



COLLABORATION PLATFORM ON AGRICULTURE

U.S.-EU Exchange on Advancing Young and Historically Underserved Farmers and Addressing Intergenerational Farm Issues

Sharing Information, Exchanging Ideas, Building Sustainable Ag Systems Together

Overview: The European Union (EU) and United States are grappling with the ramifications of aging farmer populations as they both undertake ambitious efforts to make their agricultural systems more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive. At present, only a small portion of farm managers are young, and they face significant hurdles in establishing and/or expanding their operations. These challenges include gaining access to land, farm equipment, and financing. This session will explore ongoing efforts across the Atlantic to support young and historically underserved farmers. It will also touch upon the issues rural communities and families encounter with the intergenerational transfer of land, knowledge, and other resources. Through this event, policy makers and agricultural sector leaders will exchange perspectives and suggest practical approaches to address this complex challenge.

Date and Time: July 3, 2023, at 15:00 (CET)/9:00 (EST)

Venue: Online

15:00 – Welcome Remarks from EU Directorate-General for Agriculture (DG AGRI) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Representatives

15:05 – Presentation from Maria Gafo, Deputy Head of Unit, Social Sustainability, DG AGRI

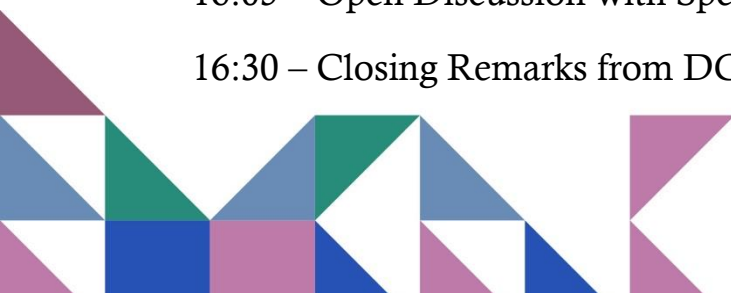
15:20 – Presentation from Dr. Dewayne Goldmon, USDA Senior Advisor for Racial Justice and Equity

15:35 – Presentation from Marion Picot, Secretary General, European Council of Young Farmers

15:50 – Presentation from Heather K Graham, Vice Chair, Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee, American Farm Bureau

16:05 – Open Discussion with Speakers

16:30 – Closing Remarks from DG AGRI and USDA



Speaker Biographies

Maria Gafo, Deputy Head of Unit, Social Sustainability, DG AGRI



She has a long experience in the European Commission where she has worked on energy, environment, forestry and agricultural policies. Some years ago, she coordinated the EU Forest Strategy and more recently the long-term vision for the EU Rural Areas. She is currently Deputy Head of Unit responsible for social sustainability in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development. Maria's Unit follow social issues in our rural areas, such as generational renewal, depopulation, equality, immigration or human rights. María holds a PhD in Forestry Engineering from the Polytechnic University of Madrid. She completed her studies at the Universities of Wageningen (The Netherlands) and Debrecen (Hungary). She also holds a diploma in European studies from the Spanish Diplomatic School. Before joining the European Commission, María was a consultant at Arthur Andersen-Garrigues and participated in several development projects in Mexico, Ecuador and Paraguay with the NGO "Solidarios para el Desarrollo".

Dr. Dewayne Goldmon, USDA Senior Advisor for Racial Justice and Equity



Dr. Dewayne L. Goldmon received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Arkansas and his Ph.D. from Iowa State University, all in agronomy. After four years as a field researcher with American Cyanamid (acquired by BASF), he joined Monsanto Company (acquired by Bayer Crop Sciences), working 25 years in the agricultural chemical and seed industry.

He held various positions in technology development, where he conducted research on all southern row crops and managed research and development trials in soybeans, rice, and cotton. Later in his career, he worked on Monsanto's government affairs team and in human resources, retiring as the Outreach Lead for Bayer Crop Sciences in 2019. In 2020, he served as the Executive Director of the National Black Growers Council, an organization that he was instrumental in creating and advised for over 10 years. Throughout his education and career, he has worked on diversity initiatives and maintained working relationships with several land-grant universities, non-profit entities, and community-based organizations.

Goldmon has served on numerous advisory boards, including the Dean's Executive Advisory Board at his alma mater, as well as on local and state boards for 4-H and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He has also served on regional and national advisory boards for organizations such as MANRRS, the Policy Center for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, the Southern Risk Management Education Center, and multiple terms

on USDA's Advisory Committee for Minority Farmers and Ranchers. He also farms in southeast Arkansas where he produces corn, rice, and soybeans.

On March 1, 2021, he was announced as the inaugural Senior Advisor for Racial Justice and Equity at USDA where he serves as a key advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture. In this Presidential appointment, he provides counsel on a broad range of matters, as mandated by the Biden-Harris administration. He routinely liaises with relevant White House personnel on designing, planning, and executing key initiatives and priorities while also representing the Secretary and USDA on high level inter- and intra-agency working groups and public facing forums. He provides leadership on the implementation of congressional initiatives and on cross-departmental racial equity work. Goldman works closely with the Secretary and the department to address the cumulative impacts of prior discrimination, working with his colleagues to transform USDA into a racially equitable department.

Marion Picot, Secretary General, European Council of Young Farmers



Marion is the Secretary General of CEJA. Originally from the North of France, she has over eight years of specialisation in EU, national and regional policies centered around agriculture, food systems and rural development through her background, studies and experiences in local and national governments. She has been in CEJA since 2018, previously occupying the position of Policy Advisor. She holds a Master's degree in European Affairs from Sciences Po Lille and has been a

lecturer in the same Master since 2021.

Heather K Graham, Vice Chair, Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee, American Farm Bureau



Heather Graham is currently serving as the Vice Chair of the American Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers & Rancher Committee. Heather lives and farms in eastern Kentucky with her husband and 5-year-old son. Their farm, Holly Creek Farms, is a 450-acre diversified operation comprised of a cow-calf operation, a freezer beef business, a firewood business, forages, and vegetable production. The farm focuses on family and sustainability. Heather is a strong advocate for the farming community and agricultural industry and is actively involved in several agricultural organizations. She works an off-farm job as a value chain coordinator for the University of Kentucky, focusing on promoting local foods. She holds a bachelor's degree in animal science from Morehead

State University and a master's degree in Science Translation Outreach from the University of Kentucky.

