

AGRICULTURE SUMMIT AGENDA

Congressman Glenn 'GT' Thompson welcomes you to the 2nd annual
Agriculture Summit

Monday, August 10, 2020 @ 10:00 AM



Round table discussion moderated by **Congressman Glenn 'GT' Thompson (PA-15)** featuring special guests...

- **USDA Under Secretary Bill Northey**
- **Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding**
- **Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Rick Ebert**

SUMMIT AGENDA

10:00 AM - Introduction by Mount Aloysius President John McKeegan

10:05 AM - Opening remarks from Congressman Glenn 'GT' Thompson, Bill Northey, Russell Redding, and Rick Ebert

10:20 AM - Question and answer period

11:20 AM - Closing remarks

11:30 AM - Adjourn



CONGRESSMAN GLENN 'GT' THOMPSON

A life-long resident of Howard Township, Centre County, Pa., Congressman Glenn 'GT' Thompson represents Pennsylvania's Fifteenth District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Prior to being elected to Pennsylvania's geographically largest congressional district, GT spent 28 years as a therapist, rehabilitation services manager and a licensed nursing home administrator.

Through his professional experiences, GT has touched the lives of thousands of individuals facing life-altering conditions. As a result, he has learned firsthand the importance of access to quality healthcare and has become a strong advocate for increased access, affordability, quality of care, and patient choice.

A 30+ year veteran of the Juniata Valley Boy Scout Council, GT has served as Scoutmaster, Council executive board member, and Council president. He has enriched the lives of youth throughout Central Pennsylvania. Among just 2,000 presented since 1969, GT received the National Distinguished Eagle Scout Award in 2012.

GT is also a former member of the Bald Eagle Area School Board, past vice-chair of the Private Industry Council of the Central Corridor and a former Workforce Investment Board member. Because of these experiences, he was appointed to the House Committee on Education & Workforce in 2008. Rep. Thompson is also serving in his fifth term as Co-Chairman of the bipartisan Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus. In the 115th Congress, Thompson introduced the Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act that passed the House and Senate unanimously and was signed into law by President Donald Trump.

A community leader and a volunteer firefighter with over three decades of service, GT is acutely aware of the challenges facing Pennsylvania communities. As a member of the Agriculture, and Education & Labor committees, GT is in a unique position to bring his expertise and knowledge to bear on the issues facing rural businesses, communities, and families, in order to improve the lives of the citizens of the Fifteenth District. In the 115th Congress, GT served as Vice Chairman of the Agriculture Committee and as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Nutrition.

GT has been the No. 1 speaker on the House Floor for the past five years. He views this as a responsibility to be a strong voice for the citizens of the Fifteenth District and an opportunity to influence the Washington legislative agenda.

GT is a proud graduate of Penn State and Temple Universities, where he earned a B.S. and a Master of Education, respectively. He and his wife, Penny Ammerman-Thompson, have three adult sons, Parker, Logan, and Kale. GT and Penny reside in Howard Township, Pa.



BILL NORTHEY, USDA UNDER SECRETARY

Bill Northey was confirmed as Under Secretary for USDA's Farm Production and Conservation Mission Area on February 27, 2018. Previous to leading the Farm Programs and Conservation Mission Area overseeing the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Risk Management Agency and the Farm Service Agency, Mr. Northey served as the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture from 2006 to 2018.

A fourth-generation farmer, Mr. Northey's experience and depth of knowledge also brought him to serve as a commissioner of the Dickinson County Soil and Water Conservation District, and president and chairman of the National Corn Growers Association. He was also president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture from September 2011 through September 2012, while serving as Iowa Secretary of Agriculture.

Mr. Northey has a bachelor's degree in Agriculture Business from Iowa State University and an MBA from Southwest Minnesota State University.



RUSSEL REDDING, PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SECRETARY

Governor Tom Wolf nominated Russell C. Redding to serve as the 26th Secretary of Agriculture for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in January 2015, and was confirmed by the Senate on May 14, 2015. Redding is the former dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at Delaware Valley College.

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.

He is a graduate of Penn State, having earned his B.S. in Agriculture Education and M.S. in Agriculture and Extension Education. In addition, he is a graduate of the Agribusiness Executive program.

A native of Pennsylvania, Redding has an innate understanding of production agriculture, stemming from his youth on his family's dairy farm and his time as a dairy farm operator. He currently serves as Chair of the USDA Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture.

Russell, his wife Nina and sons Garrison and Elliot reside in the Gettysburg area, where the family is active in the community, their church and the local 4-H Club.



RICK EBERT, PENNSYLVANIA FARM BUREAU PRESIDENT

Rick Ebert has been serving as Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's eighth President since November 2014. In that role, he also chairs the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation, a charitable organization supported by Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

Ebert operates Ebert Family Farms in Blairsville, Westmoreland County. The farm's 80 registered Holsteins are milked twice daily and the milk is shipped to Pittsburgh-based Turner Dairies.

The family also raises 100 breeding ewes for wool and meat, grows vegetables under a high-tunnel greenhouse to supply local restaurants, and produces nearly 300 acres of crops, including alfalfa, corn, soybeans and sorghum. Ebert is working to bring his sons into the farm operation.

He was elected to the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors in January 2016 to represent the Northeast Region and was named a member of the Executive Committee in January 2020. He was appointed to serve on the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture in March 2020. Ebert served on AFBF's Trade Advisory Committee from 2016 to 2020. In addition, he is a member of the Board Council at Nationwide, a Fortune 100 insurance and financial services company.

Ebert has given years of service to Farm Bureau at the state and local level. Prior to his election as President, he served as Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Vice President for 10 years and represented District 16 on PFB's State Board of Directors from 1996 to 2004. He was also president of Westmoreland County Farm Bureau and vice chair of PFB's Young Farmer and Rancher Committee (now Young Ag Professionals). Ebert also led PFB's Dairy State Committee and presented testimony before the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board on behalf of dairy farmers across the state.

In 2009, Ebert received the Mid-Atlantic "Master Farmer" Award, in recognition of his farm success and civic engagement.

In 2008, Ebert was honored with the Charles E. Cowan Memorial Award, from the Professional Dairy Manager of Pennsylvania. The award is given in recognition to a farmer who has shown superior management on their farm, and outstanding leadership within the dairy industry.

Ebert was named 2007 Country Folks Keystone Farm Show "Farmer of the Year." He was recognized for his involvement and accomplishments in the dairy industry and his involvement in social and agricultural organizations, such as Farm Bureau.

The farm's conservation work was recognized with the Westmoreland County Conservation Award in 1983. In his Community, Ebert serves as a 4-H leader, superintendent for the Westmoreland County Fair Association and on the St. James Catholic Church Pastoral Council.

He received his Bachelor's Degree in Dairy Science from Penn State.

He and his wife, Diane, have four children and five grandchildren. He is a member of the St. James Catholic Church of New Alexandria.