

Rural Policy SUMMIT



Agriculture Summit Speakers



Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding

Sec. Redding is Pennsylvania's 26th Secretary of Agriculture. He is the former dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at Delaware Valley College. Sec. Redding has extensive experience as a public servant, having spent more than 20 years serving Pennsylvania in Harrisburg and Washington D.C. He worked on Capitol Hill as Ag Policy Advisor to U.S. Senator Harris Wofford and served for 16 years in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, serving as secretary from 2009-2011 under Governor Rendell. Sec. Redding earned his B.S. in Agriculture Education and M.S. in Agriculture and Extension Education at The Pennsylvania State University. In addition, he is a graduate of the Agribusiness Executive program.



Dr. Timothy Kelsey

Tim is a Center for Rural Pennsylvania board member. He is a professor of Agricultural Economics at The Pennsylvania State University, where he conducts research on the economic and community impacts of unconventional energy development and their local policy implications for land use and public finance/taxation. He has extensive experience across Pennsylvania presenting informal workshops for local government officials, the business community, and others on these issues. He teaches courses on community-based research methodologies, economic development tools, such as economic impact analysis, and community development. He has been at Penn State since 1991, and received his master's and Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Michigan State University.



Mark Critz

Mark is the Western Regional Director and Executive Director of the Rural Development Council at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Prior to joining the department, Mark was the U.S. Representative for Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, having served from a special election in May 2010 until January 2013. Mark is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, earning a B.S. in Management Information Systems.



Dr. Kyle Kopko

Kyle is the executive director of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania. Before he joined the Center, Kyle served as Associate Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning, and Associate Professor of Political Science at Elizabethtown College. He earned his Ph.D. in political science from The Ohio State University in 2010, with a concentration in public law and judicial politics.



Senator Elder Vogel

Sen. Vogel represents the 47th Senatorial District, which includes all of Lawrence County and parts of Beaver and Butler Counties. Sen. Vogel serves as Deputy President Pro Tempore for the 2021-22 Legislative Session and is Chairman of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. He is Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and a member of the Banking and Insurance, Environmental Resources and Energy, Transportation, and Majority Policy Committees. Prior to his election, Sen. Vogel served as New Sewickley Township Supervisor. He operates a family farm in New Sewickley Township, which was established in the late 1800s.



Senator Judy Schwank

Sen. Schwank represents the 11th Senatorial District, which serves portions of Berks County. Sen. Schwank is the Democratic Chair of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. She is also a member of the Aging and Youth, Appropriations, Game and Fisheries, and Health and Human Services committees. Sen. Schwank is a former Berks County Commissioner and worked as a Berks County horticultural agent for Penn State Cooperative Extension, where she established the Master Gardener Program. Sen. Schwank received her B.S. and M.Ed. in agricultural education from Penn State University and completed the Executive Leadership Program through the Institute for Conservation Leadership and the Institute for the Management of Life-Long Education at Harvard University.



Representative Eddie Day Pashinski

Rep. Pashinski is the board vice chairman of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania. He serves the 121st District, which includes Wilkes-Barre City, Fairview Township, Wilkes-Barre Township, Ashley Borough, Hanover Township and Laurel Run Borough in Luzerne County. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2006 and serves as the Democratic chairman of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. Rep. Pashinski is a graduate of Wilkes University with a bachelor's degree in Music Education, and he has a master's equivalency. He was a music teacher and choral director at the Greater Nanticoke Area School District.



Representative Dan Moul

Rep. Moul is a board member of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania. He serves the 91st Legislative District, which includes Conewago, Cumberland, Franklin, Freedom, Germany, Hamiltonban, Highland, Liberty, Mount Joy, Mount Pleasant, Straban, and Union townships, and Bonneauville, Carroll Valley, Fairview, Gettysburg, Littlestown, and McSherrystown boroughs in Adams County. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2006. Currently, he serves as chairman of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, and as a member of the Tourism and Recreational Development Committee. Prior to being elected to the House of Representatives, Rep. Moul spent 20 years as owner operator of his own real estate management and renovation business, and he worked in the sales division of Hanover-based Utz Quality Foods. Rep. Moul is a graduate of New Oxford High School and studied finance at York College.