TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
Center for Rural Resilience

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



Texas A&M University System

2026 RURAL RESILIENCE SUMMIT

November 16, 2026

5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception and Networking Opportunity

Frazier Conservatory
3899 County Road 518, Stephenville, TX 76401

Reception Sponsored by

PLUGANDPLAY

November 17, 2026

GKB Cattle – Desdemona, TX
7440 TX-16, Desdemona, TX 76445

8:00 – 8:30 a.m – BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.

Welcome – Why Rural Resilience
Dr. James Hurley, President,
Tarleton State University

8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

A Year of Highlights
Dr. Sharmila Pathikonda, Associate Vice Chancellor and Director of Research Development

2026 Rural Resilience Summit
Sponsored by

AgTrust™ FARM CREDIT

November 17, 2026 continued

9:00 to 9:45 a.m.

Taking the Temperature of our Rural Communities WORKSHOP
Dr. Subi Gandhi, Tarleton State University
Center for Rural Resilience

10:00 to 10:50 a.m.

Unified Leadership and Rural Resilience
Texas A&M University System Chancellor **Glenn Hegar,**
Tarleton State President **Dr. James Hurley**

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

From Silos to Solutions
Tarleton State University Academic Leadership Case Study **Dr. Natasha Delcoure**, Dean, **Dr. Sam Pack** College of Business **Dr. Frank Owsley**, Interim Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources **Ms. Stephanie Nelson**, Assistant Vice President and Director of Educational Programs, Division of Health Sciences

12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Why it Matters
The Beaty Family, Beaty Beef and More, DeLeon, Texas

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. – LUNCH

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Starting a SYSTEM approach - WORKSHOP
Dr. Jean Lonie, Center for Rural Resilience

2:30 – 3:00 p.m. – BREAK

3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

From Ideas to Commitments - WORKSHOP

3:30 to 3:45 p.m. Closing