

Assistance to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Building a Framework for Addressing PFAS on Agricultural Land Meeting 3 (Hybrid) – April 3, 2025

Public Agenda



NATIONAL ACADEMIES KECK CENTER 500 5TH STREET NW ROOM 101

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025 (ET)

Open session

10:00 Welcome

Jim Ippolito, The Ohio State University

10:05 Conversation with the Study Sponsor, U.S. Department of Agriculture– Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Follow-up items from last discussion
 Bill Reck, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activity
 Gene Kim, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- NRCS-supported PFAS Science Charlotte Kirk Baer, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- PFAS and Hazardous Substances in Agriculture, PFAS Definition Kale Horton, Farm Service Agency (remote)
- National Environmental Policy Act
 Barbara (Barbie) Prine, Natural Resources Conservation Service

11:00 End Open Session

SPEAKER BIOS

KALE HORTON, USDA-FSA

Kale Horton is the Hazardous Waste Program Manager for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA). He is responsible for investigation and remediation of former USDA Commodity Credit Corporation grain storage facilities across the Midwest. Prior to beginning this role in 2020, Kale was project manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He has also served as a natural resources specialist for the U.S. Forest Service and the Office of Surface Mining for the U.S. Department of the Interior. Kale holds a B.S. in Natural Resources and Conservation and a M.S. in Environmental Science from Missouri State University and a M.S. in engineering management from the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

GENE KIM, USDA-NRCS

Gene Kim is the National Discipline Lead for Water Quality and Aquatic Ecology within the Science and Technology Division of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). He leads the development and implementation of conservation practices and policies aimed at protecting and improving water quality and aquatic ecosystems on agricultural lands and provides technical expertise and guidance to NRCS staff at the state and regional levels on matters related to water quality and aquatic ecology. He was previously the National Program Leader for Aquaculture with USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Program Director for Aquaculture with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Gene holds bachelor's degrees in Zoology and Philosophy from Miami University, a M.S. in Fisheries Ecology from Auburn University, and a Ph.D. in Aquatic Ecology and Toxicology from the Ohio State University.

CHARLOTTE KIRK BAER, USDA-NRCS

Charlotte Kirk Baer is the National Discipline Lead for Animal Husbandry with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Prior to joining NRCS, she was managing director of the Food and Environment Program of the Union of Concerned Scientists where she provided strategic leadership for science analyses, outreach, and advocacy. Her background encompasses over 20 years of senior-level management of agricultural research, education, and extension programs. During her previous 14-year tenure with USDA, Charlotte worked as National Program Leader at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture directing federal grant-making and in the Office of the Under Secretary and Chief Scientist where she helped implement USDA's science agenda. Prior to USDA, Charlotte spent 10 years with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine as director of the Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources where she guided development of recommendations and standards used in agricultural production, regulation, and research throughout the world. Charlotte holds a master's degree in Nutritional Sciences from the University of Maryland. She has been honored as a Graduate of Distinction and Distinguished Alumnus of Oklahoma State University for her exceptional professional contributions and her outstanding service to agriculture.

BARBIE PRINE, USDA-NRCS

Barbie Prine joined the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in January 2025. She has over 20 years of years of professional experience in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), supporting federal natural resource programs through the development and implementation of environmental policy relating to planning, acquisition and program management, and serves as the NRCS National Environmental Compliance expert providing leadership and coordination in environmental affairs for the NRCS resource planning activities. Prior to joining NRCS, she held the Environmental Planning and Conservation Branch, Deputy Branch Head position under the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV). She was previously the NEPA Supervisor and Senior Environmental Planner at Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific. She graduated from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign with a M.S. in Environmental-Agricultural Education in 2003 and a B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences in 2002.

BILL RECK, USDA-NRCS

Bill Reck, P.E., is the National Environmental Engineer at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA–NRCS). Bill has over 30 years of experience in hydrology and hydraulic engineering, wetland restoration and treatment, and design and evaluation of conservation practices as well as extensive experience in animal waste management structural design and evaluation of existing structures. Bill started his career in Florida after having received his bachelor and master of engineering degrees in Agricultural Engineering at the University of Florida. Bill has worked on projects such as Everglades restoration, design of livestock and poultry waste management systems including innovative technologies and waste to energy projects, evaluation of new technologies for inclusion in NRCS standards, and development of software design aids. Currently, Bill has national responsibility for NRCS's 20 environmental engineering conservation practice standards, which include waste management, mortality management, agrichemical handling facilities, and on-farm secondary containment of petroleum products.