



washington  
**watch**

★ **NAFB in D.C.** ★

★ **April 27-29, 2026** ★

## 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.

### NAME BADGES

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

### MEETING ATTIRE

Washington Watch is “business” with the exception of the Tuesday reception, which is “business casual or 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 received them in the mail in advance of the meeting. In addition, registered attendees may pick up an Uber gift card at registration.

### FUTURE NAFB NATIONAL MEETING DATES

#### 83<sup>rd</sup> NAFB Convention

November 18-20, 2026

#### 84<sup>th</sup> NAFB Convention

November 17-19, 2027

Westin Crown Center  
Kansas City, MO



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:

**Gardner Hatch**  
**NAFB**  
**ghatch@nafb.com**  
**(816) 431-4032 ext. 101**



★ **NAFB** in D.C. ★ ★ April 27-29, 2026 ★

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**WASHINGTON WATCH SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE**

*Sponsor: Pivot Bio*

Post and follow Washington Watch 2026 on social media with the official hashtag:

**#NAFBWW26**

**Event Programs**

*Sponsor: Renewable Fuels Association*

**Transportation Cards**

*Sponsor: American Farm Bureau Federation*

**Hotel Key Cards**

*Sponsor: National Association of State Departments of Agriculture*

**Name Badge Lanyards/Registration**

*Sponsor: Syngenta North America*



2026 Washington Watch Committee



**Andy Schwab**  
**Co-Chair**  
*Northern Ag Network*  
Billings, MT



**Susan Littlefield**  
**Co-Chair**  
*Farm and Ranch Media*  
Surprise, NE



**Parker James**  
*Your Ag Network*  
Yankton, SD



**Jill Johnson**  
**NCBA**  
Centennial, CO



**Mikayla Dolch**  
**NPPC**  
Des Moines, IA



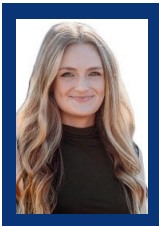
**Spencer Chase**  
*Corn Refiners Association*  
Washington, D.C.



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



**Chase Kusel**  
*National Farmers Union*  
Washington, D.C.



**Corryn La Rue**  
*Farm and Ranch Media*  
Kansas City, MO

## Welcome to Washington Watch!

We're thrilled to have you in Washington, D.C. this week as we explore the policy conversations shaping agriculture today. Farm broadcasters provide a powerful and trusted voice every day for farmers and ranchers who rely on their timely coverage of ag news. Over the next few days, you'll hear from leaders across government and industry, gaining insights that will help you report on and navigate the fast-moving landscape on Capitol Hill and better understand agriculture's influence at both the national and global levels.

Monday begins with a member meeting and Issues Forum, featuring discussions with many of the most influential agricultural associations in D.C. This evening features dinner and continued conversation with Al Tank, ag and food entrepreneur, investor and farmer. On Tuesday, we'll visit the United States Department of Agriculture for a morning of high-impact speakers, including Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins and other Administration leaders. In the afternoon, we'll head to the National Association of Broadcasters headquarters for additional sessions, including remarks from Syngenta's Val Dolcini on keeping agriculture front and center in D.C. We've also invited embassy representatives to share their countries' perspectives on working with U.S. agriculture.

After a brief return to the hotel, Tuesday evening offers a chance to unwind at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association headquarters with a reception featuring exceptional beef and beverages, followed by a guided monument tour—an inspiring way to experience the history and beauty of Washington, D.C.

Wednesday starts with an early breakfast at the hotel before we head to Capitol Hill for a full slate of meetings with elected officials. We encourage all attendees to connect with their own representatives before departing for home.

If you have any questions during your time here, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're looking forward to an engaging and productive week with you in our nation's capital.



**Susan Littlefield**

**Co-chair**



**Andy Schwab**

**Co-chair**

8:30 am -  
12:30 pm

**NAFB Board of Directors Meeting**

Holiday Inn Capitol: House

1:30 pm -  
3:00 pm

**NAFB Member Business Meeting  
& Registration**

Holiday Inn Capitol: Congressional II

*Registration Sponsor:*

*Syngenta North America*



3:00 pm -  
4:00 pm

**Issues Forum Registration**

Holiday Inn Capitol: Capitol Hill  
Ballroom Foyer

*Registration Sponsor: NASA Agriculture*



3:00 pm -  
6:00 pm

**Issues Forum**

Holiday Inn Capitol: Capitol Ballroom

*Sponsor: The Fertilizer Institute*



6:00 pm -  
6:45 pm

**Issues Forum Reception**

Holiday Inn Capitol: Congressional Foyer

*Sponsor: Soy Checkoff*



7:00 pm

**Dinner**

Holiday Inn Capitol: Congressional II

*Sponsor: Farm Credit*



**Speaker: Al Tank**

Ag and Food Entrepreneur, Investor and Farmer

Alan Tank is a seasoned professional with over three decades of experience in executive leadership and board roles across the agriculture, food, and renewable energy sectors. He has been instrumental in founding and managing several notable companies, including Revolution Energy Solutions and AgCert International.

Tank's expertise extends to renewable energy projects, greenhouse gas emission reductions, and carbon capture and removal. He is also an advisor to several asset management platforms and private equity firms, showcasing his influence and impact in the industry.

Tank has also served as the CEO of the National Pork Producers Council, Assistant Vice President of National Corn Growers and was a commodity broker with U.S. Commodities. Tank and his family work together at Tank Customs LLC / Tank Brothers Farm.

7:15 am

**Arrive on your own to USDA**

Jamie L. Whitten Building  
12<sup>th</sup> Street and Jefferson Drive SW, Washington D.C.  
\*We will meet in the hotel lobby at 7:00 am to walk as a group or share Ubers.\*

*Please allow yourself time to get through security, PHOTO ID required.*

7:30 am

**Breakfast**

Whitten Building – Press Room 107A

**Sponsor: Ag Retailers Association**



8:00 am –  
11:00 am

**USDA Speaker Lineup**

Whitten Building - Williamsburg Room 108A  
(No food or beverage is allowed in this room.)

8:00 am

**Speaker: Brooke Rollins (invited)**

USDA Secretary of Agriculture



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 am

**Speaker: Karen Budd-Falen**

Associate Deputy Secretary of Interior



**Karen Budd-Falen** has returned to Washington D.C. from her home in Wyoming to work in the Trump administration at the Department of the Interior. Her work under the first Trump Administration was a two-year appointment under the Trump Administration at the Department of the Interior, as the Deputy Solicitor for Wildlife and Parks. Karen first stint in Washington D.C. was for three years in the Reagan Administration at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Her prior work in Wyoming was as the owner of a law firm that primarily work on issues relating to property rights and protecting the ranching community in the West. Karen has been featured in Newsweek Magazine's "Who's Who: 20 for the Future" for her work on property rights issues and was named as one of Wyoming's Outstanding Ag Citizens. She has received the "Always There Helping" award from the New Mexico Stock Growers Association, the "Bud's Contract" award from the New Mexico Public Lands Council and the Individual of the Year award from the Arizona/New Mexico Coalition of Counties for Stable Economic Growth. Most recently, she was awarded her Honorary State Degree from the Wyoming Future Farmers of America (FFA) for her support of the local and state agricultural issues forum contests. Karen has testified over a dozen times before committees and subcommittees of the U.S. House of Representatives on issues related to attorneys' fees payments, the ESA, NEPA and livestock grazing. She has also testified many times before the Wyoming Joint Agriculture Committee on eminent domain and other property rights issues.

9:00 am

**Speaker: Richard Fordyce**

*USDA Under Secretary for Farm Protection and Conservation*



**Richard Fordyce** serves as USDA’s Under Secretary for the Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) mission area. The FPAC Mission Area encompasses key USDA agencies, including the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Risk Management Agency (RMA) —all essential to the delivery of conservation, farm loans, crop insurance, disaster assistance, and other key programs for farmers around the country. Richard is a fourth-generation farmer from Bethany, Missouri, and has devoted his career to advancing American agriculture and putting Farmers First.

Prior to serving as Under Secretary, he was Director of Agricultural Business Growth at the marketing firm Osborn Barr Paramore where he led business development growth in the agriculture and rural sectors. He also served as the Administrator of USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) from 2018-2021 and State Executive Director for Missouri (from 2017 to 2018). He also served as director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture from 2013 to 2017. As Missouri Department of Agriculture director, he served as chairman of the International Trade & Policy Committee for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA).

He and his wife, Renee, have two children and grow soybeans, corn and beef cattle on the family farm.

9:30 am

**Speaker: Brad Rippey**

USDA Meteorologist and managing editor of the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin



**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.

10:00 am

**Speaker: Stephen Vaden**

USDA Deputy Secretary



**Judge Stephen Alexander Vaden** was appointed as the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture on July 7, 2025. Alongside Secretary Brooke L. Rollins, Deputy Secretary Vaden leads the Department’s operations and implements policies that support America’s food and farm systems. A native of Union City, Tennessee, Deputy Secretary Vaden brings expertise in agricultural policy, law, and rural development. Previously, he served as a judge on the U.S. Court of International Trade and as General Counsel of USDA. Throughout Deputy Secretary Vaden’s time as General Counsel, he led successful Supreme Court litigation, advanced regulatory reform, and supported the implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill. He is a graduate of Yale Law School and Vanderbilt University. A public servant with strong agricultural roots, Deputy Secretary Vaden is committed to revitalizing rural America and ensuring an abundant, affordable, and safe U.S. food supply.

11:00 am

**Depart USDA and move to National Association of Broadcasters**

1 M Street SE, Washington DC, for lunch and afternoon speakers.

**Photo ID required for entry.**

11:30 am

**Lunch**

National Association of Broadcasters  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor

**Sponsor: Corn Refiners Association**



12:15 pm

**Professional Development Session**

*Sponsor: National Association of Broadcasters*



**Topic: AI Use in Broadcasting and Rural Connectivity**



**Speaker: John Clark**

Chief Innovation Officer and Senior Vice President, Emerging Technology, National Association of Broadcasters

John Clark is the Chief Innovation Officer and Senior Vice President of Emerging Technology at the National Association of Broadcasters and leads NAB’s efforts to identify, develop and expand next-generation tools, partnerships and technologies that empower local broadcasters. Clark works with broadcast and technology companies across the media ecosystem and works to identify emerging trends that will shape the future of the industry. He has a deep understanding of both broadcast operations and cutting-edge innovation.

Previously, Clark was Executive Director of the Reese News Lab in the Hussman School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina, where he taught media innovation and entrepreneurship. Prior to UNC, Clark was the general manager of WRAL.com, one of the nation’s most successful local news websites.

He has earned patents for delivering geographically restricted content over the Internet and was a winner of the Knight News Challenge, UNC’s Harvey Award for commitment to innovation, and a Knight Prototype Grant.

John is a native of Townsville, N.C., and earned a B.A. in Mass Communication from Campbell University as well as an M.B.A. from Campbell University’s Lundy-Fetterman School of Business.

1:15 pm

**Policy Insights**

*Sponsor: Clean Fuels Alliance America*



**Speaker: Val Dolcini**

Head of Public Affairs, NA Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC

Val Dolcini is a fifth-generation Californian, and his career spans more than two decades of agricultural policy and management experience in the state, federal and nonprofit sectors.

Currently, Val oversees Syngenta’s sustainability and corporate affairs activities in North America. *(Cont’d)*

**Val Dolcini (Cont'd)**

Earlier in his career, Val held senior staff positions in the U.S. House of Representatives, the California State Legislature and the California Governor's Office. He has also worked for Fortune 500 companies, helping to develop successful policy and business strategies in the state and local government marketplace and has served on many volunteer boards and commissions in his community. He was appointed by the President to serve as the Administrator of the USDA Farm Service Agency.

Prior to joining Syngenta, he was director of the Department of Pesticide Regulation in California. He also served as the deputy secretary for Agriculture at the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), where he worked with agricultural organizations, farmers, environmentalists, state agencies, and other stakeholders.

Val earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in history at San Francisco State University and a Juris Doctor degree from Golden Gate University School of Law. He also attended the University of Uppsala in Sweden.

2:00 pm

**Newsmaker**

Topic: TBD

2:45 pm

**Newsmaker**

Topic: TBD

3:30 pm

**Adjourn Speaker Sessions**

Return to Holiday Inn Capitol

5:00 pm -  
7:00 pm

**Rooftop Reception**

National Cattlemen's Beef Association HQ  
1275 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
\*Please use the 13<sup>th</sup> Street entrance, then take the elevator to the 14<sup>th</sup> floor\*  
(Casual attire welcomed.)

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



National Cattlemen's Beef Association

7:15 pm

**Depart: Guided Evening Monument Tour Celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States of America**

Bus will load near NCBA Headquarters  
(Portions of this tour include walking at several monuments.)

**Sponsor: National Corn Growers Association**



9:30 pm

**Bus returns to Holiday Inn Capitol**

7:15 am

**Breakfast**

Holiday Inn Capitol

*Sponsor: Associated Milk Producers Inc.*



8:00 am

**Arrive on your own to U.S. Capitol Visitors Center Entry for security screening**

Intersection of 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE and East Capitol Street.

\*We will meet in the hotel lobby at 7:45 a.m. and get Ubers as a group so drop-off point is coordinated\*

*Let the security team know that you are attending the event in SVC-208 and they will direct you to the visitor's desk to get your badge.*

**Please allow yourself 60 minutes to get through security, PHOTO ID required and bring as little gear as possible.**

9:00 am -  
12:00 pm

**Capitol Hill Speakers**

Capitol Visitors Center: Room SVC-208

9:00 am

**Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE)** (confirmed)

9:15 am

**Senator Roger Marshall (R-KS)** (confirmed)

9:40 am

**Representative Angie Craig (D-MN)** (confirmed)

10:00 am

**Senator Dusty Johnson (R-SD)** (confirmed)

10:25 am

**Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)** (invited)

11:00 am

**Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL)** (confirmed)

11:30 am

**Senator John Hoeven (R-ND)** (confirmed)

11:45 am

**Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD)** (confirmed)

12:00 pm

**Adjourn Washington Watch**

9:00 am

**Speaker: Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE)**



A lifelong Nebraskan, **Deb Fischer** is the senior senator from Nebraska. Senator Fischer was first elected to the U.S. Senate in November 2012, becoming the first Nebraska woman elected to a full term and the first Nebraska state senator elected directly after service in the state legislature. She was reelected for a second term in 2018, and in November 2024, Nebraskans voted to send her back to the Senate for a third term. During the 119th Congress, she serves as deputy whip under Senate Majority Whip John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), working to present the concerns of Nebraskans directly to Republican Senate leadership. She also serves on six important Senate committees: Armed Services, Appropriations, Commerce, Agriculture, Rules, and Ethics.

Senator Fischer believes the first duty of Congress is to defend the nation. As a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, she is committed to defending against growing threats to our homeland and our allies. She serves as Chair of the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, which focuses on America’s nuclear triad and associated delivery systems, the emergence of space as a warfighting domain, and defending the nation against increasingly sophisticated missile threats. The subcommittee directly oversees two unified combatant commands: U.S. Strategic Command, headquartered at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, and U.S. Space Command.

Senator Fischer also serves on the Appropriations Committee, which helps shape the federal government’s spending policies. This position ensures that Nebraskans have greater input into the programs and agencies that directly affect their lives. Senator Fischer is committed to leveraging this role to rein in irresponsible spending and benefit Nebraska.

9:15 am

**Speaker: Senator Roger Marshall (R-KS)**



**Doc Marshall** is a physician, devoted father, grandfather, and U.S. Senator for Kansas. As a 5th generation farm kid growing up in Butler County, Doc Marshall became the first in his family to attend college. After graduating from Butler County Community College, he received his Bachelor’s degree from Kansas State University and his Medical Doctorate from the University of Kansas.

Doc Marshall practiced medicine in Great Bend for more than 25 years and served in the Army Reserves for seven years. As an OB/GYN, he delivered more than 5,000 babies, giving him a deep appreciation and passion for the sanctity of life and an intimate understanding of the healthcare system. During his time in medicine, Doc Marshall was more than a physician. For 25 years, he was a business owner who signed a paycheck every other week for a practice that grew from 5 people to eventually more than 300.

Faith and community continue to be pillars in Doc Marshall’s life. He and his wife Laina taught Sunday school for over 25 years, and he served as an elder, deacon, and board chairman of his church. He has coached numerous community and youth sports teams and is a proud Rotarian having served as a past District Governor for the service organization. He also has a passion for the outdoors and spends as much time as possible at his family’s farm, the Quivera National Wildlife Refuge, and Cheyenne Bottoms.

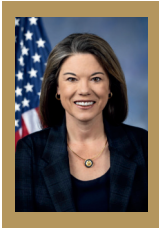
Doc and Laina, have been married for 40 years and are the parents of four children, and have four grandchildren.

In the U.S. Senate, Doc Marshall serves on:

- Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
  - Chairman of the Subcommittee on Conservation, Forestry, Natural Resources, and Biotechnology
  - Subcommittee on Food and Nutrition, Specialty Crops, Organics, and Research
- Committee on Finance
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
  - Chairman of the Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security
  - Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety
- Committee on the Budget

9:40 am

Speaker: Representative Angie Craig (D-MN)



U.S. Representative Angie Craig represents Minnesota's Second Congressional District. She is fighting for a Minnesota where the middle class, small business owners and family farmers can thrive. Consistently ranked one of the most bipartisan Members of Congress, she'll work with anybody – and take on the Washington establishment – to improve the lives of folks in her district.

The granddaughter of a farm foreman, Angie learned the value of hard work from her family – and in particular, her mother, a single mom who raised three children while earning her teaching degree. Angie worked two jobs to help put herself through college.

In Congress, Angie is fighting for career and technical training and to make sure that vocational jobs are available to every young person who wants one. She has consistently pushed to fully fund our special education programs in Minnesota schools and to cut bureaucratic red tape and waste in government.

Angie is a strong advocate for cutting taxes on small business and the middle class. She's worked to lower health care costs by capping the co-pay of certain prescription drugs and expanding health care coverage for all Americans. She has secured major infrastructure investments to improve the roads, highways and bridges in her district and expand high-speed internet connectivity her rural communities.

Angie has led the bipartisan effort to secure the Southern Border and stop the flow of illicit fentanyl into Minnesota communities and she has taken on the social media companies allowing the marketing and sale of drugs on their platforms. She has been a champion for local law enforcement agencies, fire departments and first responders as they work to keep us safe. She remains dedicated to fighting to lower costs for hardworking Minnesotans.

As the top Democrat on the House Committee on Agriculture, Angie is committed to strengthening the farm safety net, improving opportunities for new and beginning farmers as well as protecting access to nutrition programs that feed hungry families and support America's rural economy. She is working to lower energy costs by investing in an all-of-the-above energy policy that includes renewable fuels.

10:00 am

**Speaker: Representative Dusty Johnson (R-SD)**



**Dusty Johnson** brings an energetic and optimistic leadership style to Washington as South Dakota’s lone voice in the U.S. House of Representatives. As a “policy guy,” he works hard to be a knowledgeable and value-added member on issues related to his committee assignments: Agriculture, Transportation & Infrastructure, and the Select Committee on China.

**Committee on Agriculture** – A recognized leader in issues related to rural America, agriculture, livestock, and rural broadband, Dusty was grateful to be named Chairman of the Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development Subcommittee. Ahead of the reauthorization of the five-year Farm Bill, Dusty’s role will give him more influence over cryptocurrency, commodities, and rural communities. Dusty also serves on the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities, Risk Management, and Credit.

**Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure** – Dusty has remained focused on supply chain issues through ocean shipping reform, highway, manufacturing, and transit reform. T&I has jurisdiction over issues important to South Dakota, including railroads, aviation, pipelines, FEMA, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Dusty serves on the Subcommittee on Aviation; Highways and Transit; and Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.

**Select Committee on China** – Dusty recognizes the 360-degree threat China poses to all American citizens, our food security, and national security. His leadership prohibiting purchases of American ag land and ag businesses by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and banning TikTok on government devices led to his appointment on the Select Committee by Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Chairman Mike Gallagher (R-WI).

**Republican Main Street Caucus** – Dusty served as Chairman of the caucus from 2023 - July 2025, leading a group of 70+ pragmatic conservatives looking to pass commonsense solutions in Congress. Main Street is dedicated to getting things done and is active in organizing support for legislation.

10:25 am

**Speaker: Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) (invited)**



U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar is the first woman elected to represent the State of Minnesota in the United States Senate.

Senator Klobuchar has built a reputation of putting partisanship aside to help strengthen the economy and support families, workers, and businesses. In the 117th Congress, she was number one in the Senate for introducing bipartisan bills and number three for passing bills into law.

As Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Senator Klobuchar is working on behalf of farmers, agriculture workers, and rural communities by fighting to expand the farm safety net, support food assistance programs, and expand voluntary conservation programs. She has also passed legislation to encourage the use of renewable fuels and to invest in programs to stop the spread of animal disease. Additionally, Senator Klobuchar is devoted to passing on Minnesota's tradition of outdoor recreation, fishing, and hunting to the next generation and has secured significant funding for research, restoration, and conservation activities, including the 2022 Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Reauthorization Act.

As a member of the Joint Economic Committee and the Senate Commerce Committee, Senator Klobuchar has been a leader in working to implement a competitive agenda to ensure businesses have the tools they need to grow and create good jobs in their communities. She has established herself as a leader on addressing supply chain issues, successfully leading the bipartisan Ocean Shipping Reform Act to address sky-high shipping prices, which was ultimately signed into law.

She has also authored legislation to lift the trade embargo with Cuba as well as legislation to help small businesses tap into new markets abroad and foster the creation and growth of new businesses across the country. As co-chair of the Senate Broadband Caucus, Senator Klobuchar has been a leading advocate working to connect every American to high speed internet once and for all. Her provisions to expand high-speed broadband across the country were included in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which was signed into law in 2021.

11:00 am

**Speaker: Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL)**



**Senator Dick Durbin**, a Democrat from Springfield, is the 47th U.S. Senator from the State of Illinois, the state’s senior senator, and the convener of Illinois’ bipartisan congressional delegation.

Durbin also serves as the Senate Democratic Whip, the second highest ranking position among the Senate Democrats. Senator Durbin has been elected to this leadership post by his Democratic colleagues every two years since 2005.

Durbin serves as Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and sits on the Appropriations and Agriculture Committees.

Elected to the U.S. Senate on November 5, 1996, and re-elected in 2002, 2008, 2014, and 2020, Durbin fills the seat left vacant by the retirement of his long-time friend and mentor, U.S. Senator Paul Simon.

Senator Durbin makes approximately 50 round trips a year between Washington and Illinois. He is married to Loretta Schaefer Durbin. Their family consists of three children--Christine (deceased), Paul, and Jennifer - as well as six grandchildren. They reside in Springfield.

11:30 am

**Speaker: Senator John Hoeven (R-ND)**



On January 5, 2011, **John Hoeven** was sworn in as North Dakota’s 22nd U.S. Senator, following ten years of service as the state’s governor.

Senator Hoeven is bringing North Dakota's winning economic formula to the national stage, crafting policies that drive the economy forward, especially in the energy, agriculture, and defense sectors. His commitment to cutting red tape and building a business-friendly environment aims to boost job growth and economic activity, while tackling the nation’s debt and deficit.

From his position on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator Hoeven is driving efforts to develop a thorough national energy plan, similar to the state’s EmPower North Dakota plan, to return the U.S. to energy dominance using both traditional and emerging energy resources. Senator Hoeven trusts such an approach will lead to jobs, economic growth and true energy security for America. (Cont’d)

**Senator John Hoeven (R-ND) (cont'd)**

The senator's work includes serving as the leading advocate for approving the Dakota Access pipeline and advancing measures to eliminate outdated and unnecessary regulations that prolong the approval process for new energy projects and discourage investment and innovation.

Additionally, as Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee and a senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator Hoeven plays a crucial role in developing and funding farm policies that provide our nation's farmers and ranchers the tools and certainty they need to succeed. The senator has secured agriculture disaster assistance to help producers recover from challenging markets, natural disasters and other issues. At the same time, Senator Hoeven is working to pass a new farm bill that includes meaningful risk management tools for producers, keeping the farm in the farm bill.

11:45 am

**Speaker: Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD)**



On January 6th, 2015, Senator Marion Michael "Mike" Rounds was sworn into the United States Senate. Senator Rounds serves on five committees: Senate Appropriations; Senate Armed Services; Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; Indian Affairs; and the Select Committee on Intelligence.

Rounds previously served as the 31st governor of South Dakota from 2003 – 2011. From 1991 to 2000, he was elected five times to the South Dakota State Senate. In 1995, his colleagues selected him to serve as Senate Majority Leader, a position that he held for six years. During his time in state government, Rounds was committed to growing the economy, keeping taxes low and strengthening South Dakota families.

A lifelong South Dakotan, Senator Rounds was born in Huron, the eldest of 11 children. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from South Dakota State University. In the private sector, Rounds built a successful insurance and real estate business with offices throughout the state. He resides in Fort Pierre and is the proud parent of four grown children and 11 grandchildren.

**Agricultural Retailers Association**

**Spokesperson:**  
**Richard Gupton**  
ARA Senior Vice President of Public Policy & Counsel

- Topics:**
- Securing & Strengthening our Domestic Supply Chain
  - Transportation Reform (Seasonal Ag CDL Modernization)
  - The Farm Bill
  - Water Resources Development Act
  - Reliable Rail Access
  - Year-Round E15

**Media Contact:**  
**Alex Enlow**  
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**American Farm Bureau Federation**

**Spokespeople:**  
**Ryan Yates**  
Managing Director, Government Affairs  
**Faith Parum**  
Economist

- Topics:**
- Ryan Yates
    - Farm Bill
    - Taxes
    - E15
    - Farm Economy
  - Faith Parum
    - Farm Economy
    - Trade
    - Share of Food Dollar
    - Risk Management

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**American Seed Trade Association**

**Spokesperson:**  
**Andy LaVigne**  
 President & CEO

**Topics:**

- Founded in 1883, the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) represents over 650 companies involved in seed production, plant breeding and related industries in North America. ASTA is the leading voice of action in all matters concerning the development, marketing and movement of seed, associated products and services throughout the world. The association’s broad membership offers varieties from alfalfa to zucchini and all production types including conventional, organic and biotech. ASTA promotes the development of better seed to produce better crops for a better quality of life. Visit [www.betterseed.org](http://www.betterseed.org) to learn more.

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**American Sugar Alliance**

**Spokespeople:**  
**Dr. Rob Johansson**  
 Director of Economics and Policy Analysis  
 American Sugar Alliance  
**Luther Markwart**  
 Executive Vice President & CEO  
 American Sugarbeet Growers Association  
**Ryan Weston**  
 CEO, Florida Sugar Cane League and Washington Representative, Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers

**Topics:**

- The U.S. sugar industry faces numerous headwinds, including immense economic pressures, excess foreign sugar, and natural disasters like the recent freeze in Florida.
- American sugar production is essential to American food security, and we must maintain a reliable supply of this essential food ingredient.

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**Clean Fuels Alliance**

**Spokespeople:**  
**Greg Anderson**  
 Board Member, Nebraska Soy/Clean Fuels  
**Kurt Kovarik**  
 Vice President of Federal Affairs, Clean Fuels  
**Paul Winters**  
 Director of Public Affairs, Clean Fuels

- Topics:**
- Historic Renewable Fuel Standard volumes for biodiesel and renewable diesel – what do they mean for soy farmers and animal fat providers?
  - Proposed rules for the 45Z Clean Fuels Producer Credit – does the industry have the necessary stability?
  - 2025 saw a decline in U.S. biodiesel and renewable diesel production, compared to 2024. What can we expect in 2026?

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 cleanfuels.org



**Corn Refiners Association**

**Spokespeople:**  
**John Bode**, President and CEO, Corn Refiners Association  
**Danielle Beck**, Vice President of External Affairs, Corn Refiners Association and Plant Based Products Council

- Topics:**
- John Bode:
- CRA's thoughts on the MAHA movement
  - The importance of food affordability
  - Agricultural trade and the upcoming review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement
  - America's need for grid reliability
- Danielle Beck:
- The need for American leadership in the ag bioeconomy to support rural economies and promote national security
  - Development of the next Farm Bill and how it can support the ag bioeconomy
  - Consumer demand for plant-based products

**Media Contact:**  
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 Plant Based Products Council  
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**CropLife America**

**Spokesperson:**  
**Alexandra Dunn**  
 President and CEO

**Topics:**

- “Farmer Voices Matter” is a CropLife America initiative to raise awareness on the importance of and confidence in pesticides in producing healthy food.
- Making America Healthy Again (MAHA) impact on agriculture and food.
- CLA also offering new tools for farmers to understanding the Endangered Species Act.
- Key policy updates, including market access issues impacting farmers.

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**Farm Credit**

**Spokespeople:**  
**Christy Seyfert**  
 Farm Credit Council President & Chief Executive Officer  
**Anne Thompson**  
 Vice President, Young & Beginning Farmer Programs & Industry Outreach

**Topics:**

- Farm Bill 2.0
- Farm Credit farm stress initiatives
- International Year of the Woman Farmer

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 www.farmcredit.com



## Growth Energy

### Spokesperson:

**Emily Skor**  
CEO

### Topics:

- Year-round E15 and its importance to the farm economy.
- The impact of the Trump Administration's record-setting renewable volume obligations (RVOs).
- The 45Z tax credit and its potential benefits to farmers.
- Ethanol exports and ethanol's future as a potential fuel and feedstock for aviation and marine fuels.
- Everything else biofuels.

### Media Contact:

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## International Fresh Produce Association

### Spokespeople:

**Mollie Van Lieu**

Vice President, Nutrition & Health

**Samantha Ayoub**

Director, Workforce & Business Policy

### Topics:

- Creating a more stable workforce, fresh produce for better health, producer profitability, trade, organics, regenerative, supply chain, economic aid, floral policy.

### Media Contact:

**Siobhan May**

Vice President, Content & Communications  
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## NASA Agriculture

### Spokespeople:

**Karen St. Germain**

Director, NASA Earth Science Division

**Michael Humber**

Deputy Director, NASA Acres

### Topics:

- NASA innovates for the benefit of all humanity
- NASA's Role in Agriculture: Raising awareness of how NASA's fleet of over two dozen Earth-observing satellites provides a "macro-to-micro" view of the planet, delivering essential, free data that supports the entire American agricultural value chain from local farmers to global markets.
- Next-Gen Soil Moisture Insights: Introducing the NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) mission, which will provide unprecedented, high-resolution soil moisture data, allowing producers to "see" through the canopy and clouds to track field conditions in near real-time.
- Precision Water Management with OpenET: Demonstrating how the OpenET platform uses satellite imagery to provide field-scale evapotranspiration data, helping producers maximize water-use efficiency and manage irrigation during drought conditions, now available for the entire continental U.S.
- Predictive Yield & Weather Analytics: Sharing insights from advanced modeling tools that integrate Earth observations with AI to forecast regional crop yields and provide early warnings for extreme weather events or pest outbreaks.
- Bridging the "Space-to-Farm" Gap: Highlighting the Farm Innovation Ambassador Team (FIAT) initiative, which pairs NASA researchers directly with "early-adopter" farmers to co-create data tools that are practical, user-friendly, and grounded in real-world agricultural needs for U.S. farmers.

### Media Contacts:

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**National Association of Broadcasters**

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National Association of Broadcasters  
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**National Association of State Departments of Agriculture**

**Spokespeople:**  
**Ted McKinney**  
Chief Operating Officer  
**RJ Karney**  
Senior Director of Public Policy

- Topics:**
- Animal Disease Preparedness & Traceability
  - Farm Bill
  - Pesticide Regulations
  - Regional Food Procurement & Distribution
  - Agricultural Labor Reform

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**National  
Cattlemen’s  
Beef  
Association**

**Spokespeople:**

**Ethan Lane**, Sr. Vice President, Government Affairs  
**Kent Bacus**, Exec Director, Government Affairs  
**Kaitlynn Glover**  
 Exec Director, Government Affairs & Public Lands Council  
**Garrett Edmonds**  
 Sr. Director, Government Affairs & Public Lands Council  
**Mary-Thomas Hart**, Chief Counsel  
**Sigrid Johannes**, Sr. Exec Director, Government Affairs  
**Clay Parker**, Associate Director, Government Affairs

**Topics:**

- NCBA Policy Priorities
- Taxes
- Trade
- Endangered Species Act
- Grazing & Public Lands Issues
- New World Screwworm
- Farm Bill

**Media Contacts:**

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**National  
Council of  
Farmer  
Cooperatives**

**Spokesperson:**

**Duane Simpson**  
 President and CEO

**Topics:**

- The farm economy and farm policy
- Farm Bill prospects
- Ag labor reform
- MAHA and agriculture

**Media Contact:**

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## National Farmers Union

### Spokespeople:

**Rob Larew**

President

**Mike Stranz**

Vice President of Advocacy

### Topics:

Farmers are facing an economic crisis, and today's farm policy isn't keeping up. Join NFU leaders for a conversation about how the farm safety net must evolve, how expanding domestic market opportunities can strengthen rural economies, and what it will take to support the next generation of family farmers and ranchers.

### Media Contact:

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## National Pork Producers Council

### Spokespeople:

**Todd Marotz**, Vice President

**Kyle Garner**, Manager of Congressional Relations

**Dr. Ashley Johnson**, Director of Food Policy

### Topics:

- Todd Marotz
  - California Proposition 12
  - Environment and sustainability
  - Farm bill
  - International trade and tariffs
- Kyle Garner
  - Farm bill
  - Labor
- Dr. Ashley Johnson
  - Dietary guidelines
  - Line speeds
  - MAHA

### Media Contact:

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Digital Communications

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**National Sorghum Producers**

**Spokesperson:**  
**Amy France**  
NSP Chair

**Topics:**

- **Biofuels:** Maintain strong demand through year-round E15, effective implementation of the 45Z clean fuel production credit and robust RVOs that provide market certainty for producers.
- **Farm Bill:** Advance and pass a comprehensive farm bill that delivers stability for a struggling farm economy and supports research and innovation.
- **Input Costs:** Address ongoing pressure from high fuel and fertilizer costs that continue to squeeze farm margins and challenge producer profitability.

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**Pivot Bio**

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**Renewable Fuels Association**

**Spokespeople:**  
**Edward S. Hubbard, Jr.**  
 General Counsel and Vice President, Government Affairs  
**Jared Mullendore**  
 Policy Counsel and Director, Government Affairs

- Topics:**
- Finding a legislative solution for year-round E15
  - Ensuring a strong Renewable Fuels Standard
  - Extending ethanol into maritime and aviation uses
  - Expanding global trade opportunities for U.S. ethanol

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**The Fertilizer Institute**

**Spokespeople:**  
**Corey Rosenbusch**  
 President and CEO  
**Veronica Nigh**  
 Chief Economist

- Topics:**
- Strait of Hormuz – Global Volatility
  - Spring Supply/Application
  - Recent Legislation
  - Tariffs
  - Phosphate and Potash as Critical Minerals
  - Phosphogypsum Reuse
  - Farm Bill – Conservation Funding
  - 4R Advocates
  - 4R Acre Goal
  - Sustainability
  - Biostimulant Certification Program
  - Low Carbon Ammonia Certification – VACI
  - TFI Agronomy Conference – ACE
  - Fertilizer Reporting Solutions

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**Soy  
Checkoff**

**Spokespeople:**

**Patrick Giberson**

United Soybean Board Director, New Jersey farmer

**Mary Stewart**

United Soybean Board Director, Maryland farmer

**Topics:**

Patrick Giberson

- **Industrial Innovations:** The checkoff is focused on innovating new uses for soybean meal, cultivating oil demand channels in lubricants, rubber, plastics and surfactants, and partnering with brands like Goodyear, Skechers and Cross Plains Solutions.
- **Biobased Products:** The checkoff has expanded soy into more than 1,000 consumer products, replacing petroleum, plastic, PFAS and formaldehyde with biobased alternatives.
- **35th Anniversary:** As United Soybean Board marks its 35th anniversary, it continues to drive demand for U.S. Soy and strengthen its global presence through biobased innovations, infrastructure investments and sustainable production.

Mary Stewart

- **Food & Human Nutrition:** The checkoff is advancing soybean’s reputation, expanding the use of soy oil and protein, and provides science-based facts to counter misinformation, particularly around seed oils.
- **Dietary Guidelines:** The 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recognize soy foods like tofu and tempeh as nutrient-dense protein sources and fermented soy foods like miso as valuable for gut health.
- **High Oleic Soybeans:** The checkoff has invested \$130 million in high oleic, and nearly \$400 million has been returned in premium payments to farmers. They are used in dairy rations, food applications and industrial uses.

**Media Contacts:**

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## US Wheat Industry

### Spokespeople:

U.S. Wheat Associates

- **Ralph Loos**, Director of Communications and Global Outreach

National Association of Wheat Growers

- **Anthony Pena**, Vice President of Policy and Communications
- **Elizabeth Rivera**, Director of Communications and Partnerships
- **Sam Kieffer**, CEO

### Topics:

- U.S. Wheat Associates
  - Update on U.S. wheat exports
  - USW's activities around the world
  - New and emerging international markets for U.S. wheat
- National Association of Wheat Growers
  - Impact of current legislation on wheat farmers
  - Update on new Farm Bill progress

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## FARMERS AND RANCHERS AGREE

Farm Radio is their #1 choice for daily ag news, markets and weather.\* It's trusted and meets them where they are.

\* Kynetec Farm Radio Listenership Research Study. Scan to learn more.



## LET THEM TELL YOU



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“I get real-time updates on market trends no matter my location. Many radio programs focus on regional markets providing me ample information tailored to my needs.”

“I've been able to keep up to speed with ag innovations, new products and new ag tech by listening to farm commentary. It is every farmer's go-to for quick updates.”

“It provides specific information relevant to my area, including updates on local regulations, market conditions, and community events that directly impact my farming operations.”



## Your Support Helps Advance Farm Broadcasting and All of Agriculture!

The NAFB Foundation is a nonprofit charitable and educational arm of NAFB, focused on ensuring a strong future for the farm broadcasting profession and industry. The NAFB Foundation was created to provide development opportunities for those exploring the farm broadcasting profession and for current professionals who are looking to expand their communications skills. Donating to the NAFB Foundation is investing in the future of farm broadcasting and agriculture.

Since its inception in 1977, NAFB Foundation has awarded more than \$750,000 in college scholarships to more than 150 students. Scholarship winners are recognized each year at the NAFB Convention in November. In addition, the NAFB Foundation has provided more than \$350,000 in internship grants to NAFB member stations and networks and has contributed to educational seminars and travel to events that help with advancing broadcast skills.

"The initiatives funded by the NAFB Foundation are designed to cultivate the next generation of farm broadcasters. With the support of individual donors and agribusiness, together we are strengthening farm broadcasting and building better communications for all of America." says Meghan Grebner, NAFB Foundation President

Many individuals choose to support the NAFB Foundation every year in a variety of ways. For those who commit to making an annual gift, we show our appreciation through the NAFB Foundation Booster Club.

For questions,  
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## Recognizing Excellence in Ag Broadcast Reporting

The NAFB Foundation presents The Doan award, sponsored by Agri-Pulse. The Doan award is named after **Stewart Doan**, a farm broadcast journalist who spent more than 30 years covering agriculture news and policy on television, radio, and the internet. His ability to conduct interviews with policy leaders and decision makers was admired by all who knew him. A past president of NAFB and Hall of Fame inductee, Stewart passed away suddenly in 2012. His passion for agriculture and reporting on the issues affecting farmers and consumers is missed by the entire agriculture community.

### About The Doan

The Doan recognizes and encourages excellence in reporting on agriculture. The purpose of the award is to recognize excellence in reporting skill, thoroughness, and attention to audience interest. Entries are now being accepted for the 2026 Doan Award. Visit [NAFB.com](http://NAFB.com) for more details. When submitting entries, broadcasters should consider submitting entries that:

- Represent strong journalism (hard news or features) that communicate issues or insights in a compelling way.
- Relate broadly to food, agriculture, natural resources, rural affairs, and related matters of vital public interest
- Have the necessary components to potentially cause or encourage positive changes, or neutralize negative issues impacting agriculture
- Encourage a call to action by listeners to improve themselves, their industry, or the communities in which they live

Be mindful that these are guidelines, not prerequisites, for your submission. Ultimately, it will be your broadcast, your topic, and your professionalism in presenting that topic. All entries will receive a critique of their work from the judging panel at the completion of the contest.





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