

# WASHINGTON WATCH 2025



## WASHINGTON WATCH INFORMATION

### HOTEL

Holiday Inn Capitol  
550 C Street SW  
Washington, DC 20024  
(202) 479-4000

### REGISTRATION

Name badges will be available at the Member Business Meeting Monday afternoon.

Sponsored by Syngenta

### NAME BADGES

Name badges must be worn for entry to all programs, events, and functions.

Lanyards sponsored by Syngenta

### MEETING ATTIRE

Washington Watch is “business” with the exception of the Tuesday reception, which is “business casual.” Please remember to wear comfortable shoes, as there will be plenty of walking.

### MULT BOXES

Mult boxes will be stationed at programming sessions for broadcasters to connect their recorders into the sound system.

### TRANSPORTATION

Members who requested WMATA passes for the metro service should have recieved them in the mail in advance of the meeting. In addition, registered attendees may pick up an Uber gift card at registration.

Transportation co-sponsored by the American Feed Industry Association and American Farm Bureau Federation

## NAFB NEWS SERVICE



The NAFB News Service connects you to current agricultural news from around the country and from fellow NAFB members.

The News Service provides Broadcast Council members with current news, information, commodity prices, and more in a single location. The News Service is located on NAFB.com. Once logged in, broadcasters find ready-to-use audio reports for daily broadcasts.

Stories available online are provided by NAFB members, industry partners, and NAFB News Service staff. Farm broadcasters from across the country submit audio and scripts for use by other broadcasters. Industry partners work with the News Service to produce and distribute news and information on product updates, legislative issues, and association news, utilizing the News Service as an effective and efficient way to connect with more than 180 Broadcast Council members.

The NAFB News Service connects daily with more than 70 member stations and more than 40 networks. NAFB members may be heard daily on more than 1,500 radio, TV, and satellite stations throughout the United States.

For more information on how to access the NAFB News Service or how to utilize the News Service for your next product announcement, contact Seth Ruff at [sruff@nafb.com](mailto:sruff@nafb.com) or at phone (816) 431-4032 ext. 103.

## FUTURE NAFB NATIONAL MEETING DATES

### 82nd NAFB Convention

November 19-21, 2025  
Westin Crown Center  
Kansas City, Missouri

### 83rd NAFB Convention

November 18-20, 2026  
Westin Crown Center  
Kansas City, Missouri



## WASHINGTON WATCH SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE

Sponsored by Pivot Bio

Post and follow Washington Watch 2025 on social media with the official hashtag:

**#NAFBWW25**



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# 2025 Washington Watch Committee



**Co-Chair:**  
**Delaney Howell**  
Ag News Daily  
Rhodes, Iowa



**Co-Chair:**  
**Stephanie Hoff**  
Midwest Farm Report  
Madison, Wisconsin



**Meghan Grebner**  
Brownfield Ag News  
Jefferson City, Missouri



**Spencer Chase**  
Corn Refiners Association  
Washington, D.C.



**Ken Rahjes**  
KBUF Radio  
Agra, Kansas



**Jesse Harding Campbell**  
Marsh Wren Creative  
Grand Island, Nebraska



**Mike Davis**  
Southern Farm Network  
Raleigh, North Carolina



**Lydia Johnson**  
Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc.  
Washington, D.C.



**Andy Schwab**  
Northern Ag Network  
Billings, Montana



Former Minnesota Congressman and Agriculture Committee Chair Collin Peterson was a frequent guest at Washington Watch. In 2013, Peterson and his band of other Congressmen, The Second Amendments, joined NAFB for an evening reception and entertainment.

# WASHINGTON WATCH

Welcome to Washington Watch 2025! We're happy to see you.

This year's event is more important than ever. With a new administration and fresh faces in Congress, this is one of the first opportunities for agricultural broadcasters to engage directly with the policymakers shaping the future of farm policy. Your role as a voice of agriculture has never been more critical, and this year's Washington Watch is designed to put you at the heart of the conversation.

We'll kick things off Monday with a member meeting and the Issues Forum, where you'll have face-to-face conversations with the most influential ag industry associations in D.C. These leaders are here for your interviews and are ready for the microphone. Dinner follows and includes a demonstration from the Beagle Brigade.

Tuesday, we head to the USDA building for a morning with newsmaking speakers, including Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins and USDA Meteorologist Brad Rippey. Our time at the USDA is intentionally shorter than years past and features the heavy hitters our listeners back home want to hear from. Come prepared with questions and your cord for the mult-box.

Our lunch break on Tuesday afternoon includes a professional improvement session with cybersecurity expert FBI Special Agent Emily Odom. We'll also get an update from Congressman Tracey Mann, R-KS, with the House Hunger Caucus.

Following these sessions, we'll depart for NASA headquarters to see the advanced satellite technology and data analysis that helps farmers monitor crop health and predict weather patterns.

Tuesday evening is a chance to loosen your tie or let your hair down. NCBA has invited us to their headquarters for a reception promising mouth-watering food and beverages. Then, we're off to Nationals Park as Washington faces off against the Cleveland Guardians.

Make sure you wake up bright-eyed and bushy-tailed on Wednesday for a breakfast panel at the hotel before we depart for Capitol Hill to meet with elected representatives. We encourage you to visit with your own representatives before traveling home.

If you have any questions over the next few days, please ask. We're happy to help.

Most sincerely,



Delaney Howell  
2025 Washington Watch  
Committee Co-Chair

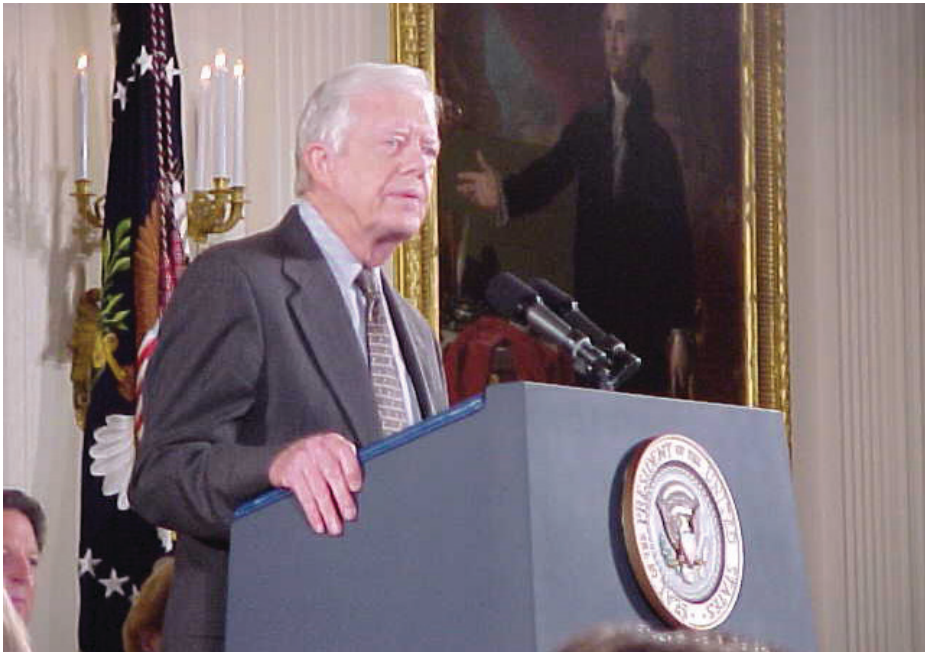


Stephanie Hoff  
2025 Washington Watch  
Committee Co-Chair





In 2006, NAFB members met with Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Bruce Knight during their visit to USDA headquarters.



In 2000, NAFB members were guests at the White House for a permanent normal trade relations meeting regarding China. Former President Jimmy Carter was one of two past presidents to address the group, along with then-current President Bill Clinton.



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**National Association of Farm Broadcasting.**

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America informed and engaged.

Learn more at [ethanolrfa.org](https://ethanolrfa.org)  
and follow us on social media:

[@EthanolRFA](https://twitter.com/EthanolRFA)

*See you at the Issues Forum!*

# Monday, May 5

- 8:30 a.m. NAFB Board of Directors Meeting  
Holiday Inn Capitol: House
- 1:30-3 p.m. NAFB Member Business Meeting & Registration  
Holiday Inn Capitol: Congressional II  
Registration Sponsor: Syngenta
- 3-4 p.m. Issues Forum Registration  
Holiday Inn Capitol: Capitol Ballroom Foyer
- 3-6 p.m. Issues Forum  
Holiday Inn Capitol: Capitol Ballroom  
Sponsor: The Fertilizer Institute  
*Please see listings in the back section of this program.*
- 6-6:45 p.m. Issues Forum Reception  
Holiday Inn Capitol: Congressional Foyer  
Reception Sponsor: United Soybean Board
- 7 p.m. Dinner & Speakers  
Holiday Inn Capitol: Congressional II  
Dinner Sponsor: Farm Credit



## Carrie Thomas

*Associate Deputy Administrator for Business and Employee Services Aphis Plant Protection and Quarantine*

**Carrie Thomas** joined APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) as the Associate Deputy Administrator for Business and Employee Services (BES) in July 2024. In this position, she provides executive leadership for budget and financial management, capital investments, administrative support services, and mission technical training – including the National Detector Dog Training Center (NDDTC). Prior to joining PPQ, Carrie served as the Deputy Chief of Administrative Services for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). In this role, she directed a comprehensive administrative services program and oversaw the BLS headquarters relocation project, including design, construction, and decommissioning. Carrie also held the position of Acting Director of the Office of Strategic Operations in the DOL Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management. Here, she provided critical mission-support infrastructure through 10 administrative business centers, including information technology, procurement, business operations, emergency management, physical security, budget, performance management, human resources and more. Previously, as a Senior Economist at BLS, Carrie led strategic planning, business process improvement, strategic communications, and employee engagement initiatives. She also directed the estimation and publication teams for the Import/Export Price Index and led the BLS Division of Enterprise Web Systems Quality and Procedures Branch. Carrie earned a Bachelor of Arts in both International Relations and Economics from American University in Washington, DC, and a Master of Science in Information Systems from the Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School. Carrie lives in Arlington, VA, and enjoys the outdoors, exercising, and spending time with family and friends.



# Monday, May 5



## **Melissa Dennie Snyder**

*Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Specialist K-9  
Washington Dulles International Airport*

**Melissa Dennie Snyder** has a very diverse background. She grew up near Zion National Park and Las Vegas. She worked as Assistant Operations and Head of New Accounts for 7 branches of a local bank, before going to college. At college she studied primarily plants and soils while working as a professional genealogist and lab assistant/greenhouse manager to pay the bills. She graduated with B.S. Environmental Science, M.S. Wildlife Management, and a Master Certificate in NEPA in the process. After being laid-off twice during COVID-19 she transferred to CBP and was assigned to Lukeville, Arizona for nearly 3 years. In Lukeville she was the lone Agriculture Specialist until shortly before she transferred to Dulles to join the K9 team. She has now been at Dulles for two years.



## **Valerie Woo**

*Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Specialist K-9  
Washington Dulles International Airport*

**Valerie Woo** graduated from Old Dominion University with a bachelor's degree in biology. She joined U.S. Customs & Border Protection in 2009 after graduation and worked as an Agriculture Specialist for 10 years before joining the AK9 team. CBPAS-K9 Woo and AK9 Phillip graduated from the National Detector Dog Training Center (NDDTC) in June 2019. AK9 Phillip is projected to retire this summer.



## **Freddie**

**Freddie** is a 4-year-old Beagle originally from the Atlanta, Georgia area where he and his ½ brother were found abandoned on the road. He has been working at Dulles International Airport now for about 18 months. Most recently he has been featured on the @cbpfieldops Instagram page (Mar 21, Mar 22, Mar 24), on @baltimorefieldoffice Instagram page for finding snake meat in Oct, and in the article "At Dulles, the nose knows" in the Washington Post (Nov 20, 2024). He is an extremely friendly dog who loves to play hide and seek with the traveling public. He absolutely loves to find bananas/plantains, and cow skin but anything that earns him a treat or the attention of those in the area is his favorite thing; he loves when the airline attendants or traveling public clap in awe as he finds things. When not working, his best friend is his duck toy, but he is under the impression that work is play.

# Tuesday, May 6

- 7 a.m. Optional — meet to walk to USDA as a group  
Holiday Inn Capitol: Lobby
- 7:15 a.m. Arrive on your own to USDA — Whitten Building  
1400 Independence Avenue SW — Jefferson Drive Entrance  
(Please allow time to get through security — BRING PHOTO ID.)

## Continental Breakfast

Whitten Building — Williamsburg Room 107-a  
Breakfast Sponsor: Agricultural Retailers Association

8 a.m.



## Brooke Rollins

*USDA Secretary of Agriculture*

 @SecRollins

**Brooke Rollins** is originally from Glen Rose, Texas. Most recently, Rollins served as the Founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the America First Policy Institute (AFPI). During President Trump's first administration, she was the Director of the Domestic Policy Council and Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives in the White House. She also previously served as Director of the Office of American Innovation. In these roles, she developed and managed the transformational domestic policy agenda of the Trump Administration, leading to historic achievements for the American people. Rollins graduated with honors from Texas A&M University with a degree in agricultural development and was the first female to be elected student body president. After earning her Juris Doctor with honors at the University of Texas School of Law, she served as Governor Rick Perry's policy director before running the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) for 15 years. At TPPF, Rollins elevated a small policy organization to a national force and redefined the possibilities for a state-based think tank — setting the model and aspiration for AFPI. Rollins and her husband, Mark, call Fort Worth, Texas home, and spend a large majority of their free time taxiing their four very active children to baseball games, cattle shows, piano lessons, and Aggie football games.

8:30 a.m.



## Aubrey J.D. Bettencourt

*Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*

 @USDA

**Aubrey J.D. Bettencourt** serves as Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the primary private lands conservation agency at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). NRCS helps producers, soil and water conservation districts, and other partners protect and conserve natural resources on private working lands while supporting American agricultural productivity throughout the United States. NRCS employees in the field work side-by-side with producers in every state and territory. Aubrey is a prominent leader in agriculture, water, and sustainability, most recently serving as the Global Director of Government Relations and External Affairs for Netafim, an Orbia Company. Prior to serving at Netafim, Aubrey was the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Almond Alliance, the national trade association advocating for American almond growers and processors. Prior to joining the Alliance, Aubrey served as the Sustainability Director for Western United Dairies, specifically leading initiatives in groundwater management. During the first Trump Administration, Aubrey worked with both the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and USDA. As a Deputy Assistant Secretary with the DOI, she oversaw water and science policy. Prior to serving at DOI, Aubrey was the State Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in California where she directed the administration of farm commodity programs providing support, security, and emergency relief for producers throughout the state. Her work reflects her personal commitment to keep farmers farming through sound water policy, agricultural support, technology, and sustainable practices. This is supported by her family's farming roots in California's great Central Valley. Aubrey is a third-generation farmer at Bettencourt Farms in Kings County, California, alongside her father, mother, husband, daughter, and loyal farm dogs. Aubrey is an Eisenhower Agricultural Fellow and holds a degree in History from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California.

# Tuesday, May 6

9 a.m.



**Brad Rippey**

*USDA Meteorologist*

 @USDA

**Brad Rippey** is an agricultural meteorologist in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of the Chief Economist, and the managing editor of the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin. He is one of ten rotating authors of the weekly U.S. Drought Monitor and a contributor to the monthly North American Drought Monitor. Prior to joining USDA in 1998, Rippey worked for the U.S. Department of Commerce for more than 10 years. Since 1994, he has been a columnist and contributing editor for Weatherwise magazine. He is a 1988 graduate of Penn State University.

9:30 a.m.



**Lee Zeldin**

*EPA Administrator*

*United States Environmental Protection Agency*

 @EPALeeZeldin

**Lee Zeldin** was sworn in as the 17th Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency on January 29, 2025. Administrator Zeldin has dedicated his life to public service. He is currently in his 22nd year in the United States military, having deployed to Iraq in 2006 with the Army's Elite 82nd Airborne Division and continues to serve as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve. He served in the New York State Senate from 2011-2014 and later represented New York's 1st Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives from 2015-2023. During his eight years in Congress, Zeldin worked across party lines to preserve the Long Island Sound and Plum Island. He supported key legislation that became historic, bipartisan success stories like the Great American Outdoors Act and Save our Seas Act to clean up plastics from our oceans. He also led the fight for Sea Grant, combated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water, voted for the Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act, and supported clean energy projects on Long Island. At just 23, Lee became the youngest attorney in New York State at the time. Born and raised in Suffolk County, New York, Lee and his wife Diana are proud parents to their twin daughters, Mikayla and Arianna.

10 a.m.



**Doug Burgum**

*Secretary of the Interior*

*U.S. Department of the Interior*

 @SecretaryBurgum

**Doug Burgum** is the 55th Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Raised in Arthur, North Dakota, Burgum worked as a chimney sweep to help pay his way through North Dakota State University before earning an MBA from Stanford University. In 1983, Doug literally "bet the farm" to provide seed capital for a software startup called Great Plains. Doug led Great Plains through a successful IPO and grew the company to over 2,000 employees before its acquisition by Microsoft. Burgum remained with Microsoft for six years as the Senior Vice President of Business Solutions. Doug later co-founded Arthur Ventures and served as chairman for international software companies including Atlassian, SuccessFactors, and as a board member for Avalara. In 2016, Burgum was elected to serve as North Dakota's 33rd Governor. In 2020, he was re-elected in a landslide. Under his leadership, North Dakota passed the largest tax cut in state history and dramatically reduced red tape. As a testament to Burgum's leadership, Forbes named him "America's Best Entrepreneurial Governor." During his tenure, North Dakota experienced the highest growth in real GDP and had the lowest unemployment rate in the country. Burgum has three adult children. He is married to Kathryn Burgum, a nationally recognized advocate for addiction recovery.

# Tuesday, May 6

10:30 a.m.

Group Photo on Apron

11:30 a.m.

Boxed Lunch

Holiday Inn Capitol: Capitol I

Sponsor: Corn Refiners Association

## Afternoon Programming Sessions

Holiday Inn Capitol - Capitol I

11:40 a.m.

### Cyber Security Presentation



#### Emily Odom

Cyber Assistant Special Agent in Charge  
*Federal Bureau of Investigation*

 @FBI

**Emily Odom** joined the FBI in 2006, initially working complex cyber investigations in Indianapolis and San Francisco before transferring to the FBI Cyber Division in 2013. She was promoted to Unit Chief in 2015 focusing on transnational organized crime. Emily soon identified a technical gap and advocated for the creation of the Hi-Tech Organized Crime Unit, receiving accolades for efforts targeting darknet markets. In 2019, Emily became a supervisor in the Washington Field Office, and developed a team to target opioid trafficking online, resulting in significant seizures and arrests. She was then selected to lead the Washington Field Office Cyber Program. Before the FBI, she worked in finance and software development, holding degrees in Business Management and Computer Science.

12:30 p.m.

### House Hunger Caucus Update



#### Congressman Tracey Mann

*House Hunger Caucus Co-Chair*

 @RepMann

**Tracey Mann** has represented the “Big First” District of Kansas in the U.S. House of Representatives since January 2021 and is a tireless advocate for Kansas agriculture and conservative Kansas values. Congressman Mann is a fifth-generation Kansan, who was born and raised on his family farm just south of Quinter. He grew up in the family farmhouse that his great-great-grandfather ordered from a Montgomery Ward catalog in the early 1900s. Congressman Mann learned the value of hard work at a young age as he spent thousands of hours in the fields and in the family feed yard. Some of his fondest memories of those days are working cattle with his grandfather, father, and brother on Saturday afternoons while listening to K-State football on the radio. Congressman Mann proudly serves on the House Agriculture and House Transportation and Infrastructure committees. Prior to representing the First District, Congressman Mann served Kansas as the 50th Lt. Governor of Kansas. Congressman Mann has worked in commercial real estate and served on the loan committee for First National Bank Syracuse. Mr. Mann’s civic engagement includes serving on several boards for Kansas organizations including Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership (KARL), Kansas Chamber of Commerce, The City Teen Center in Salina, and Legacy Financial. Congressman Mann is a graduate of Kansas State University. Tracey and his wife Audrey live in Salina, Kansas with their 4 children. You can learn more about the House Hunger Caucus at [www.House.Gov](http://www.House.Gov) and search hunger caucus.

# Tuesday, May 6



## NASA Earth Information Center Tour

1:30 p.m.

E Lobby, 300 E. Street SW

1:20 p.m. *Optional* — Meet in hotel lobby to walk to NASA headquarters as a group

**Sponsor: NASA Agriculture**



National Cattlemen's  
Beef Association

## Rooftop Reception

4-6 p.m.

National Cattlemen's Beef Association Headquarters

1275 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

*Please use the 13th Street entrance, then take the elevator to the 14th floor.*

**Sponsor: The National Cattlemen's Beef Association**

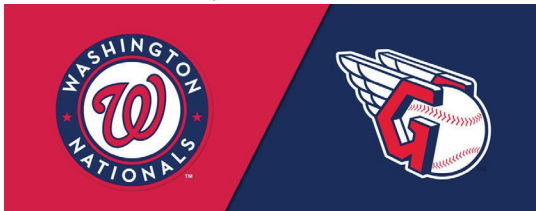
## Private Night Tour of the Capitol Guided by Senator Lankford (R-OK)

6:15 p.m.

1 E Capitol Street

*Meet at the Senate Carriage Door on the North side of the Capitol Building.*

*Contact Meghan Grebner for more details*



## Washington Nationals vs. Cleveland Guardians

6:45 p.m. First Pitch

Nationals Stadium

1500 S Capitol St. SE

**Sponsor: National Corn Growers Association**



# Wednesday, May 7

7:15 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

Holiday Inn Capitol: Congressional I

Sponsor: Associated Milk Producers Inc.

## Policy Insights: A Deep Dive Into the Ag Workforce

7:30 - 8 a.m.

Sponsor: Clean Fuels Alliance

Holiday Inn Capitol: Congressional I



**Ben Tindall**

*Executive Director of Save Family Farming*

**Ben Tindall** is a relentless advocate for agriculture, leading Save Family Farming with bold vision and unapologetic determination. As Executive Director, he is driving the organization to the forefront of agricultural advocacy in Washington State. Under his leadership, Save Family Farming is becoming a powerful voice against threats to family farms—calling out harmful policies and exposing misleading narratives. Through hard-hitting documentary films, fearless articles, and statewide advocacy campaigns, Ben is mobilizing agriculturalists and their supporters to stand up and fight for the future of farming. With over 20 years of political and communications experience, Ben has honed his skills working with influential U.S. legislators, including Senator John Cornyn, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, and Congressman Kenny Marchant, as well as Washington State Representative Gina Mosbrucker. Ben's leadership extends beyond politics. As Executive Director of Cove House Emergency Homeless Shelter, Inc. in central Texas, he transformed a struggling social service into a dynamic force for good. Through his strategic vision, the organization became a thriving community resource, offering food, shelter, counseling, healthcare, employment assistance, as well as forging significant partnerships with city leaders for impactful community revitalization. Since relocating to Washington in 2014, Ben has also made his mark at the Washington State Farm Bureau, contributing to the Governmental Affairs team. He has tracked legislation, developed impactful training and advocacy materials, and equipped agriculturalists to confidently engage with lawmakers. His expertise in strategic communications—across print, digital, video, and podcasts—has amplified the voices of farmers and their influence. Ben's dedication to activism drives his work, whether advocating for housing stability, advancing food security, or championing the essential role of agriculture. In his personal life, Ben enjoys spending time with his wife and two teenage sons. He also indulges in reading, theater productions, writing stories, essays, and poetry, and playing ultimate frisbee.

WASHINGTON  
WATCH

# Wednesday, May 7



## **Sarah Black**

*General Manager of Great Lakes Ag Labor Services, LLC, (GLALS)*

**Sarah Black** is the General Manager of Great Lakes Ag Labor Services, LLC, (GLALS) an affiliate company of Michigan Farm Bureau. GLALS is the largest agency in Michigan that sources temporary and seasonal labor through the federal H-2A visa program. Now in their 10th year of operation, GLALS partners with state Farm Bureaus to provide H-2 and H-2B services to farms in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin and Texas, and brought in over 2,400 workers in 2024. Sarah also jointly serves as Director of Business Operations for Michigan Farm Bureau, where her service has spanned over 30 years, including over 20 years in the policy & legislative arena serving as both the Director of the Public Policy & Commodity Division and MFB's National Legislative Counsel. Sarah grew up on a dairy farm and her nephew and his family continue as the 6th generation operating the centennial home farm that was started in 1865. She is an alumni of Michigan State University with a Bachelor's Degree from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. She is also a more than 30 year volunteer and active leader with 4-H. Sarah, her husband George and her family live in Eagle in the central part of Michigan.

## **Capitol Hill Speakers**

**9:20 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.**

*8:05 a.m. Optional – Meet as a group to rideshare to Capitol Hill*

*Longworth House Office Building Room 1300(House Ag Committee Room)*

*(Please allow time to get through security — BRING PHOTO ID.)*

9:25 a.m.



## **Senator John Boozman**

*Arkansas (R)*

*Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee Chair; Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe; Senate Appropriations Committee; Senate Environment and Public Works Committee; Senate Rules and Administration Committee; Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee*

[@JohnBoozman](#)

9:45 a.m.



## **Senator Roger Marshall**

*Kansas (R)*

*Senate Agriculture Nutrition and Forestry Committee; Senate Budget Committee; Senate Finance Committee; Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee*

[@RogerMarshallMD](#)

10 a.m.



## **Congressman Eric Sorensen**

*Illinois (D)*

*House Agriculture Committee; House Armed Services Committee*

[@RepEricSorensen](#)

# ISSUES FORUM

sponsored by



# Agricultural Retailers Association

## **SPOKESPERSON:**

- Richard Gupton, Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Counsel, richard@aradc.org

## **TOPICS:**

- Farm Bill
- Tax Relief/Budget Reconciliation
- Energy
- Transportation/Supply Chain Issues

## **Media Contact:**

Jennifer Proctor  
703-342-2347  
jproctor@aradc.org  
www.aradc.org

# American Farm Bureau Federation

## **SPOKESPERSONS:**

- Ryan Yates, Managing Director, Government Affairs, ryany@fb.org
- Dave Salmonsens, Senior Director, Government Affairs, davids@fb.org

## **TOPICS:**

- Farm Bill
- Farm Economy
- Regulatory Reform
- Taxes
- Tariffs
- Trade

## **Media Contact:**

Mike Tomko  
Director, Communications  
410-446-8830  
miket@fb.org www.fb.org

# American Feed Industry Association

## **SPOKESPERSONS:**

- Leah Wilkinson, Vice President of Public Policy & Education, [lwilkinson@afia.org](mailto:lwilkinson@afia.org)
- Mallory Gaines, Director of Global Affairs, [mgaines@afia.org](mailto:mgaines@afia.org)
- Lara Moody, Executive Director, Institute for Feed Education & Research, [lmoody@afia.org](mailto:lmoody@afia.org)

## **TOPICS:**

- Trade policies impacting feed inputs, pet food
- Regulatory reform agenda
- Legislative agenda
- State/federal regulatory changes on ingredient reviews
- Agency staffing levels
- Latest feed/pet food consumption data & economic impacts on farm country
- Research on vitamin/amino acid supply chain vulnerabilities
- Animal food industry's sustainability efforts
- New AFIA video series on depth & breadth of animal food industry

## **Media Contact:**

Victoria Broehm  
Senior Director of Communications  
703-558-3579  
[vbroehm@afia.org](mailto:vbroehm@afia.org)  
[afia.org](http://afia.org)



## Clean Fuels Alliance

### SPOKESPERSONS:

- Kurt Kovarik, Vice President, Federal Affairs, [kkovarik@cleanfuels.org](mailto:kkovarik@cleanfuels.org)
- Greg Anderson, Clean Fuels Board Member, [andersonfarm@frontiernet.net](mailto:andersonfarm@frontiernet.net)
- Paul Winters, Director, Public Affairs, [pwinters@cleanfuels.org](mailto:pwinters@cleanfuels.org)

### TOPICS:

- Renewable Fuel Standard -- Clean Fuels has asked EPA to set the 2026 Bio mass-based diesel volume at 5.25 billion gallons. Stakeholders -- including American Petroleum Institute -- agree that is the right number.

### Media Contact:

Paul Winters  
[pwinters@cleanfuels.org](mailto:pwinters@cleanfuels.org)  
[cleanfuels.org](http://cleanfuels.org)

## Corn Refiners Association

### SPOKESPERSON:

- John Bode, President and CEO

### TOPICS:

- Farm Bill: How the legislation can help grow the ag bioeconomy
- Trade: The current outlook for American agriculture
- Food Policy: CRA on the Make America Healthy Again movement
- Grid resilience: The looming problem of shoring up America's electric grid

### Media Contact:

Spencer Chase  
Senior Director of Communications  
202-331-1634  
[schase@corn.org](mailto:schase@corn.org)  
[www.corn.org](http://www.corn.org)

**Feeding the soil  
is the first step  
in feeding us all.**



[tfi.org](http://tfi.org)

# CropLife America

## **SPOKESPERSON:**

- Alexandra Dunn, President and CEO, [adunn@croplifeamerica.org](mailto:adunn@croplifeamerica.org)

## **TOPICS:**

- Come visit the CropLife America booth to hear President and CEO Alexandra Dunn share new Endangered Species Act resources for farmers and retailers; insights on communicating pesticide science in an age of misinformation; the impact of trade and tariff policy on the pesticide industry; and ideas for modernizing EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs to get key tools into farmers' hands faster.

## **Media Contact:**

Annemarie Pender  
Senior Director, Strategic Communications  
202-296-1585  
[apender@croplifeamerica.org](mailto:apender@croplifeamerica.org)  
[www.croplifeamerica.org](http://www.croplifeamerica.org)

# Farm Credit

## **SPOKESPERSON:**

- Christy Seyfert, President and CEO, [Christy.seyfert@fccouncil.com](mailto:Christy.seyfert@fccouncil.com)

## **TOPICS:**

- Farm Bill
- Tax Bill
- Farm Credit Mental Health and Farm Stress Initiatives

## **Media Contact:**

Debbie Wing  
Executive Vice President, Communications  
[debbie.wing@fccouncil.com](mailto:debbie.wing@fccouncil.com)  
[www.farmcredit.com](http://www.farmcredit.com)

# Growth Energy

## **SPOKESPERSON:**

- Emily Skor, CEO, [eskor@growthenergy.org](mailto:eskor@growthenergy.org)

## **TOPICS:**

- Learn about why now is the time for Congress to (finally) approve year-round E15, how important biofuels are to the ag economy, and how biofuels can help address trade gaps, among any other ethanol and biofuels-related topics.

## **Media Contact:**

Jacob Barron  
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202-545-4000  
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# International Fresh Produce Association

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- Mollie Van Lieu, Vice President of Nutrition and Health, [mvanlieu@freshproduce.com](mailto:mvanlieu@freshproduce.com)

## **TOPICS:**

- Labor and workforce reform
- Global trade
- Farm Bill priorities for specialty crops
- Nutrition policy

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# National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

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## **TOPICS:**

- Farm Bill
- Food Systems
- Pesticide Regulations
- PFAS
- State Cooperative Agreement Funding

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# National Cattlemen's Beef Association

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- Kelsea Kemp, Associate Director, Government Affairs, [kkemp@beef.org](mailto:kkemp@beef.org)

## TOPICS:

- **Ethan Lane**  
White House Policy  
USDA Policy  
Trade/Tariffs
- **Sigrid Johannes**  
Lab-Grown Protein  
Cattle Health  
Food Policy  
Dietary Guidelines
- **Mary-Thomas Hart**  
Environmental Policy  
Litigation  
Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS)
- **Garrett Edmonds**  
Public Lands Ranching  
Endangered Species Act  
Department of Interior Policy
- **Kelsea Kemp**  
Tax Relief  
Business Issues

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# National Corn Growers Association

## SPOKESPERSONS:

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- Nancy Martinez, Director of Public Policy, Trade and Biotechnology, [Martinez@ncga.com](mailto:Martinez@ncga.com)
- Lesly McNitt, Vice President, Public Policy, [McNitt@ncga.com](mailto:McNitt@ncga.com)

## TOPICS:

- Ethanol
- Trade
- Taxes

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# National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

## SPOKESPERSONS:

- Chuck Conner, President and CEO, [cconner@ncfc.org](mailto:cconner@ncfc.org)
- Lisa Van Doren, Chief of Staff and Vice President, Government Affairs, [lvandoren@ncfc.org](mailto:lvandoren@ncfc.org)

## TOPICS:

- Tax extension and Section 199A
- Trade and Tariffs
- Ag Labor
- Farm bill/farm policy

## Media Contact:

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# National Farmers Union

## SPOKESPERSONS:

- Rob Larew, President, [rlarew@nfudc.org](mailto:rlarew@nfudc.org)
- Jeff Kippley, Farmer / Vice President, [jkippley@nfudc.org](mailto:jkippley@nfudc.org)
- Carah Ronan, Farmer / NFU Board Member, [rodifarmmt@gmail.com](mailto:rodifarmmt@gmail.com)

## TOPICS:

- Farm country is on edge. Family farmers and ranchers are facing a perfect storm: volatile markets, rising input costs, shrinking federal support, mounting trade tensions, and no new farm bill in sight. Farmers Union members are bringing grassroots voices to Congress during a Week of Action starting May 5, urging lawmakers to pass a strong, five-year farm bill for farmers sake.
- Join NFU President Rob Larew to discuss the urgency of this moment, and hear directly from NFU Vice President Jeff Kippley and Next Generation Board Member Carah Ronan about what's happening on their farms.

## Media Contact:

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# National Oilseed Processors Association

## SPOKESPERSON:

- Devin Mogler, President & CEO, [dmogler@nopa.org](mailto:dmogler@nopa.org)

## TOPICS:

- Biofuels Policy - RFS RVOs, Tax Credits
- Trade - USTR Sec. 301 Tariffs, Biofuel feedstock imports
- Seed Oils

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# National Pork Producers Council

## SPOKESPERSONS:

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- Maria C. Zieba, Vice President of Government Affairs, [ziebam@nppc.org](mailto:ziebam@nppc.org)
- Matt Grill, Senior Director of Congressional Relations, [grillm@nppc.org](mailto:grillm@nppc.org)
- Dr. Ashley Johnson, Director of Food Policy, [johnsona@nppc.org](mailto:johnsona@nppc.org)

## TOPICS:

- CAFO regulations
- California Proposition 12
- Dietary guidelines
- EPA guidelines
- Farm Bill
- International trade and tariffs
- Labor
- Line speeds
- Swine traceability

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# National Sorghum Producers

## SPOKESPERSON:

- Amy France, Chair

## TOPICS:

- Trade
- Biofuels
- Farm Bill
- Conservation through collaboration

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## Pivot Bio

## SPOKESPERSON:

- Agronomy and Innovation Expert

## TOPICS:

- With volatile markets and rising input costs, getting the most from every pound of nitrogen matters more than ever. Pivot Bio's biological nitrogen offers a third mode of action, feeding roots directly, improving nutrient access, and supporting plant health all season so farmers can maximize yield potential and return on every input dollar. Connect with Pivot Bio agronomists to see how the latest data, real-world results, and innovations in crop nutrition are driving these outcomes in the field.

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# Renewable Fuels Association

## SPOKESPERSONS:

- Troy Bredenkamp, Senior VP, Government & Public Affairs, [tbredenkamp@ethanolrfa.org](mailto:tbredenkamp@ethanolrfa.org)
- Jared Mullendore, Policy Counsel and Director, Government Affairs, [jmullendore@ethanolrfa.org](mailto:jmullendore@ethanolrfa.org)

## TOPICS:

- Finding a legislative solution for year-round E15
- Renewable Fuels Standard integrity and seeking a robust 2026 & 2027 Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO)
- The benefit of year-round E15 and a strong RVO for the US farm economy
- Seeking clarity and function for the 45Z tax credit
- Leveling the playing field between FFVs and EVs through the Flex Fuel Fairness Act
- Tariff impacts on global trading opportunities for US ethanol

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# The Fertilizer Institute

## **SPOKESPERSON:**

- Corey Rosenbusch, President & CEO, [crosenbusch@tfi.org](mailto:crosenbusch@tfi.org)

## **TOPICS:**

- Tariffs
- Phosphate and Potash as Critical Minerals
- Fertilizer Markets
- Spring Supply & Application
- Upcoming Transportation Bill
- Phosphogypsum Reuse
- Farm Bill
- Section 45 Tax Incentives
- 4R Advocates
- 4R Acre Goal
- Sustainability
- Biostimulant Certification Program
- Low Carbon Ammonia Certification
- TFI Agronomy Conference
- Fertilizer Reporting Solutions

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## United Soybean Board

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- Mary Stewart, United Soybean Board Director, [mstewart@fawnviewfarm.com](mailto:mstewart@fawnviewfarm.com)

### TOPICS:

#### Patrick Giberson

- Infrastructure and Connectivity Investments
- Communication & Education Investments
- Sustainable Soy Solutions

#### Mary Stewart

- Animal Nutrition
- Production Research
- Sustainable Soy Solutions

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## U.S. Wheat Associates

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- Peter Laudeman, USW Director of Trade Policy, [plaudeman@uswheat.org](mailto:plaudeman@uswheat.org)

### TOPICS:

- Global Trade and Exports
- U.S. Wheat Farmers

### Media Contact:

Ralph Loos

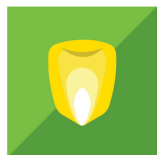
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