shared?
16:20:47	From Michael Bryant To All Panelists	How do we get a copy of the slide deck (s)? I am at michael.bryant@mail.house.gov. I am a staff member for Ag Committee Member Rep. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. Thanks.
16:20:51	From Isabel Brumley	we also need to consider that small farmers and minority farmers need manpower to stay in the black. Many wish to expand their farm operations but cannot afford to hire and pay competent employees they can trust to do the work. they can't do everything
16:21:17	From Gale Stewart To All Panelists	I guess it's easier to not respond to the questions about the committee for minority farmers and ranchers so disheartening