

AG-802 (06/10)

Texas A&M AgriLife  
Administrative Services – Disbursements/Travel



### TRAVEL REQUEST

☐ Texas A&M AgriLife ☒ Texas A&M AgriLife Extension ☐ TVMDL  
☐ Research ☒ Service ☐ 557 TVMDL  
556 RESEARCH 555 EXTENSION

Dep/Unl/District: Horticulture/District 9 Date: 12/04/2024 Request Number: \_\_\_\_\_

From: February 4th, 2024 To: February 7th, 2024  
Travel Dates (including travel time)

Destination: From: Houston To: Atlanta Georgia District: 9  
City State City State (AgriLife Extension)

Counties Visited (if applicable)\*: Fulton County  
\* County required for out of state travel

Purpose of Travel: To attend the SOWTH (Southern Farmers) Conference in Atlanta, GA via a SARE scholarship offered by Extension

#### ADDITIONAL TRIPS LISTED ON SECOND PAGE OF FORM

#### MODE OF TRANSPORTATION:

☐ Private Auto ☐ Accompanying Another Party\*  
☐ Official Auto ☐ Accompanied by\* \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ University Aircraft ☒ Commercial Transportation (Includes Rental Car)

\*Explanation required for two or more employees attending the same or similar duties: \_\_\_\_\_

#### EXPENSE TO BE CHARGED TO:

Account Name: SARE Scholarship Account No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Estimated Expenses: \$ 1200 Project No/Support Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Kimberly Mayer UIN: 333004146  
Print or Type Required

Signature: Title: Horticulture Agent- Brazoria County

RECOMMENDED: Supervisor

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Head/Resident Director

APPROVED: Director/Designee

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Register Here ([https://georgiaorganics.swoogo.com/sowth2025/register?ref=Attendee+Link&c\\_4917474%5B0%5D=27033255](https://georgiaorganics.swoogo.com/sowth2025/register?ref=Attendee+Link&c_4917474%5B0%5D=27033255))



# SOWTH 2025: Connecting the Region for Bolder Collective Impact

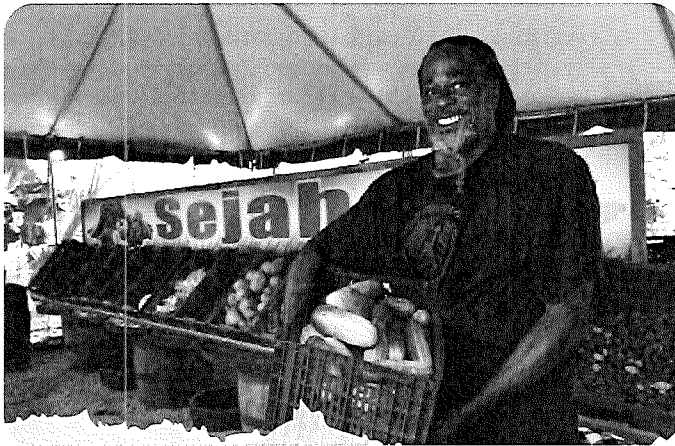
Join us for the inaugural SOWTH: A Regional Small Farms, Big Community Conference, a three-day gathering of over 1,000 farmers and leaders committed to sowing a strong sustainable agricultural movement across the South.

**Location** Georgia World Congress Center  
285 Andrew Young International Blvd. NW  
Atlanta, GA 30313

**Dates** February 4-6, 2025

## Key Features

- Regional networking with attendees and leaders from 13 Southern states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands
- A distinguished keynote and panelists
- Over 100 sessions on a range of practical and innovative topics
- Peer-led workshops and farm tours
- A robust expo



## Conference Themes and Topics

- Connecting the Region for Bolder Collective Impact
- Climate Resilience and Reparative Ag
  - Practical Tools in Livestock and Growing
- Technology and Innovation in Practice
- Advocacy
- Anti-Racism and Equity
- Community Food Solutions
- Procurement
- Management and Marketing for Farms and Agribusinesses

## Keynote Speaker and Panelists

### "Farmer Cee" Stanley

Keynote Speaker

Farmer Clarenda "Farmer Cee" Stanley is a passionate advocate for sustainable agriculture and community empowerment, serving as the founder of Green Heffa Farms in Atlanta, Georgia. With a mission to promote food justice and accessibility, Farmer Cee cultivates a diverse range of organic vegetables and herbs, utilizing regenerative farming practices that respect the land and its ecosystems. She is dedicated to educating her



**Sue Beckwith**

**Panelist**

Sue Beckwith is the executive director of the Texas Center for Local Food, an organization focused on strengthening local food systems and supporting small farmers across Texas. With a deep commitment to sustainable agriculture, Beckwith has been a leader in developing innovative programs that connect farmers with markets, foster food education, and promote farm-to-school initiatives. Her work emphasizes the importance of local food in creating resilient economies and healthy communities. Through the Texas Center for Local Food, Beckwith advocates for policies that biodiversity and supporting small-scale farmers, sustainable practices, and food access for all Texans, working to build a more equitable and sustainable food system across the state.

community about the importance of local food systems and works tirelessly support food sovereignty initiatives, particularly within marginalized communities. Through workshops, farm tours, and collaborations, Farmer Cee inspires others to connect with the earth and embrace the transformative power of growing their own food.



**Tomika Bell**

**Panelist**

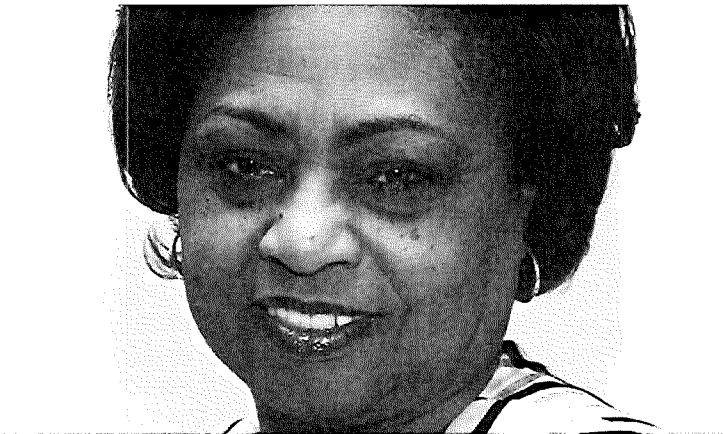
Tomika Bell is Executive Director for Choctaw Fresh Produce serving as an Indigenous food sovereignty activist from Choctaw, MS. Tomika is deeply committed to revitalizing traditional food systems and promoting the health and well-being of Native communities. As a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Nation, Bell works to preserve and share ancestral agricultural practices, emphasizing the importance of native seeds, land stewardship, and sustainable farming methods. She has been a strong advocate for Indigenous land rights and the reclamation of food traditions that nourish both body and spirit. Through her activism, educational initiatives, and community organizing, Bell aims to strengthen food sovereignty in Indigenous communities, addressing issues of food access, environmental sustainability, and cultural preservation. Her work inspires efforts to reconnect Indigenous people with their traditional foods and land.



## Diana Garcia-Padilla

### Panelist

Diana Garcia-Padilla is the executive director of Holistic Organic Practical Education (HOPE) for Small Farm Sustainability, an organization dedicated to empowering communities through sustainable agriculture, food sovereignty and environmental education. With a background in organic farming and community development, Garcia-Padilla has been instrumental in creating programs that focus on hands-on agricultural education, particularly for underserved communities. Under her leadership, HOPE promotes holistic practices in organic farming, health, and nutrition, while also addressing issues of food access and environmental stewardship. Passionate about building resilient food systems, Garcia-Padilla works to connect people with the land, fostering self-reliance, sustainability, and community well-being.



## Mrs. Shirley Sherrod

### Panelist

Shirley Sherrod is a prominent civil rights leader and advocate for Black farmers, known for her work championing land rights and economic justice in rural Georgia. As a co-founder of New Communities, Inc., the first community land trust in the U.S., she played a pivotal role in organizing Black farmers to secure and sustain land ownership during a time of systemic discrimination. Sherrod's decades-long commitment to social justice led her to serve as Georgia State Director of Rural Development for the USDA, where she worked to address historic inequities in federal agricultural programs. Despite facing political challenges, Sherrod remains a dedicated voice for Black landowners, using her platform to fight for racial equity, agricultural sustainability, and the empowerment of rural communities.

## Leni Sorensen

### Panelist

Leni Sorensen is a renowned food historian, chef, and educator specializing in African American foodways and Southern culinary traditions. With a deep knowledge of historical food practices, particularly those of enslaved people and free Black communities, she brings an insightful perspective to the history of American cuisine. Sorensen has worked extensively to document and share the contributions of Black women to the culinary arts, focusing on heirloom recipes, gardening, and food preservation techniques. Her work, including teaching and writing, highlights the resilience and ingenuity of African American cooks throughout history. She has served as a consultant for numerous historical and food projects, including at Monticello, and



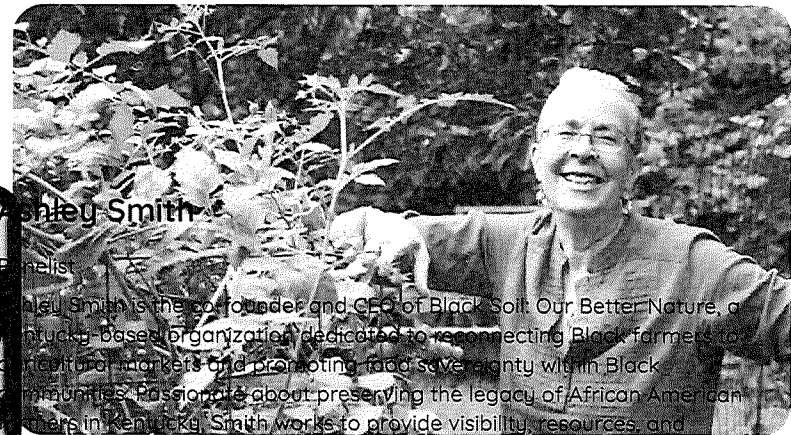
continues to inspire conversations around the intersection of food, culture, and history.



**Ashley Smith**

Panelist

Ashley Smith is the co-founder and CEO of Black Soil: Our Better Nature, a Kentucky-based organization dedicated to reconnecting Black farmers to agricultural markets and promoting food sovereignty within Black communities. Passionate about preserving the legacy of African-American farmers in Kentucky, Smith works to provide visibility, resources, and economic opportunities for Black-owned farms. Through educational programs, community partnerships, and direct support to farmers, Black Soil helps bridge the gap between Black farmers and local consumers, fostering a stronger local food economy. Smith's leadership has been instrumental in creating pathways for equitable land access, sustainability, and the celebration of African American agricultural heritage in the region.



## Ira Wallace

Panelist

Ira Wallace is a celebrated seed saver, organic grower, and cofounder of Acorn Community, home of Southern Exposure Seed Exchange, a cooperative that specializes in heirloom and open-pollinated seeds. With a lifelong passion for preserving biodiversity and supporting small-scale sustainable agriculture, Wallace has been at the forefront of the seed-saving movement in the Southeastern U.S. Her work focuses on providing access to seeds that are well-suited to the region's unique climate, helping farmers and gardeners grow resilient, regionally adapted crops. A prolific author and educator, she advocates for seed sovereignty and the importance of heirloom varieties in preserving cultural and agricultural heritage. Through her leadership at Southern Exposure Seed Exchange, Wallace has empowered countless individuals and communities to grow their own food while protecting seed diversity for future generations.





## Farm Tours

Learn about cooperative farm ownership, scaling your farm for wholesaling, and best practices for food-safety and post-harvest processes.

### Fort Valley State University

Learn about perennial fruit production, livestock production, and GAP certification.

### Patchwork City Farms

Learn about maximizing production in a small farm space, growing creatively to increase output, and Certified Naturally Grown production practices.

### Snapfinger Farm

Learn about scaling up your farm production, wholesale production, and conducting a crop cost analysis.

### Global Growers Network

Learn about cooperative infrastructure, models for equipment sharing and co-farming, and accessing land and capital.



### **Grow Where You Are**

Learn about land use agreements, transitioning from urban grower to rural farmer, labor management, and content creation for marketing.

### **Rodgers Greens and Roots**

Learn about pasture-raised hogs, incorporating a full-farm fertility cycle, and transitioning from vegetable to hog production.

### **Decimal Place Farm**

Learn about goat cheese production, dairy goat and pasture management, and rotational grazing practices.

### **High Hog Farm**

Learn about cultivating fibers and natural dyes, heritage breeds of livestock, and making value-added products.

### **Chattahoochee Queen / Floribunda Flower Farm**

Learn about flower production practices, soil fertility, selecting flower cultivars suited for the Southeast, and working with beneficial insects.

More Farm Tour Info  
(<https://georgiaorganics.swoogo.com/SOWTH2025/farmtours>)

# Schedule At-A-Glance

Feb 4, 2025

Feb 5, 2025

Feb 6, 2025



## Day 1:

### Tuesday, February 4

- 9:00 AM: Exhibitor Load-In at Georgia World Congress Center
- 9:00 AM: Farm Tours begin
- 12:30 PM: Lunch Break
- 2:30 PM: Workshops (Various Locations)
- 5:30 PM: Workshops Conclude

Full Schedule - Coming Soon

## Frequently Asked Questions

Find answers to common questions about the conference, registration, and more.

— What are the dates of SOWTH 2025?

SOWTH 2025 will be held from February 4-6, 2025, in Atlanta, Georgia.

✓ Where will the activities take place?

✓ How do I register for the conference?

✓ Can I register on-site?

✓ Are there scholarships available?

✓ How can I volunteer for the conference?

✓ Can I present at the conference?

✓ Can my business or organization sponsor or exhibit at the conference?

✓ Will the conference sessions be recorded?

✓ What should I bring to SOWTH?

✓ Is SOWTH a recurring conference?

**Photo Credits:** Jason Pitre, Bayou Rosa Oysters, Member of the United Houma Nation, Leeville, LA. Photo by Anthony Pavkovich with Intertribal Agriculture Council. Sejah Farm Farmers Market, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Photo by DaraMonifah® Cooper, Southern SARE. Photo courtesy of Farmer Cee Stanley. Photo courtesy of Sue Beckwith. Photo courtesy of Tamika Bell. Photo courtesy of Diana Padilla. Photo courtesy of The Sherrad Institute. Photo courtesy of Indigo Road. Photo courtesy of Black Soil KY. Photo courtesy of Ira Wallace. Photo courtesy of Love Is Love Cooperative Farm. Photo courtesy of High Hog Farm.

## Quick Links

(<https://sowth.org/sowth-2025/>)

Sponsors & Exhibitors

More About SOWTH

Join Us

## Have Questions?

Email us at [communications@sowth.org](mailto:communications@sowth.org)  
(<mailto:communications@sowth.org>)

Contact Us  
(<https://sowth.org/contact-us/>)

Sign-up for SOWTH  
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(<https://sowth.org>)



## **SARE Scholarship Travel Guidelines**

The following travel guidelines are intended to assist SARE scholarship recipients as they collect their documentation for travel reimbursement. These guidelines reflect Federal and University of Georgia travel policies for 2024.

Southern SARE offers funds for travel for scholarship recipients to conferences, workshops and other events. Travel funds can be appropriated in one of two ways:

- Working with individuals directly in providing funds to support travel.
- Appointing designated organizers to recruit participants, be a point of contact for SSARE, or work with local vendors such as bus/van charter companies for farm tours.

**All original receipts submitted must be in the name of the traveler. No reimbursement for expenses associated with another person will be paid. It is recommended that receipts be taped to an 8.5 X 11 sheet of paper to prevent loss.**

**Travel expenditures must be filed for reimbursement within 20 days of the completion of the travel event.**

### **Hotel**

Participants may be reimbursed for their lodging. However, depending on the method of allocation used, hotel accommodations may be limited or partially reimbursed. Hotel accommodations cannot be directly paid by Southern SARE nor will Southern SARE make the reservations for the participants. It is highly recommended participants make reservations at host or referred hotels to obtain the discounted room rate. If the participant chooses to make reservations at non-referred hotels, the lower room rate will prevail. Southern SARE does not reimburse for miscellaneous charges. **Original receipts in the traveler's name is required.**

**NOTE: Per University of Georgia policy, only hotels/motels are allowable lodging establishments for reimbursement. Businesses, such as Airbnb, Vrbo, HomeAway, condos/townhomes, or similar vacation rentals are not allowable lodging services. All travelers need**

**to be aware of this State of Georgia policy and that neither UGA nor USG has the authority to grant exceptions. For UGA to reimburse lodging expenses, travelers must stay at a hotel or motel.**

In the case where one organizer or participant pays the lodging for a group of participants, a list of participants and their addresses will be necessary for reimbursement of the lodging. The hotel bill/invoice should be in detail with individual names matching the list provided by the organizer. If double occupancy rooms are used both names must appear on the invoice.

## **Event Registration**

There are two options when paying SARE-related event registrations:

- The participant pays for the registration and is reimbursed for the expense. If registration is paid by the participant, original registration receipts must be submitted to SARE for reimbursement.
- The registration is directly pre-paid by SARE. If an individual participant wishes for SARE to pay the registration directly, all necessary paperwork must be submitted to SARE in a timely fashion to allow time for processing. Registration forms must be legible, preferably typed and submitted to Kayla Martin at [kayla.martin2@uga.edu](mailto:kayla.martin2@uga.edu).

For organizers handling participant registrations, all registration forms must be legible, and preferably typed with names, addresses and contact information of each participant. This also applies to registration associated with farm tours. Organizers should collect the registration forms and submit them as a set. No individual registration forms are accepted. Send the registration forms to Kayla Martin at [kayla.martin2@uga.edu](mailto:kayla.martin2@uga.edu).

**Deadlines for direct payment of registration will be set at the time of the sponsorship or release of the scholarship. This deadline will be strictly followed in order to have plenty of time to process the paperwork. Those participants that fail to provide the necessary information for prepayment of registration will have to pay registration and tour fees at their own expense and seek reimbursement.**

## **Meals**

Meals are not included in Travel Scholarship reimbursements unless pre-approved by Southern SARE. If meal expenses have been pre-approved for travel, refer to the following guidelines:

Government per diem rates apply to meals (<http://www.gsa.gov/perdiem>). While on travel status, SARE will reimburse up to the per diem for breakfast, lunch and dinner per day in the city and state the meeting is being held.



- No per diem rate will be reimbursed for meals that are part of the event.
- Only 75 percent of the per diem rate will be reimbursed on the day of departure and the day of return (first and last days). To calculate your 75 percent rate, multiply the per diem rate by 0.75.
- Alcohol is not reimbursable.
- Catered meals are not reimbursable.
- Subtract the incidentals from the per diem rates. Incidentals are not reimbursable.

Receipts are not required to be reimbursed for meal per diems with a few notable exceptions:

- Reimbursing group meals is not allowed. In cases where the server has placed the entire table order on one ticket, separate tickets must be requested to obtain a receipt for reimbursement.
- If a meal is paid by you as part of a planned meeting function (all go to lunch and pay separate), you will be reimbursed for the actual amount of your receipt.

Government GSA meal per diem rates do not apply when traveling within Georgia. Contact Kayla Martin at [kayla.martin2@uga.edu](mailto:kayla.martin2@uga.edu) for current Georgia meal per diem rates.