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## **Rural Summit to Bring Together Policymakers, Rural Residents USDA Under Secretary Dallas Tonsager to Keynote**

Minneapolis – USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development Dallas Tonsager and other national, state and local-level policymakers will join rural residents at the Midwest Rural Assembly in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, August 10-11.

The Assembly will focus on rural economic and community development issues and opportunities, and will give rural residents a chance to speak directly with policymakers about rural policy priorities.

“This is a great opportunity for rural residents throughout the Midwest to connect with each other, with their elected officials, and make their voices heard,” said Jim Kleinschmit, director of the Rural Communities program at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP).

IATP, the Rural Learning Center in Howard, South Dakota, and more than 20 other organizations from around the Midwest are putting on this two-day event, which will also feature Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, Nebraska State Rural Development Director Maxine Moul, Nominated South Dakota State Rural Development Director Elsie Meeks, and Minnesota State Rural Director Colleen Landkamer.

Plenary panels and participatory sessions will focus on topics such as rural health care and education, sustainable working landscapes, rural technology access and leadership development.

Registration for the event includes locally sourced meals and admission to all keynote and plenary sessions.

An agenda for the event and registration information can be found at:  
[www.midwestruralassembly.org](http://www.midwestruralassembly.org)

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