



## **2025 Governor's Summit on Rural Prosperity**

### **Tuesday, October 28: Welcome Reception**

5:30pm – 7:30pm

***Meadow Hall at Meadow Event Park***  
*13191 Dawn Blvd, Doswell, VA 23047*

*Speakers:*

- Scott Sink, President, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation
- Delegate Bobby Orrock
- Delegate Hillary Pugh Kent

### **Wednesday, October 29: Governor's Summit on Rural Prosperity**

7:30am – 8:30am

#### **Exhibits & Registration Open**

*Continental Breakfast provided in Hanover County Complex Building (7516 County Complex Road, Hanover, VA 23069)*

8:30am

***2025 Governor's Summit on Rural Prosperity officially begins***

#### **Welcome Remarks**

- Senator Creigh Deeds, Chair, Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. Center for Rural Virginia
- Kristie Proctor, Executive Director, The Virginia Rural Center

***Keynote Speaker: Governor Glenn Youngkin***

#### **“Welcome to Hanover!” Panel**

*Panelists will warmly welcome attendees to Hanover County, highlighting the community's unique charm, notable features, and what makes it such a special place to live, work, and visit.*

*Moderator:*

- Kristie Proctor, Executive Director, The Virginia Rural Center

Panelists:

- Senator Ryan McDougle
- Senator Luther Cifers
- Delegate Scott Wyatt
- Delegate Buddy Fowler
- John Budeksy, Hanover County Administrator
- Michael Herzberg, Chair, Hanover County Board of Supervisors

**Sponsor Spotlight: Virginia Housing**

Chris McNamara, Strategic Housing Officer-Economic Development

10:00am – 10:30am

**Exhibits Open in Hanover County Complex Auditorium**

10:30am – 11:30am

Breakout Panel Sessions

**Breakout Session #1**

**Celebrating 250 years of America in Virginia**

*Discussion of the Virginia 250 Commission, the role that Hanover played in the American Revolution, and the significance to rural Virginia and beyond.*

Speakers include:

- Introduction by: Mackenzie Babichenko, Hanover Commonwealth Attorney
- Moderator: Cheryl Wilson, Executive Director, Virginia 250

Panelists:

- Aimee Guidera, Virginia's Secretary of Education
- Senator Ryan McDougle
- Staci Martin, Grants Director, Virginia Tourism Corporation
- Brandon Turner, Director, Hanover Economic Development

**Breakout Session #2**

**Innovations and Investment - Building Vibrant Rural Economies**

*This panel will offer an overview and discussion of trends in rural economic development. Panelists will highlight key considerations for economic development.*

Speakers include:

- Introduction by: Delegate Eric Phillips
- Moderator: Senator Emily Jordan, Vice Chair of the Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. Center for Rural Virginia

Panelists:

- Juan Pablo Segura, Virginia's Secretary of Commerce and Trade
- Jason El Koubi, President and CEO at the Virginia Economic Development Partnership
- John Budesky, Hanover County Administrator

11:30am-11:45am

**Walk to Hanover Tavern**

11:45am- 12:45pm

**Lunch at Hanover Tavern**

12:45pm – 1:00pm

**Walk to Breakout Sessions**

1:00pm – 2:00pm

**Breakout Session #3**

**Brick by Brick: Revitalizing Historic Buildings into Rural Assets**

*The session will explore how communities across Virginia are preserving and repurposing historic structures to drive economic development and community revitalization in rural areas*

Speakers include:

- Introduction: Hanover Board of Supervisors Chairman, Michael Herzberg
- Moderator: Secretary Stefanie Taillon, Secretary of Natural & Historic Resources

Panelists:

- Rick Barker, President & CEO, Supply Resources
- Luke Allison, Chief Advancement Officer, MOVA Technologies
- Julie Langan, Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- Faye Prichard, Hanover County Supervisor, Ashland Magisterial District

**Breakout Session #4**

**Mapping Rural Virginia: Turning Data into Rural Progress**

*This session will provide a comprehensive look at shifting demographic trends in rural Virginia and housing demand across*

*the Commonwealth. In addition, this panel will dive into the Rural Virginia Opportunity Dashboard, the Virginia Rural Center's new tool that maps critical data such as broadband access, prime farmland, water, and sewer availability to inform local rural leaders.*

*Speakers Include:*

Introduction: Senator Barbara Favola

Moderator: Delegate Nadarius Clark

*Panelists:*

- Chandler Vaughan, Program Developer, Virginia Rural Center
- Hamilton Lombard, the Estimates Program Manager for the Demographics Research Group at the UVA Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

2:15-2:45pm

**Panel: The Next Generation of Industry in Rural Communities**

*This discussion will explore how innovation, workforce development, and strategic investment are shaping the next generation of industries in rural Virginia.*

*Panelists:*

- Secretary Matthew Lohr, Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry
- Secretary Bryan Slater, Secretary of Labor

2:45pm

**Sponsor Spotlight: Dominion Energy**

Justin Pope, External Affairs, Dominion Energy

2:50- 3:20pm

**Virginia Rural Leadership Institute Class of 2025 Cohort Presentation**

Introduction Provided by Bryan David, Chair, Council for Rural Virginia and Lindsey Watson, Board Member, Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. Center for Rural Virginia

3:20- 3:30pm

**Closing Remarks & Governor's Summit on Rural Prosperity Concludes**