



**USDA 2009 Agricultural Outlook Forum
Global Agriculture & Rural America in Transition
February 26-27, 2009**

Plenary Event

Forum Welcome

2009 Agricultural Economic Outlook

2009 Foreign Trade Outlook

Keynote Address

Distinguished Guest Speaker

Plenary Panel: Food & Energy: Expectations & Realities

Moderator: *Sara Wyant, President, Agri-Pulse Communications*

Michael Mack, CEO, Syngenta

Chris Policinski, President and Chief Executive Officer, Land O' Lakes, Inc.

Daniel Yergin, Chairman, Cambridge Energy Research Associates, Inc.

*Catherine Ann Bertini, Professor of Public Administration, Syracuse University;
Senior Fellow, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*

Breakout Sessions

Rural America Track

February 26, 1:45 p.m.

The Effects of “Rural” on Agriculture – The Changing Paradigm

The 2008 Farm Bill pulled back the covers on the traditional Farm Bill process and introduced new interest in a piece of the pie – Rural America. Traditional farm organizations are expanding beyond their farmer membership to carry the torch for rural America.

Moderator: Neil Conklin, President/CEO, Farm Foundation, Oak Brook, Illinois

Funding Rural Development Programs: Past, Present, and Future

A look at the history of funding for Rural Development programs in the past appropriation and Farm Bills and how this may change in the future.

*Fitzhugh Elder, Minority Clerk, United States Senate Committee on Appropriations; Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Alexandria, Virginia*

Are Farmers More Dependent on Rural Communities Than Rural Communities Are Dependant on Farmers?

A report on the recent actions by the American Farm Bureau Federation establishing a Rural Affairs Policy Team will explore the dynamics of farmers and rural communities.

*Bob Stallman, President, American Farm Bureau Federation
Washington, DC*

Rural Development and Funding from a State Perspective: State-Federal Funding Relationships

Speaker looks at moving tax dollars from “agriculture” to “rural.” Funding rural development from a state perspective and states’ relationships with Federal funders.

*Carole Jordan, Director of Agriculture Marketing and Community Development
Topeka, Kansas*

February 26, 3:45 p.m.

Ag & Rural Policy: United States & European Union

From trade talks to renewable fuels standards – the European Union (EU) and the United States do not appear to have commonality, but are they really that far apart? The EU has been moving budget from Pillar I (Direct Farm Payments) to Pillar II (Rural Development). How well is this working and being supported by farmers and rural communities?

*Moderator: Joe Guinan, German Marshall Fund, Economics Officer, German Marshall Fund
Brussels, Belgium*

Speaker & Topic To Be Announced

What Is the Future of Rural and Agricultural Policy in the United States?

*Thomas Dorr, Former Under Secretary for Rural Development, Rural Development, USDA
Washington, DC*

Farmer to Farmer Perspective

*Tom Buis, President, National Farmers Union
Washington, DC*

February 27, 8:00 a.m.

Paying Dividends on Investments in Rural America

*Moderator: Matt Chase, Executive Director, National Association of Development Organizations
Washington, DC*

Measuring the Economic Impact of Federal Dollars on Rural Economies

Developed to measure economic impact, USDA and the University of Missouri teamed up to create a performance measurement tool that can look at the economic data and say where the Government gets it best bang for the buck.

*Thomas Johnson, Program Director, Rural Policy Research Institute, Socio-Economic Benefit Assessment System, University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri*

USDA Rural Development

*Bill Hagy, Administrator, Business Programs, Rural Development, USDA
Washington, DC*

Creating a Model Community in a Regional Environment

Workforce development plays a critical role in attracting and retaining rural workers. A look into local economic development and its ability to feed larger regional economic hubs.

*The Honorable Timothy Penny, Former Member of Congress, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
Owatonna, Minnesota*

Private Investments in Rural America: Is There an Effective Model?

Can a rural community survive without the government? An overview of the very successful Viking Range Corporation in Greenwood, Missouri, and their experience in recruiting skilled workers and creating economic development in a rural region.

*Bill Crump, Director of Government Relations, Viking Range Corporation,
Greenwood, Missouri*

February 27, 10:00 a.m.

Sustainable Agriculture: SARE's 20 Years of Partnerships and Progress

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE): 20 Years of Practical Innovations

Through more than 3,700 competitive grants awarded over the past 20 years, SARE has made a real difference to the lives of farmers, ranchers, and to the agricultural community nationwide. This session will present highlights of SARE's experience, and a vision for the next 20 years from farmers and others who have participated and benefitted from the program.

***Moderator: Jill S. Auburn, SARE Director; Sustainable Agriculture, Economic and Community Systems Unit; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA
Washington, DC***

Crop Diversity on a 4,400-Acre Grain Farm in Washington State

Once a traditional grain farmer, Karl Kupers switched to an innovative and profitable "systems" approach on his 4,400-acre grain farm, which included diversifying crops, no-till and direct marketing. He began small, using a SARE grant in 1996 to test alternative crops. He also pioneered and refined "direct-seeding," placing seeds into the soil with a drill, which leaves the soil untilled. After he transitioned his entire farm to a no-till, diversified system - and added a profitable direct marketing business to the mix - he turned his attention to marketing full-time. Today, Karl is marketing director of Shepherd's Grain, a co-op he helped form. Karl is also immediate past chairman of Western SARE's administrative council, the farmers, ranchers, scientists and others who provide direction to the program.

***Karl Kupers, Marketing Manager, Shepherd's Grain
Harrington, Washington***

How an Oklahoma Cashmere-Goat Farmer Reduced Risk and Increased Income

With his full-time work as a veterinarian and other off-farm responsibilities, Claud Evans has limited time to devote to farm work. By implementing low-cost strategies that rely on natural systems rather than purchased inputs Evans has been able to manage his cashmere goat operation successfully part time. In 1998, with support from a SARE producer grant, he compared combing and shearing techniques for obtaining cashmere fiber, and found that combing yielded a greater percentage of cashmere and reduced the risk of shear shock. Claud later was elected to Southern SARE's administrative council, and served two terms as chair.

***Claud Evans, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
Okemah, Oklahoma***

A Practical, Farmer-oriented Approach to Growing Vegetables in Connecticut

Jude Boucher's work with vegetable farmers testing "perimeter trap crops" such as squashes to lure damaging cucumber beetles away from commercial crops, epitomizes SARE's practical, farmer-oriented approach. His project involved 36 New England growers in on-farm trials, most of which reduced their pesticide use, increased their yields, and saved over \$1,000 per acre. The findings have reached thousands of other growers and researchers throughout the Northeast, and as far away as Oregon, Canada, and Australia.

***Jude Boucher, Agricultural Educator, University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension
Vernon, Connecticut***

SARE's Young New Voices

Dr. Shoshanah Inwood, Ohio State University research scientist, will present her winning entry to SARE's "New Voices" competition, which asked applicants to address how truly sustainable production and marketing systems would improve profitability, stewardship of the land and water, and quality of life for farmers, ranchers and their communities. In 2000, Dr. Shoshanah co-founded Silver Tale Organic Farm in northeastern Ohio and she served on the board of the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association for 4 years. Recently having earned a PhD in Rural Sociology at Ohio State University, her dissertation work examined farm succession at the rural-urban interface and was funded by SARE.

*Shoshanah Inwood, Research Scientist, Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio*

**February 27, 12:15 p.m.
Specialty Crop Luncheon**

*Moderator: Thomas A. Bewick, National Program Leader, Horticulture,
Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, USDA
Washington, DC*

**Maintaining Green: The Long History of the Environmental and Sustainability
Movement within the Wine Industry**
*Chris Savage, Senior Director, Global Environmental Affairs, E & J Gallo Winery
Modesto, California*

**February 27, 1:45 p.m.
Transportation Issues: Now and Tomorrow**

U.S. farmers and agribusinesses depend on an efficient, effective, and reliable transportation system to provide the world with top quality agricultural commodities and food products. This session will explore the importance of the U.S. transportation system to agriculture with the unique challenges and opportunities facing the rail, barge, and trucking industries. Discussions will integrate the agricultural supply and demand fundamentals with the growing demand for worldwide freight transportation and rising transportation costs.

*Moderator: David R. Shipman, Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing
Service, USDA
Washington, DC*

Overview of the U.S. Transportation System

This will be a general overview of the U.S. transportation system in view of the growing world demand for freight transportation and rising cost of shipping. This topic will focus on the general trends in agricultural transportation, including challenges and increasing costs for bulk grains as well as high-value products.

*Kendell Keith, President, National Grain and Feed Association
Washington, DC*

Rail Issues for U.S. Agriculture

Rail is an important mode for transporting grain and other agricultural commodities from major production areas to port regions for export, as well as domestic markets. This topic will include rail service and infrastructure developments, including service and capacity.

*Paul E. Hammes, Vice President and General Manager Agricultural Products
Marketing and Sales, Union Pacific Railroad
Omaha, Nebraska*

Agricultural Opportunities in Ocean Shipping

In the last few years, the use of containers by U.S. agricultural exporters has been rapidly rising. However, agricultural shippers face uncertainty as container availability and ocean vessel capacity is currently in short supply. This discussion will focus on potential solutions for agricultural shippers for bulk and container alternatives.

*Donna Lemm, Director of Client Services, Mallory Alexander International
Logistics
Memphis, Tennessee*

Measuring Agriculture Track

February 26, 1:45 p.m.

The Count That Counts: The Census of Agriculture & Policy Decisions – Changes in “Rural” America

Results of the 2007 Census of Agriculture were just released. What do they reveal about the current status of U.S. agriculture and rural America? Emphasis will be on new data products and on the National Agricultural Statistics Service’s (NASS’s) efforts to increase participation from minority and small farm operators.

*Moderator: Cynthia Clark, Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics
Service, USDA
Washington, DC*

2007 Census of Agriculture Highlights

An overview of how the 2007 Census of Agriculture was conducted and what the results show about trends in U.S. farms and farmland.

*Carol House, Deputy Administrator, Programs and Products, National Agricultural
Statistics Service, USDA
Washington, DC*

The Changing Face of U.S. Agriculture

A look at the latest demographics information on U.S. farms, farm operators and their households, along with a discussion of NASS’s efforts to increase Census participation among minority and small farm operators.

*Virginia Harris, Statistician, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA
Washington, DC*

The Cutting Edge: Emerging Issues

A discussion of new information collected in the 2007 Census and upcoming Census follow-on studies focuses on topics such as irrigation, energy production, and organic farming.

*Kevin Barnes, Chief, Environmental, Economics and Demographics Branch,
National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA
Washington, DC*

Implications for Future Farm Programs and Policy

A perspective on what the Census results reveal about future direction of farming, farm programs and policy.

*Craig Jagger, Chief Economist, House Agriculture Committee
Washington, DC*

February 26, 3:45 p.m.

Farm Income Outlook

The session will be organized to include three speakers and a moderator. The moderator will take 5 minutes to introduce the session. The introduction will be followed by three papers with each speaker allotted 15-17 minutes to present his topic and to respond to one or two specific, clarifying questions. At the conclusion of the 3rd presentation, 20+ minutes will remain for questions and/or discussion involving members of the audience, the moderator, and speakers who will form a panel for purposes of taking questions.

*Moderator: James M. Zavrel, Chief, Regional Income Branch, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, DC*

Farm Finance: The Outlook for Farm Businesses and the U.S. Farm Sector in 2009

This presentation will provide the USDA outlook for income, assets, and debt for the farm sector and farm businesses, and address how changes in crop, livestock, input and other service-based markets and government programs will affect the value of production and profitability of U.S. farms. Farmer's management practices and interactions with local communities will be examined from the perspective of input acquisition, cost control, and non-commodity based revenue generation efforts in an era of rising prices. Income will be used in conjunction with forecasts of assets and debt to examine changes in farm capital structure and farmer's debt service capacity.

*Ted Covey, Farm and Rural Business Branch, Economic Research Service, USDA
Washington, DC*

Household Finance: The Outlook for Farm Household Income, Wealth, and Well-Being

This presentation will move beyond farms to farm households to look at the level and sources of income of households operating different types and sizes of farms. Off-farm income will be decomposed to assess how transfers and retirement sources of income, wages, and self-employment earnings differ among households and farms based on economic size, location, and farm type. The speaker will move beyond income to consider well-being by taking into account farm and non-farm sources of assets and debt. Differences in household income generation and well-being for beginning and established farm operator households will also be considered.

*Mary Ahearn, Farm and Rural Household Branch, Economic Research Service, USDA
Washington, DC*

Impacts of a Changing Rural Economy on Farm Businesses and Households

Rapid growth in the Nation's bioenergy needs is changing the rural economic landscape as more farmers base investment decisions on supplying biofuel production facilities. Rising energy costs affect a variety of farm business and household choices, from production inputs to off-farm employment. At the same time, rural areas are also facing major challenges from changing demographics, demands on health services, expanding

broadband access, and the need for a growing infrastructure. The speaker will present an overview of key forces driving economic change in rural America, and explain the implications of these important trends for farm business and household finance decisions.

*Matthew Fannin, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness,
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

February 27, 8:00 a.m.

Energy Track

Wind Power: What's In It for Rural America?

The development of wind power not only holds the promise to help reduce the nation's dependence on coal and imported oil, but to bring new jobs and economic development to areas of rural America in sore need of such stimulus. The panelists for this session will discuss wind-power efforts they are involved in, stressing the economic impact wind power development can have for rural America.

*Moderator: Lisa Daniels, Executive Director, Windustry
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Lisa Daniels will begin the session by providing a brief overview of efforts by her organization to promote more small, farmer, and locally owned wind farms.

Bargaining for Better Wind Royalties

Rural landowners in some areas are joining forces in cooperative-type associations to create land blocks needed for wind farm development, then bargaining for better royalty rates for their members. The *New York Times* recently called Grant Stumbough the “godfather” of such landowner associations. He will discuss his efforts to help form these landowner associations in Wyoming.

*Grant Stumbough, Coordinator, SE Wyoming, USDA RC&D
Wheatland, Wyoming*

Wind & Wilderness

Faced by the challenges of providing electricity in a harsh physical and economic environment, the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative is building hybrid wind/diesel generating facilities in some of the isolated Alaska Native villages it serves. Kohler will discuss the importance of these projects, and the difficulties involved in building and servicing infrastructure in communities separated, in many cases, by hundreds of miles of wilderness.

*Meera Kohler, President/CEO, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative
Anchorage, Alaska*

How Wind Power Benefits Consumer Owners of Rural Electric Co-ops

Rural electric cooperatives (RECs) have sometimes been criticized for not taking the lead in developing wind energy. However, many cooperatives are making good progress in developing renewable resources. Since 2001, Basin Electric Cooperative has added 136 megawatts of wind energy to its energy portfolio and is now adding another 320 MW, for a total of 456 MW. Ron Rebenitsch will discuss how such projects benefit the cooperatives' rural consumer-owners. He will also provide an overview of the recent US Dept. of Energy study on the potential to generate 20 percent of the U.S. electricity supply from wind by 2030.

*Ron Rebenitsch, Manager of Alternative Technologies, Basin Electric Co-op
Bismarck, North Dakota*

February 27, 10:00 a.m.

Implementing the Renewable Fuels Standards

A ruling is expected next spring on the Renewable Fuels Standards of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA). The renewable fuels standard that is part of EISA envisions that new ethanol and cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel production would be required to meet green house gas reduction targets. These targets will substantially improve the environmental sustainability of biofuels production and use. Since EPA, with DOE and USDA, is currently developing guidelines for implementation of the Renewable Fuels Standard of EISA, it is important that agricultural and biofuels interests become aware of the implementation process and its likely impact on the industry. This discussion brings together experts from government, academe, and finance to discuss the implementation process and its effect on green house gas emissions, biofuels production and use, and the financing of biofuels facilities.

*Moderator: Roger Conway, Director of the Office of Energy Policy and New Uses,
USDA
Washington, DC*

Rule's Effects on Rural America

Dr. Bruce Babcock will address results of research to determine the effect of the legislation on greenhouse gas emission.

*Bruce Babcock, Professor, Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa*

DOE's Role in Implementing the Renewable Fuels Standards

*Carmen Difiglio, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Analysis,
Department of Energy
Washington, DC*

Objectives of the Renewable Fuels Standards and its Environmental Effects

*Margo Oge, Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC*

Effects of the Renewable Fuels Standards on the Investment Perspective

*Ann Duignan, Securities Analyst, J.P. Morgan Securities
New York, New York*

February 27, 12:15 p.m.

Sugar Luncheon

Sweetener Consumption and Human Health

Dr. Eric Hentges will summarize research regarding the role in human nutrition of high fructose corn syrup (HFCS) and sugar, which are both heavily used in processed foods and beverages. He will present a survey of research on nutritional similarities and differences between HFCS and sugar.

Moderator: William Janis, International Economist, Sugar and Dairy Branch,

*Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA
Washington, DC*

*Eric Hentges, Executive Director, North American Branch, International Life
Sciences Institute
Washington, DC*

February 27, 1:45 p.m.

Sugar & Renewable Fuels

*Moderator: Ron Lord, Chief, Sugar and Dairy Branch, Office of Trade Programs,
Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA
Washington, DC*

Prospects for Brazil's Sugar and the Ethanol Industry

The 2008 Farm bill requires that any excess sugar in the U.S. market be diverted to ethanol production, and could lead to increased integration of the U.S. sugar and ethanol markets. What lessons, if any, can the United States learn from Brazil's integrated sugar and ethanol market? Dr. Nastari will highlight the similarities and differences between the sugar and ethanol sectors of the United States and Brazil, and identify opportunities and pitfalls the United States will face as it manages increasingly intertwined energy and agricultural policies.

*Plinio Nastari, President of Datagro Publicacoes Ltda
Barueri, Brazil*

Impacts of the Renewable Fuels Standard on U.S. and Mexico Sweetener Markets

Many analysts had predicted that once North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was fully implemented Mexico would develop a large sugar surplus due to the substitution of high fructose corn syrup for sugar in its beverage sector. As we begin the second year of full NAFTA implementation, how have these predictions fared? Mr. Wagner will examine the factors driving sweetener trade between the United States and Mexico, the particular role of the U.S. energy policy, and prospects for future U.S.-Mexico sweetener trade.

*Owen Wagner, Senior Economist, LMC International Ltd.
Washington, DC*

Prospects for Producing Ethanol from Sugar in the United States

Dr. Joe Outlaw will focus on the prospects of sugar-based ethanol production in the United States in light of the 2008 Farm Bill's provision for a sugar-to-ethanol program. He will present the economic and technical advantages and disadvantages of refining ethanol from sugar in the United States.

*Joe Outlaw, Professor of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas*

Food Security/World Markets Track

February 26, 1:45 p.m.

Global & Domestic Perspectives on Food Security

Food security — access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life — is one requirement for a healthy, well-nourished population. In recent months,

food security both in the U.S. and globally has been challenged by rising food prices. Topics will provide food security statistics and describe programs aimed at mitigating food insecurity in the U.S. and in developing countries.

***Moderator: Pat Sheikh, Deputy Administrator, Office of Capacity Building and Development, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA
Washington, DC***

U.S. Food & Nutrition Assistance Programs: How Good is the Safety Net?

The speaker will provide an overview of the USDA Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs, their target populations, design, and trends in program activity and outlays. Discussion includes recent program responses to the challenge of rising food prices and recent trends in household food security (economic access to adequate foods) in the United States.

***Steven Carlson, Director, Office of Research, Nutrition, and Analysis, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
Washington, DC***

The Rest of the Story: Community Food Assistance — A View from the Grass Roots

The speaker will provide an overview of the community nonprofit food assistance sector, its extent, how it operates, how it relates to USDA's programs, and how it has been affected by, and responded to, recent increases in food prices.

***George Braley, Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Public Policy, Feeding America
Washington, DC***

Global Safety Net: The New Challenges Facing Food Aid

The speaker will examine recent issues regarding food aid: changes in focus (development versus emergency), changes in commodity composition (grain versus non-grain), and changes in recipient countries. Policies of key donors in terms of objectives and budgets and distribution mechanisms (cash versus commodity donations) would also be reviewed. The speaker will also discuss the challenges of the current market situation of tight food supplies in donor countries.

***Allan Jury, Director of External Relations, United Nation's World Food Programme
Washington, DC***

The Role of Public-Private Partnerships in Strengthening Food Security

Exploring the potential and benefits for increasing public-private partnerships (PPPs) to strengthen world food security. Such collaboration could enhance agricultural productivity, trade and investment, access to new products and services, technology development, and marketing in developing countries. Building on the comparative advantage of each sector, PPPs could also create new synergies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

***His Excellency Dr. Kwame Bawuah-Edusei, Ambassador, Embassy of Ghana
Washington, DC***

February 26, 3:45 p.m.

Impact of Volatile Prices on World Food Markets

U.S. and Global Supply Prospects: How Will Growers Respond? This session is designed to describe the key forces underlying the recent volatility in global agricultural

commodity prices, and then provide assessments of factors that are likely to shape market responses to market prices the next 2-3 years. A mix of U.S. and international speakers will assess technology and resource constraints, potential U.S. market responses, and potential responses from key foreign markets and suppliers.

***Moderator: Sarahelen “Sally” Thompson, Director, Market and Trade Economics Division, Economic Research Service, USDA
Washington, DC***

Factors Contributing to the Recent Increase in Food Commodity Prices

This presentation will focus on the factors that have led up to the recent increase in food prices. A historic perspective will be presented with emphasis on what has happened recently to spur this concern.

***Ronald Trostle, Senior Economist, Market and Trade Economics Division,
Economic Research Service, USDA
Washington, DC***

Technology and Resource Constraints Affecting Market Response to Higher Prices

This paper will examine the growth in technology (yield growth), land, and water resource constraints as factors that may limit the response to higher prices. This presentation will also give a longer term look and resource, both land and water, that could limit the ability of the world agricultural sector to expand production to meet increasing demands.

***Siwa Msangi, Research Fellow, Environment and Production Technology Division
International Food Policy Research Institute
Washington, DC***

U.S. Domestic Response to Increasing Demands and Prices for Agriculture Products

How are U.S. Farmers reacting to the higher demands that have led to price increases? This presentation will examine the longer term reaction of domestic producers to these higher prices. Acreage developments such as the expectations for different crop mixes, CRP enrollment, and other factors that could affect domestic agriculture. The focus could be on baseline projections and some examination of stochastic productions.

***Pat Westoff, Co-Director, Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, University
of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri***

International Response to Increasing Demands and Prices for Agriculture Products

Some international farmers face a slightly different situation because of the volatility of currency values versus the U.S. dollar. How are producers and input markets in other countries reacting to the higher demands and lower production? This presentation will examine the longer term reaction of international agriculture to these higher prices. A focus on both the developed and developing countries reactions should be examined.

***Wayne Jones, Division Head, Agri-food Trade and Markets, Directorate for Trade
and Agriculture, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Paris, France***

February 27, 8:00 a.m.

Food Safety Track

Imported Food Safety and Food Defense

This session will include a presentation on the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) system of “equivalence” for imported meat, poultry, and egg products; and FSIS actions in response to recommendations issued by the President's Import Safety Working Group will be discussed. In addition, the session will include a discussion of the new FSIS regulatory authority to inspect domestic and imported catfish. Finally, the session will explain FSIS port-of-entry activities, such as how FSIS prevents and responds to smuggling and illegal imports, as well as intentional and unintentional contamination of the food supply.

Moderator: Rob Williams, Agriculture-Veterinary Counselor, Australian Embassy Washington, DC

FSIS Import Safety Activities

Discussion will focus on FSIS activities including system of equivalence for meat, poultry, and egg products inspection; a short comparison to the Food and Drug Administration; and the President's Import Safety Working Group.

To Be Announced

Catfish Inspection

A brief discussion of the new authority to inspect catfish – for example, importers will need to establish “equivalent” systems under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (we might be able to discuss transition requirements for foreign trading partners that currently import catfish, since the proposed rule will be published by October 1, 2008; but publication of the final rule is not required until December 18, 2009).

Philip Derfler, Assistant Administrator of the Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA Washington, DC

FSIS Food Defense Activities

FSIS Food Defense Activities, including smuggling and illegal imports, prevention of intentional and unintentional contamination of the food supply; port-of-entry activities; and collaboration with other USDA, Federal, State, and local public health partners will be discussed.

Carol Maczka, Assistant Administrator, Office of Food Defense & Emergency Response, FSIS, USDA Washington, DC

February 27, 10:00 a.m.

One World, One Health: Issues at the Intersection of Animal & Human Health

Recent outbreaks of West Nile Virus, Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever, SARS, Monkeypox, Mad Cow Disease, and Avian Influenza remind us that human and animal health are intimately connected. A broader understanding of health and disease demands a unity of approach achievable only through a consilience of human, domestic animal, and wildlife health – One Health. Phenomena such as species loss, habitat degradation, pollution, invasive alien species, and global climate change are fundamentally altering life on our planet from terrestrial wilderness and ocean depths to the most densely populated cities. The rise of emerging and resurging infectious diseases threatens not only humans (and their food supplies and economies), but also the fauna and flora comprising the critically needed biodiversity that supports the living infrastructure of our world.

*Moderator: Cindy J. Smith, Administrator, Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service, USDA
Washington, DC*

One Health: Assuming Our Collaborative Responsibility

*Roger Mahr, Former President AVMA, Representative to the One Health Joint Steering Committee
Washington, DC*

Topic To Be Announced

*Laura H. Kahn, MD, Research Scholar, Program on Science and Global Security, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey*

The Importance of the Animal, Health-food, Safety, Public Health Continuum and the Use of Public-Private Partnerships to Address Long-term Solutions

*Mike Robach, Vice President, Corporate Food Safety and Regulatory Affairs, Cargill, Inc.
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

February 27, 12:15 p.m.

Grains & Oilseeds Luncheon

Moderator To Be Announced

How the Current Financial Situation Is Affecting Agriculture

*Bob Young, Chief Economist, American Farm Bureau
Washington, DC*

Trade Policy Track

February 27, 1:45 p.m.

What's Next for the Multi-Lateral Trading System?

Agricultural trade liberalization is the focus in this session. The U.S. context is important, but can not be isolated from the diverse views and interests of the rest of the world. Concluding the Doha Development round is not easy, some argue impossible. Skepticism is abundant. Eight years and counting feels like an eternity to negotiate; Interest can dwindle rapidly. Yet, this negotiating period is well within the context of earlier trade rounds. Many economic studies extol benefits from more liberalized trade, but penetrating the hearts and minds of U.S. voters remains an uphill challenge as the November 2008 election demonstrate. U.S. public support of trade agreements may be at an all time low. Imposing disciplines on domestic support weakens traditional farmer organization support. U.S. farm policy enjoys increasingly more diverse voices, but less so in the World Trade Organization context. U.S. agricultural exports have broken records in recent years, and a significant portion of the U.S. agricultural output continues to be exported to the large overseas market.

*Moderator: Paul Blustein, Journalist in Residence, The Brookings Institution
Washington, DC*

Developing Countries in Multi-lateral Trade Negotiations: What Stands in the Way of a Trade Agreement?

*Jeffery Schott, Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute of International Economics
Washington, DC*

Reform in Agricultural Trade Policies: A Continuum or Stalemate?

*David Roberts, Former Deputy Director General, DG-Agri, European Commission
London, United Kingdom*

Evaluating the Package on the Doha Development Table: How to Balance the Multiple Equations?

*Stephan Tangermann, Former Director Trade and Agriculture Division,
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Paris, France*

Conservation Track

February 26, 1:45 p.m.

Quantifying Conservation with CEAP

The Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) is a multi-agency effort to scientifically quantify the environmental benefits of conservation practices used by private landowners. Project findings will guide USDA conservation policy and program development and help farmers and ranchers make informed conservation choices.

*Moderator: Wayne Maresch, Deputy Chief for Soil Survey and Resource
Assessment, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA
Washington, DC*

The CEAP National Assessment—Cropland: The River Basin Studies

*Bob Kellogg, Agricultural Economist/CEAP-Cropland Leader, Resources Inventory
and Assessment Division, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA
Beltsville, Maryland*

Effects of Conservation Practices on Environmental Quality in Small Watersheds— The Agricultural Research Service Benchmark Watershed Projects

*Mark R. Walbridge, National Program Leader, Soil and Water Resource Management,
Natural Resources and Sustainable Agricultural Systems, Agricultural Research
Service, USDA
Beltsville, Maryland*

Measuring the Effects of Agricultural Conservation Practices on Water Quality at the Watershed Scale — The CSREES Competitive Grants Watershed Projects

*Mike O'Neill, National Program Leader, Water Resources; Cooperative State
Research, Education, and Extension Service; USDA
Washington, DC*

February 26, 3:45 p.m.

What's the Buzz about Pollinators?

This session will focus upon the worldwide dependence upon pollinators and pollination services for sustainable agricultural production and other agricultural activities (e.g., wildlife habitat enhancement), present pollination concerns, and efforts underway to address these concerns. Presentations from a variety of points of view will include awareness-building information about animals that provide pollination services – in addition to other environmental services; their economic, environmental, and human health value; global evidence for concern; and the various organizations and cooperative efforts that are addressing these concerns.

Moderator and General Overview: Senator Barbara Boxer, Office of U.S. Senate Washington, DC/Invited

The Global Pollinator Situation and Potential Environmental Impacts

May R. Berenbaum, Professor and Department Head, Entomology Department, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Urbana, Illinois

Pollination Economics

Scott M. Swinton, Professor, Aldo Leopold Leadership Program Fellow; Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics; Michigan State University East Lansing, Michigan

Present and Future Beekeeping

Gabriele Ludwig, Senior Manager, Global Technical & Regulatory Affairs, Almond Board of California Modesto, California

Barry Thompson, Thompson Apiaries, Member of the Scientific Committee, American Beekeeping Federation; Board of Directors, Eastern Apicultural Society; Research Collaborator, USDA Beltsville, Maryland

Global Efforts Underway

Michael Ruggiero, Director, Integrated Taxonomic Information System, Smithsonian Institution Washington, DC

USDA Efforts Underway

Kevin Hackett, ARS Senior National Program Leader, Invasive Insects and Bees, USDA Washington, DC

February 27, 8:00 a.m.

Markets for Environmental Services: Carbon & Greenhouse Gases

What is a greenhouse gas emissions trading system and why should agriculture care? How might a cap-and-trade system work in the United States? What is a carbon footprint and how can farmers make a smaller one? The session will focus on the status of current voluntary markets, options under consideration on the Hill and elsewhere, issues that farmers and land managers need to consider when evaluating the potential for GHG environmental services markets, and a discussion of the 2009 outlook.

*Moderator: William Hohenstein, Director, Office of Global Climate Change, USDA
Washington, DC*

**Opportunities for Farm and Forest Within the Chicago Climate Exchange and
Lessons Learned From Experiences in Agriculture and the Carbon Markets**
*Mike Walsh, Chicago Climate Exchange, Inc.
Chicago, Illinois*

Topic To Be Announced
*Tim Profeta, Director, Nicholas Institute, Duke University
Durham, North Carolina*

**Obstacles and Opportunities for Farmers and Ranchers in a Federal Cap and Trade
System**
Speaker will focus on offset opportunities in a cap and trade system, obstacles to full
agricultural recognition, and permanence, etc.
*Richard K. Krause, Farm Bureau, Senior Director, Congressional Relations
American Farm Bureau Federation
Washington, DC*

**February 27, 10:00 a.m.
Cotton Outlook**

Moderator: John Scruggs, U.S. Editor, Cotlook, Ltd., Memphis, Tennessee

USDA Cotton Outlook
*Steven Neff, Agricultural Economist,
Economic and Policy Analysis Staff, Farm Service Agency, USDA
Washington, DC*

The Challenges Facing the Texas Cotton Industry
*Wally Darneille, President and CEO, Plains Cotton Cooperative Association
Lubbock, Texas*

Production and Policy in China-Xinjiang
*Clyde Davidson, Vice President, Research, Allenberg Cotton Company,
Louis Dreyfus Commodities
Cordova, Tennessee*

Volatility and Change in the Cotton Futures Market: Lessons from the Past Year
*Mike Stevens, Cotton Futures Specialist, SFS Futures/Swiss Financial Services
Mandeville, Louisiana*

**February 27, 12:15 p.m.
Cotton Luncheon**

*Moderator: Charles V. Cunningham, President, Cunningham Associates
Mineral, Virginia*

My 43 Years in the Cotton Business

*Neal P. Gillen, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, American Cotton Shippers Association
Washington, DC*

Special Cotton Session

1:45-2:45 p.m.

West Africa Cotton Overview

*Robert Hanson, Agricultural Attaché, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA
Dakar, Senegal*

Farm Policy Track

February 27, 1:45 p.m.

Risk Management & the New Farm Bill

The 2008 Farm Bill mandated many major changes that affect the way in which farmers manage and deal with risk. These include changes to the Crop Insurance and Disaster Assistance Title such as supplemental disaster assistance as well as changes to the commodity title most notably the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE). The farm bill took policy in a new direction that directly influences farmers risk management decisions. This session will provide an overview of the new products and discuss how farmers may view the new options available to them.

*Moderator: Joy Harwood, Director of Economic and Policy Staff, Farm Service Agency, USDA
Washington, DC*

Production Costs and Farm Revenue from Both the Banker and Farmer Perspectives

*Robert Craven, Director, Center for Farm Financial Management, University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota*

The ACRE and SURE Programs

*Carl Zulauf, McCormick Professor of Agricultural Marketing and Policy, Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio*

Issues Associated with the New Farm Bill

*Brad Karmen, Assistant to the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, Farm Service Agency, USDA
Washington, DC*

Commodities/Food Prices Track

February 26, 3:45 p.m.

Food Price Outlook

*Moderator: Chuck Abbott, Commodities Journalist, Reuters
Washington, DC*

Food Price Outlook

*Ephraim Leibtag, Economist, Economic Research Service, USDA
Washington, DC*

The Role of Commodity Prices in Food Inflation in the United States

*William Lapp, Advanced Economic Solutions
Omaha, Nebraska*

Is Increased Global Grain Price Volatility Here to Stay?"

*Christopher Delgado, Strategy and Policy Advisor, Agriculture and Rural
Development Department, The World Bank
Washington, DC*

Commodities Track

February 26, 3:45 p.m.

Commodity Funds: Impact on Price Discovery

*Moderator: Tom Coyle, Chairman, National Grain and Feed Association
Washington, DC*

From an Index/Hedge Fund Perspective

*Timothy Rudderow, President, Mount Lucas Management Corp.
Princeton, New Jersey*

From an Exchange Perspective

*Dave Lehman, Director, Commodity Research & Product Development, CME
Group, Global Headquarters
Chicago, Illinois*

From a CFTC Perspective

*Gregory Kuserk, Deputy Director for Market Surveillance, Commodity Futures
Trading Commission
Washington, DC*

February 27, 8:00 a.m.

Grains & Oilseeds Outlook

*Moderator: Kay Simmons, National Program Leader,
Plant Genetics & Grain Crops, Agricultural Research Service, USDA
Beltsville, Maryland*

Grains & Oilseeds Outlook

*William Chambers, Economist, Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC*

Risk Management Challenges in a Changing Crop Nutrient Industry

*Keith Swanson, Manager, Crop Nutrient Dealer Risk Management Services,
CHS Inc.
St. Paul, Minnesota*

Why Genomics Are Important to Maintain Competitiveness of U.S. Soybeans
Ed Ready will speak about the commitment soybean growers and industry are making to genomics to keep U.S. soybeans competitive using new DNA markers to accelerate soybean improvement.

*Ed Ready, Production Program Manager, United Soybean Board
St. Louis, Missouri*

**February 27, 10:00 a.m.
Livestock & Poultry Outlook**

Livestock & Poultry Outlook
*Shayle Shagam, Livestock & Poultry Analyst, World Agricultural Outlook Board,
USDA
Washington, DC*

Commodity Price Volatility and Recession: How Do Restaurants Cope?
*Kevin Bost, President, Procurement Strategies, Inc.
Des Plaines, Illinois*

**February 27, 12:15 p.m.
Livestock & Poultry Luncheon**

Moderator To Be Announced

Topic To Be Announced
*James Sumner, President, USA Poultry & Egg Export Council
Stone Mountain, Georgia*

**February 27, 1:45 p.m.
Dairy Outlook**
*Moderator: Shayle Shagam, Livestock & Poultry Analyst, World Agricultural
Outlook Board, USDA
Washington, DC*

Dairy Outlook
*Roger Hoskin, Agricultural Economist, Economic Research Service,
USDA
Washington, D.C.*

Milk Price Volatility: What's Old is New
*Mark Stephenson, Senior Extension Associate, Department of Applied Economics
and Management, Cornell University
Ithaca, New York*

Marketing Dairy Products During Price Volatility
Don Street, President and CEO, Ecoval Dairy Trade, Inc.

Wayne, Pennsylvania

Special Dairy Portal Presentation

3:30-4:00 p.m.

Topic and Speaker To Be Announced