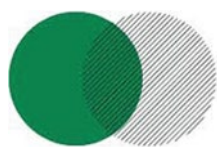




2024 Annual Meeting

*Embracing Our Roots
to Cultivate a
Sustainable Future*



**Charleston, SC
Dec. 10-13, 2024**



National Black Growers Council - Welcome!



Welcome to the National Black Growers Council 2024 Annual Meeting. Your presence here fuels our enthusiasm and drives us to work harder towards our mission. As your Chairman, I would like to express my profound gratitude to each of you for your invaluable contributions that have propelled us to achieve our mission. Our focal goal has always been to "Improve the Efficiency, Productivity, and Sustainability of Black Row Crop Farmers".

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our government collaborators and private sector partners. Your unwavering support and substantial contributions have allowed us to significantly bolster our mission. Your generosity over time has been a catalyst for change within our industry, and it is with great respect that we acknowledge your role in our journey.

As we welcome a new year of opportunities, we encourage you to take the time to broaden your network and strike up as many conversations with your agricultural peers. This is more than a meeting—it's a gathering of like-minded individuals coming together to celebrate achievements, share knowledge and dedicate themselves to a broader purpose.

Relish your time here at the 2024 National Black Growers Council Annual Meeting and may the seeds of conversations planted today bloom into relationships and collaborations that help flourish the agricultural space.

P.J. Haynie, III
Chairman of the Board

Welcome to the 2024 National Black Growers Council Annual Meeting. Your presence here is a testament to your interest and ongoing support of NBGC...Thank you! In 2024, NBGC grew our stakeholder relationships, enhanced our organization's capabilities, and successfully carried out the mission of the organization. We hired new staff and entered contractual agreements to enhance our functional competencies. We executed our 2024 Model Farm Field Day Series with on-farm events in five states and over 1,000 total attendees. We initiated our USDA Partners for Climate-Smart Commodities Project by hosting grower meetings to enroll farmers and provide tech support for them to adopt regenerative practices on their farms. We actively engaged stakeholders on ag policy, including ag products regulation, farm program implementation, Farm Bill priorities, and advocacy for equity and inclusion throughout the ag sector.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as NBGC executive director. I thank every staffer and board member, farmer, sponsor, and friend of NBGC for your support. I am excited about transitioning NBGC leadership to Dr. Dawn Mellion. Dr. Mellion brings a wealth of agriculture and organizational management experience to NBGC, and she's an excellent leader to guide the organization into the future.

This year's NBGC meeting is another great opportunity for you to network, engage, and take valuable information back to your farms and communities. Please enjoy the meeting, and we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Loston Rowe
Interim Executive Director



National Black Growers Council Welcomes Dawn A. Mellion, PhD, MBA as New Executive Director



Greetings and welcome to the 2024 Annual Conference of the National Black Growers Council. As someone with a deep-rooted passion for farmers and more than 30 years of experience supporting small and diverse farmers, I am incredibly excited to step into the NBGC executive director role and work alongside all of you as we face great opportunities that are shaping the future of row crop farming.

I am proud to take on the responsibility of leadership, with a focus on empowering Black farmers who have long been the backbone of American agriculture, yet too often are overlooked.

With my background in farm programs, agricultural advocacy, farm cooperatives, extension, and outreach, I understand the barriers you face, and I am committed to helping provide the resources, opportunities, and partnerships needed to navigate the evolving landscape of agriculture. This year's meeting is more than just an opportunity to share insights and ideas; it is a chance to come together, build community, and expand upon the NBGC mission.

As I look to the future, I see so much potential for collaboration and solidarity. Together, we will cultivate the next generation of growers, empowering young and new farmers, supporting sustainable practices, and creating an agricultural ecosystem that values every contributor. The challenges facing our industry are many, but they are also opportunities for transformation. From climate change and technological innovation to access to capital and policy change, we are entering a new era of agriculture. At NBGC, we are committed to ensuring that Black farmers are at the forefront of these changes. Thank you for being a part of this year's annual meeting. Your presence validates the importance of this work.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have already received. Please know that my door is always open, and I encourage you to reach out with any thoughts, ideas, or questions as we embark on this journey. I look forward to meeting each of you, learning from your experiences, and building the future of agriculture together. I am thrilled to be part of NBGC and am eager to contribute to the incredible legacy we are building. Here is to a future filled with meaningful progress and collective success.

Dawn Mellion

Executive Director



Welcome to the National Black Growers Council Annual Meeting!

Dear Annual Meeting Participants,

On behalf of the National Black Growers Council, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2024 Annual Meeting. We are thrilled to host you in this historic city, renowned for its rich cultural heritage, Southern charm, and warm hospitality.

As we gather in this beautiful lowcountry setting, we celebrate the strength and resilience of Black row crop growers and the vital role we play in shaping agriculture's future. Charleston, with its deep ties to agriculture and history, serves as the perfect backdrop for our mission to uplift, educate, and empower.

During your time here, I encourage you to take in the city's vibrant energy—stroll along the cobblestone streets, savor the flavors of traditional Southern cuisine, and soak in the breathtaking views of Charleston Harbor. Whether exploring local landmarks or connecting with fellow members, I hope this experience will be both enriching and memorable.

We have an exciting program planned, filled with opportunities to share knowledge, build relationships, and further the important work of advancing Black farmers across the nation. Your presence here is a testament to our shared commitment to growth, innovation, and excellence in agriculture.

Thank you for joining us in Charleston. Let's make this year's Annual Meeting a remarkable one! We are here to serve you. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns while you are here.

Warm regards,

Lacey Bibbins

Lacey Bibbins
Administrative Assistant
National Black Growers Council
laceybibbins@nationalblackgrowerscouncil.com

NBGC 2024 Annual Meeting

December 10-13, 2024

**The Francis Marion Hotel
387 King St, Charleston, SC 29403**

Theme: Embracing our Roots to Cultivate a Sustainable Future

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

- 11:00 AM - 4:30 PM **Pre-Meeting Tours (Optional)**
- Bigelow Tea Farm Trolley Tour – Charleston Tea Garden
 - Historic Charleston City Market (on your own)

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

- 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM **Pre-Meeting Tour (Optional)**
- International African American History Museum
- 1:00 - 6:00 PM **Meeting Registration** Ballroom Foyer
- 2:00 - 6:00 PM **Exhibitor Set Up** Gold Ballroom
- 6:00 - 9:00 PM **Welcome Reception** Colonial Ballroom
- Remarks: **Louis Whitesides, Ph.D.**,
Vice-president of Public Service and Agriculture,
South Carolina State University
- 9:00 - 11:30 PM **Hospitality** Poinsette Room

Thursday, December 12, 2024

- 6:30 - 8:00 AM **Breakfast** Colonial Ballroom
- 7:30 - 7:45 AM **Breakfast Remarks - Eggo** Colonial Ballroom
- **Joe Beauprez**, Senior Director Marketing, Eggo
- 8:00 - 9:00 AM **Opening Session** Carolina Ballroom
- Introduction - **A. J. Sabine, Esq.**, Meeting Moderator
 - Welcome to Charleston - **Rep. Jim Clyburn**(virtual)
Sen. Tim Scott (invited)
 - Meeting Welcome - **Dawn Mellion, Ph.D.**, NBGC Executive Director
 - Remarks/NBGC Updates, **P.J. Haynie**, Chairman, NBGC

9:00 - 9:30 AM	USDA Leaders Chat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dewayne Goldmon, Ph.D., Senior Advisor of U.S. Dept. of Agriculture • Tom J. Vilsack, Secretary of U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (virtual) • Robert Bonnie, Undersecretary of Farm Production and Conservation • Basil Gooden, Undersecretary of Rural Development 	Carolina Ballroom
9:30 - 10:15 AM	USDA Agency Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terry Cosby, Chief, Natural Resources and Conservation Services • Zach Ducheneaux, Administrator, Farm Service Agency • Marsha Bunger, Administrator, Risk Management Agency 	
10:15 - 10:30 AM	Break	Prefunction A/B
10:30 - 11:15 AM	USDA Program Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monica A. Rainge, Senior Advisor, Discrimination Financial Assistance Program • Dewayne Goldmon, Ph.D., Senior Advisor, Racial Justice and Equity • Ahlishia Shipley, Ph.D., Capacity Program Leader, NIFA • Carlton Bridgeforth, White House Liaison, Office of the Secretary 	Carolina Ballroom
11:15 - 11:45 PM	USDA Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elzadia Washington, NBGC Senior Program Director, NBGC • Katina Dove Hanson, Acting Senior Advisor for Climate-Smart Commodities, USDA 	
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Lunch	Colonial Ballroom
1:00 - 1:30 PM	Ag Policy, Equity Commission, Farm Bill Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eloris Speight, Ed.D., Executive Director, SDFR Policy Center • Rodney Brooks, USDA Legislative Liaison 	Carolina Ballroom
1:30 - 2:15 PM	Crop Production Industry Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Wilson, Business Representative, BASF • Macie O'Shaughnessy, Industry Relations Manager, Syngenta • Stanley Royal, Research and Development Scientist, Corteva • Alan Coskrey, Technical Services Manager, Bayer 	
2:15 - 3:30 PM	Consumer-Driven Supply Chain Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natalie McGrady, Global Supplier Diversity Lead, Cargill • Shandrea Stallworth, Ph.D., Senior Agronomist, Nestle Purina • Mickey Pritchard, Director, NA Grains Procurement, PepsiCo • Debra Quade, Director of Sustainability, Kellanova 	
3:30 - 5:00 PM	Exhibitor Engagement	Gold Ballroom
6:00 - 9:00 PM	Banquet/Awards Dinner <p>Panel Discussion - Lowcountry History & Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonya Matthews, Ph.D., President & CEO, International African American Museum, Charleston, SC • Rollen Chalmers, Rollen's RAW Grain, Hardeeville, SC • Ralph Crawford, Ph.D., Assoc. Deputy Chief, U.S. Forestry Service (retired) <p>Award Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pearlle S. Reed Black Farmer Advocacy Award • NBGC Legacy Award • Special Recognitions 	Carolina Ballroom
9:00 - 11:30 PM	Hospitality	Poinsette Room

Friday, December 13, 2024

6:30 - 8:00 AM	Breakfast	Colonial Ballroom
8:00 - 11:00 AM	Registration Open	
8:00 - 8:15 AM	General Session - Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hugh Weathers, South Carolina Commissioner of AG• Ronnie Summers, CEO, Palmetto Business Council	Carolina Ballroom
8:15 - 8:45 AM	Mental Health Awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scott Mickey, Sr. Extension Assoc., Clemson University	
8:45 - 9:30 AM	Managing Your Farm Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issac Bennett, Chief Credit Officer, Farm Credit Bank of Texas• Emmanuel Bankston, Climate-Smart Manager, ADM• Steven Aldridge, Grain Origination Mgr., Bunge• Jennie Stephens, Ph.D., CEO, Center for Heirs Property Preservation	
9:30 - 10:00 AM	Tax Management - Best Practices for DFAP Recipients <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Darrell Tennie, CEO, The Tennie Group• Ron Rainey, Ph.D., Professor, University of Arkansas	
10:00 - 10:15 AM	Break	
10:15 - 11:00 AM	Bringing Innovation to Farmers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marcus Hall, Solutions Planner, John Deere• Margaret Oldham, Vice-president of Innovation, AgLaunch• Brandon Doggett, Strategic Accounts Manager, FMC• T.J. Bradford, Ph.D., President, Bradford Ag Consulting	Carolina Ballroom
11:00 - 12:00 PM	Farmers & Their Daughters Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brielle Wright, NBGC Program Director, Panel Moderator• Christi Bland-Miller & James Bland, Bland Farms, Sledge, MS• Lawrence “Wink” Conyer & Masherrl Conyer, Conyer Farms, Pine Bluff, AR• Kendall Rae Johnson & Quentin Johnson, aGROWKulture Farm, Atlanta, GA	
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Closing Remarks/Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dawn A. Mellion, Ph.D., NBGC Executive Director• P.J. Haynie, NBGC Board Chairman <hr/>	
1:00 - 3:00 PM	Sustaining Member/NBGC Board Meeting (by Invitation)	Pinckney Room
3:00 - 5:00 PM	NBGC Board Meeting (by Invitation)	

Thank You

United States Department of Agriculture

USDA's vision is to provide economic opportunity through innovation, helping rural America to thrive; to promote agriculture production that better nourishes Americans while also helping feed others throughout the world; and to preserve our Nation's natural resources through conservation, restored forests, improved watersheds, and healthy private working lands.

USDA agencies help to keep America's farmers and ranchers in business and ensure that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, wholesome, and properly labeled. They also help to ensure the health and care of animals and plants and the health of the land through sustainable management, and they work to improve the economy and quality of life in all rural America.

USDA is made up of 29 agencies and offices with nearly 100,000 employees who serve the American people at more than 4,500 locations across the country and abroad. Their offices provide support to Department officials and employees at all levels, and they support our programs and services by working with our agencies, Congress, organizations, and tribal governments.





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PepsiCo's Diversity Commitment:

PepsiCo's Supplier Diversity Program has been active for over 40 years, currently spending more than \$1 billion annually with certified diverse suppliers across its value chain. As part of a five-year plan to invest \$50 million in Black-owned businesses, PepsiCo has already spent over \$241 million, showing strong progress toward its 2025 goal.

Why it Matters:

Agriculture is essential to PepsiCo's business, sourcing over 35 crops like potatoes, corn, and oats from more than 60 countries. Building a more resilient, sustainable agricultural system helps safeguard business growth from climate change, water scarcity, and other risks, while also improving the lives of agricultural workers and communities. Thriving communities and ecosystems are vital to ensuring the quality crops that PepsiCo relies on.

[pepsicosupplierdiversity.com](https://www.pepsicosupplierdiversity.com)

<https://www.pepsico.com/our-impact/esg-topics-a-z/agriculture>



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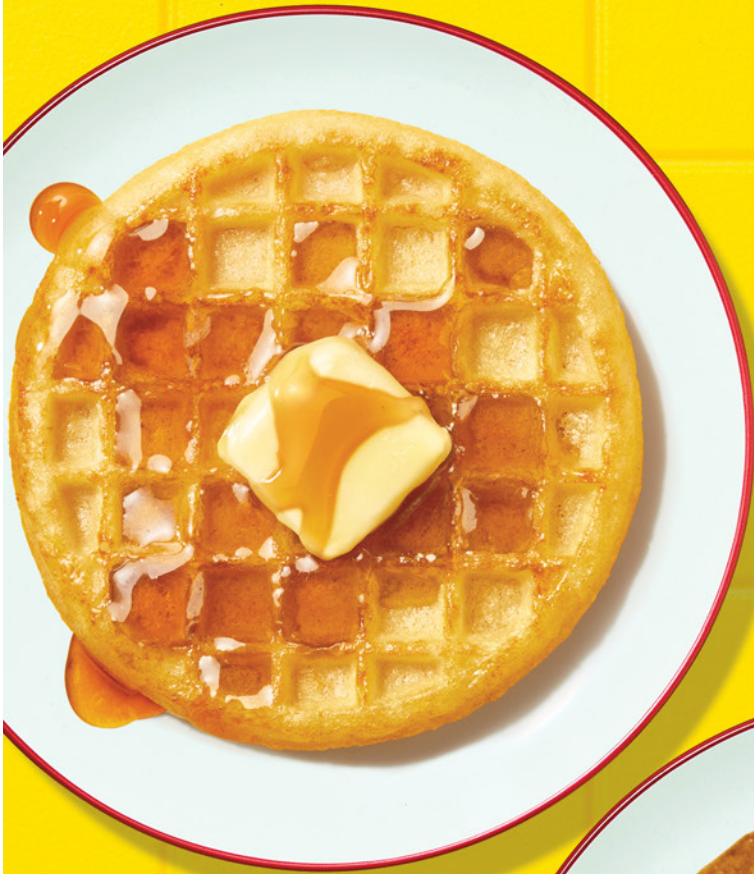
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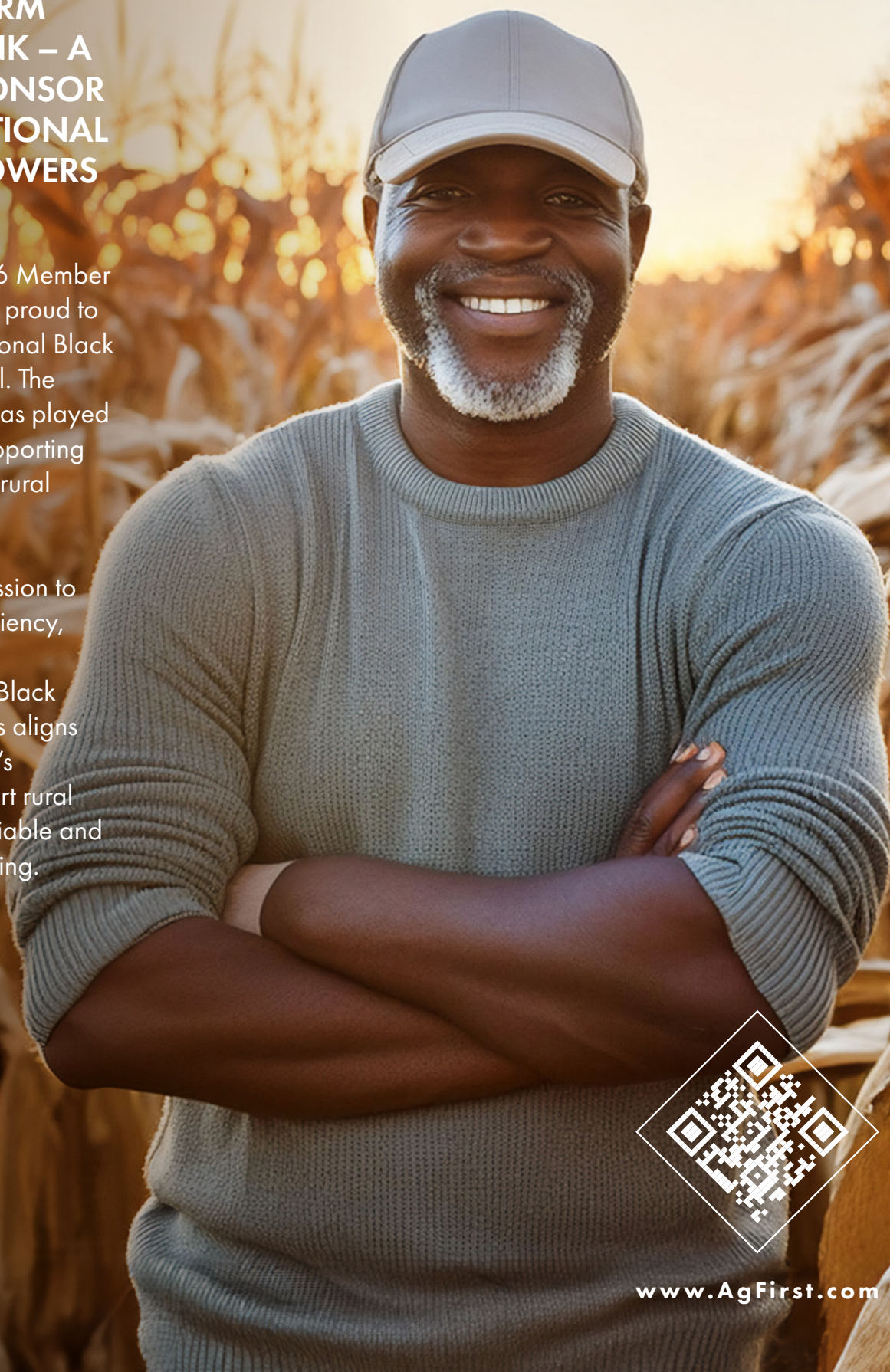
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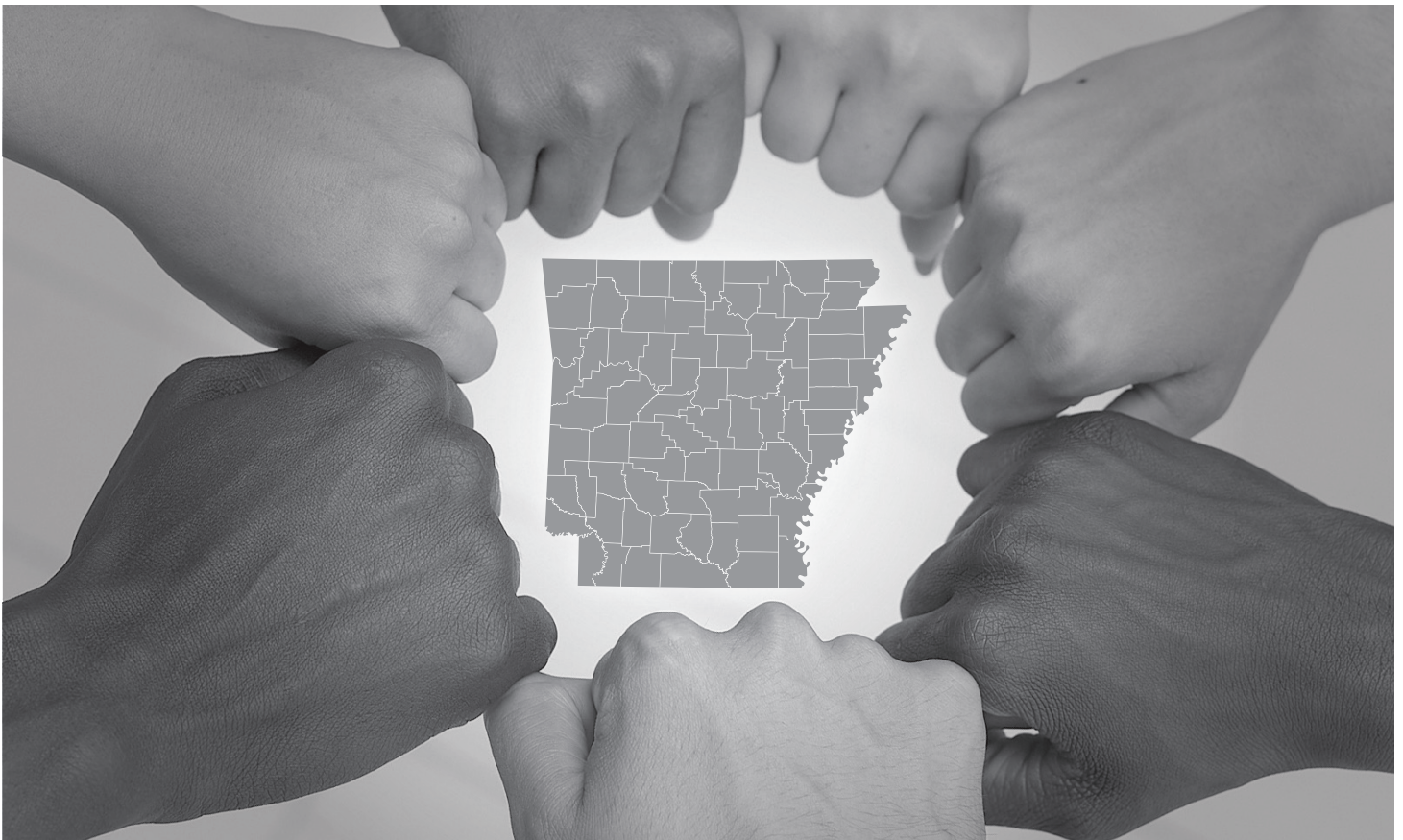
MEAT SUMMIT CONTACT:
VERONICA ROYAL
MPPTAINFO@TUSKEGEE.EDU



GOAT DAY CONTACT:
DR. CLARISSA HARRIS
CHARRIS2@TUSKEGEE.EDU



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Bayer	Soil Health Institute
Bunge	American Farmland Trust
Farm Credit	Farm Journal
FMC	US Cotton Trust Protocol
PepsiCo	USDA - RMA
Cargill	USDA - OHA National Appeals Div.
ADM	USDA - FSA - FPAC, SC
BASF	USDA - NASS
Tyson Foods	USDA - Rural Development
Kellanova	USDA - NRCS - FPAC, SC
Great American	South Carolina State University
Nestle	Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
Indigo	MetLife
TruTerra	Team Tilley
AgFirst	NBGC Climate-Smart Project
National Peanut Board	Tuskegee University
American Bankers Association	



2024 Sustaining Members

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Bunge	New Holland
Farm Credit	Tyson Foods
ADM	PepsiCo
United Soybean Board	BASF
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Kellanova	Nutrien
Nestle	Great American
John Deere	Indigo
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2025 Annual Meeting

Save the Date
December 9-12, 2025

Location To Be Determined

www.nationalblackgrowerscouncil.com



NBGC Board of Directors

Philip “P.J.” Haynie, III - Chairman of the Board

Dexter Gilbert - Vice Chairman of the Board

Christi Bland-Miller - Secretary/Treasurer of the Board

Billy Bridgeforth - Chairman of the Board, Emeritus

Howard James - Board Member

Lawrence Conyer - Board Member

Ronald Bunton - Board Member

Haywood Harrell - Board Member

Ashley Armstrong - Board Member

Patrick Smith - Board Member

Willis Nelson - Board Member

Keith White - Board Member

NBGC National Office

Dawn Mellion, Ph.D. - Executive Director

Loston Rowe, Ph.D. - Interim Executive Director

Elzadia Washington - Senior Program Director

Brielle Wright - Program Director

Lacey Bibbins - Administrative Assistant

2024 Annual Meeting Committee

Philip “PJ” Haynie

Dexter Gilbert

Christi Bland-Miller

Loston Rowe, Ph.D.

Dawn Mellion, Ph.D.

Brielle Wright

Antron Williams

Lacey Bibbins

Desmond Moore

Elzadia Washington