

# Rural Business-Cooperative Service Informational Webinars

September is “Rural Development Month” at the Department of Agriculture (USDA), and USDA’s Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) is holding a series of informational webinars to share success stories and best practices on how customers and partner organizations have used RBS programs and resources to support businesses in rural and Tribal communities. Customers and stakeholders interested in learning more about RBS programs—and how customers have used our financing tools to support entrepreneurship—are encouraged to participate in this opportunity to engage with diverse partner organizations, ask questions, and learn more. For additional information, or to request special accommodations, please contact [rdced@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:rdced@wdc.usda.gov).

**Sept. 13, 2016**

**2-3:30 pm EST**

## **Asian-American/Pacific Islanders Business Development Success Stories**

**Facilitator:** Tim O’Connell, RBS Community Economic Development

**Speaker:** Tin Myaing Thein, Ph.D., Pacific Gateway Center

**Webinar/Audio:** <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/b5htudhc9x51&eom>

**Sept. 14, 2016**

**2-3:30 pm EST**

## **Nature + Commerce + Energy: Recreational Business Development Success Stories**

**Facilitator:** Angela Callie, RBS Community Economic Development

**Speaker:** Rob Riley, Northern Forest Center

**Webinar/Audio:** <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/5dapkg6w1z1p&eom>

**Sept. 15, 2016**

**2-3:30 pm EST**

## **El Sueño de Ser Dueño de un Negocio - The Dream to be a Business Owner**

**Facilitator:** Margaret Bau, RBS Cooperative Programs

**Speakers:** John Flory and Yolanda Cotterall, Latino Economic Development Center; Reggie Knoxx and Brett Malone, California FarmLink

**Webinar/Audio:** <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/3bxtviuytrzo&eom>

**Sept. 16, 2016**

**2-3:30 pm EST**

## **USDA Rural Development Programs for Native American Entrepreneurs**

**Facilitator:** Tedd Buelow, USDA Rural Development

**Speakers:** Tedd Buelow, USDA Rural Development, Bill Hamilton, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Small Business Development Services

**Webinar/Audio:** <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/fjlp2av6nfs&eom>

**Sept. 20, 2016**

**2-3:30 pm EST**

## **Turning a National Guard Armory Into a Business Center**

**Facilitator:** Greg Dale, RBS Community Economic Development

**Speaker:** Brenda Tuck, Marengo County Economic Development Authority

**Webinar/Audio:** <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/268jju8giif9&eom>

# Rural Business-Cooperative Service Informational Webinars

**Sept. 22, 2016**  
**2-3:30 pm EST**

## **Stronger Economies Together: Regional Planning & Business Development Success Stories**

**Facilitator:** Hiwot Gebremariam, RBS Community Economic Development

**Speakers:** Larry Wright, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension;  
Janice Stroud-Bickes, USDA Rural Development in Virginia, Martha Walker, Virginia Tech University  
Cooperative Extension; Peggy Schlechter, South Dakota State University;  
Paul Johnson, Jill Rees, USDA Rural Development in Oregon, Amanda Hoey, Mid-Columbia Economic  
Development District (*tentative*)

**Webinar/Audio:** <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/53wa6i1fghb4&eom>

**Sept. 27, 2016**  
**1-2:30 pm EST**

## **Cooperatives as a Tool for Community Solutions**

**Facilitator:** Margaret Bau, USDA Rural Development, *Co-op Basics*

**Speaker:**

*Converting existing businesses to employee ownership*, Rob Brown,  
Cooperative Development Institute, Maine

*Turning trailer parks into resident owned communities*, Diane Gasaway,  
Northwest Cooperative Development Center, Washington:

*From farmworkers to farm owners*, John Flory,  
Latino Economic Development Center, Minnesota

*Home care agencies as worker co-ops*, Deborah Craig,  
Northwest Cooperative Development Center, Washington

*When the last grocery store closes*, Marnie Thompson,  
Fund 4 Democratic Communities, North Carolina

**Webinar/Audio:** <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/7y7n5ugyh3ka&eom>

**Sept. 29, 2016**  
**2-2:30 pm EST**

## **Local Food Financing and Cooperative Business Models**

**Speaker & Facilitator:** Jim Barham, USDA Rural Development

**Speaker:** Margaret Bau, USDA Rural Development

**Webinar/Audio:** <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/2asq8uq2rmsd&eom>