

MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE Department of Agriculture

MEDIA ADVISORY APRIL 14, 2015 CONTACT: CORINNE GOULD 615-837-5207 OR 615-598-1563 Corinne.Gould@TN.gov

State Officials Join Citizens for Rural Opportunities Roundtable

NASHVILLE – The Tennessee departments of Agriculture, Economic and Community Development and Financial Institutions are hosting a Rural Opportunities Roundtable for farmers, landowners, local extension and county leaders and citizens in East Tennessee.

The meeting will take place April 15 at 10 a.m. EST at the Bush Brothers Plant in Dandridge. The purpose of the roundtable is to explore opportunities for developing the state's rural economy and hear citizen and stakeholder concerns about agriculture and forestry issues.

Agriculture Commissioner Julius Johnson, Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd, Financial Institutions Commissioner Greg Gonzales, Harriet Cannon with USDA Rural Development and other agency representatives will all be on hand to discuss programs and services to support rural economic development. There will also be time for open discussion.

WHO:	State Agriculture, Economic Development and Financial Officials
WHAT:	Rural Opportunities Roundtable
WHEN:	April 14, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. EST
WHERE:	Bush Brothers Plant located at 3901 U.S. Hwy 411 in Dandridge, Tenn.

For more information, contact Ed Harlan, Assistant Commissioner of Market Development at <u>ed.harlan@tn.gov</u> or 615-837-5299.

For more information about the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, visit <u>www.tn.gov/agriculture</u>.

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