

Rural Resilience Summit

The Texas A&M University System

October 9–10, 2025 | Animal Biotech Center, RELIS Campus, College Station

Agenda

DAY 1: Thursday, October 9, 2025

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Registration & Lunch
12:30 PM – 12:40 PM	Welcome Dr. Tim Scott Chief of Staff, President’s Office, Texas A&M University, College Station
12:45 PM – 01:00 PM	Opening Remarks Honorable Glenn Hegar Chancellor, The Texas A&M University System
01:00 PM – 01:45 PM	Plenary Talk The TAMUS Commitment to Rural Texas Dr. Susan Ballabina Executive Vice Chancellor, The Texas A&M University System
01:50 PM – 02:15 PM	Center for Rural Resilience Dr. Barry Lambert, Dr. Jean Lonie, and Dr. Subi Gandhi Tarleton State University
02:20 PM – 02:50 PM	Session 1: Building the Future Rural Workforce Dr. Kim Alexander CEO, Collegiate Edu-Nation
02:50 PM – 03:00 PM	Break – Coffee & Networking
03:00 PM – 03:30 PM	Session 2: Agriculture & Rural Economies Dr. Cliff Lamb Agency Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Research
03:30 PM – 03:40 PM	Transition to Working Groups
03:40 PM – 05:40 PM	Concurrent Working Groups
05:40 PM – 06:00 PM	Day 1 Wrap-Up & Preview of Day 2 Dr. Jean Lonie, Center Director, Tarleton State University
06:00 PM – 06:30 PM	Networking Happy Hour

DAY 2: Friday, October 10, 2025

08:00 AM – 09:00 AM	Breakfast & Networking
09:00 AM – 09:15 AM	Welcome Back & Day 1 Highlights Dr. Sharmila Pathikonda Associate Vice Chancellor, The Texas A&M University System
09:15 AM – 09:45 AM	Rural Prosperity – The Big Picture Honorable T.W. Shannon Senior Advisor to the US Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Prosperity USDA
09:45 AM – 10:15 AM	Working Group Report-Outs Dr. Elsa Gonzalez Assistant Provost, Texas A&M University, College Station
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Session 3: Rural Health & Services Curtis Donaldson Executive Director, Rural Medicine, Texas A&M Health
11:05 AM – 11:35 AM	Session 4: Disaster-Ready Rural Communities Dr. Jason Moats Professor of Practice; Director, USA Center for Rural Public Health Preparedness Texas A&M University School of Public Health
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	Break – Lunch & Networking
12:45 PM – 01:00 PM	Transition to Working Groups
01:00 PM – 02:30 PM	Concurrent Working Groups
02:30 PM – 03:00 PM	Closing: Where We Go From Here Dr. Jean Lonie Tarleton State University
03:15 PM	Summit Adjourns