

Emerging Farmers Working Group

Nov. 12, 2021 Meeting, 1pm – 3pm

Patrice Bailey: Call to Order.

- *Present MDA Members:* Patrice Bailey, Lillian Otieno, Tamara Mansun, Facilitator; Michael Birchard with Mitchell Hamline School of Law.
- *Emerging Farmer Members:* Hannah Bernhardt, Naima Dhore, Rebecca Dosh, Janssen Hang, Kyle Huneke, Bridget Guiza, Mark Gutierrez, Murugi Mutiga-Waititu, Kastone Albert Nyamari, Emily Reno, Erika Resendiz Alonso, Michael Walgrave, Kaitlyn Walsh.
- Absent: Ben Dossman, Mohamed Hassan, Denise King, David Manuel, Hindolo Pokawa, Shelly Woods

Michael Birchard: Special Welcome to MDA Commissioner Thom Peterson and Lillian Otieno, Emerging Farmer Engagement Coordinator, MDA

Anisa Hajimumin, Assistant Commissioner for Immigrant & Refugee Affairs, DEED (Dept. of Employment and Economic Development) Anisa.Hajimumin@state.mn.us

- AC Hajimumin is tasked with creating a path for immigrants and refugees to succeed in MN by examining state systems and policies that may be slowing or preventing immigrants and refugees from finding meaningful employment and access to land for agriculture use.
- The gainful employment and success of MN immigrants and refugees will help in our economic recovery and DEED State data clearly shows the impact of immigrant's contributions to MN economy.
- Anisa writes a monthly Blog: DEED Developments October 15 post: [Housing Programs and Domestic Violence Awareness Month Were Focus of October's Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Forum \(mn.gov\)](#) A Monthly Forum: Voices Across MN. Email Anisa for Blog and meeting information.

Peder Kjeseth: Director of Government Relations at MDA

- Peder provided an overview of his role as an essential link between MDA and state legislature, working with the Governor's office, legislators, and department staff, developing and submitting proposals for policy and funding.
- Please bring your policy and funding ideas / suggestions forward to this group and to Peder to be considered in MDA budget proposals. To view the Governor's budget recommendations, visit:
- [Governor's Budget Recommendations - LP \[Nov 30\] / Minnesota Management and Budget \(MMB\) \(mn.gov\)](#)

Lillian Otieno: Emerging Farmer Outreach & Engagement Coordinator, Commissioner's Office.

- Lillian is the Coordinator for MDA's newly established Emerging Farmers Office (EFO). Approved and funded by the 2020 Legislature and Chaired by Assistant Commissioner Patrice Bailey, this EFO is set up to improve the outreach and service to emerging BIPOC and immigrant farmers, providing information and access to resources to build a successful farm business. Lillian is here to advocate for emerging farmers and wants to "meet you where you are", to listen and learn from you to better inform and assist emerging farmers in addressing equity.
- A power point presentation was shared including the EFO "Vision & Wins" and a 2022-23 Agriculture Budget overview included the topic of expanding meat processing capacity in MN. See related link to St. Cloud Times article in end notes.



Chair Bailey: MN Ag License Plate Proposed Design

ADA : Photo shows two sets of hands, black and white, holding a newly sprouting plant, against a background image of a sunrise low in the sky over a field and a highway. Copy reads: Agriculture For All.

- Patrice Bailey is working with the UMN Extension, FFA and 4H colleagues on this inclusive design and first of its kind: Agriculture related MN State License Plate design. Approval is expected in December with production and availability after January 2022.

EFWG Nov. 12 Meeting links:

- [Emerging Farmers Working Group | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us)
- [MDA Resources for Emerging Farmers | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us)
- [Farm Business Management - Central Lakes College \(clcmn.edu\)](https://clcmn.edu)
- [Open Meeting Law Rules and Requirements / Data Practices Office \(mn.gov\)](https://mn.gov)
- [Data Practices Laws and Rules / Data Practices Office \(mn.gov\)](https://mn.gov)
- [2021 Rural MN Equity Summit \(epaytrak.com\)](https://epaytrak.com)
- [Home | 2021-22 Latino Farmer Conference - Webinar Series \(ncat.org\)](https://ncat.org)
- [New mobile slaughterhouse, emerging farmer office funded for MN ag \(sctimes.com\)](https://sctimes.com)
- [Housing Programs and Domestic Violence Awareness Month Were Focus of October's Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Forum \(mn.gov\)](https://mn.gov)

Contacts:

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- Patrice.bailey@state.mn.us MDA Assistant Commissioner / EFWG Chair
- Anisa.Hajimumin@state.mn.us Assistant Commissioner DEED

Meeting adjourned @ 2:50 pm.

Minutes: Tamara.Mansun@state.mn.us