



## 2013 Issues Forum Topics

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**ORGANIZATION: American Farm Bureau Federation**

**SPOKESPERSON:**

- **Mary Kay Thatcher**, Senior Director of Congressional Relations

**TOPIC:**

- Farm Bill

**SPOKESPERSON:**

- **Kristi Boswell**, Director of Congressional Relations

**TOPIC:**

- Ag Labor

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**ORGANIZATION: American Farmland Trust**

**SPOKESPERSON(S):**

- **Jon Scholl**, President
- **Michele Wells**, Wells Communications

**TOPICS:**

- Congress needs to hold the line on Farm Bill conservation program funding.
- Conservation compliance must be re-linked with crop insurance support.
- Climate change means that farmers and ranchers must embrace sound conservation practices for long-term economic and environmental benefits.

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**ORGANIZATION: United Soybean Board/Soy Checkoff**

**SPOKESPERSON:**

- **John Becherer**, CEO
- **Jim Stillman**, Chairman

**TOPICS:**

- How the soy checkoff helps U.S. soybean farmers meet their customers' needs.
- The checkoff's efforts to support adoption of high oleic soybean varieties, which produce an edible oil with fewer saturated fats than commodity soy oil.

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**ORGANIZATION: U.S. Wheat Industry**

**SPOKESPERSON(S):**

- **Melissa George Kessler**, NAWG Director of Communications
- **Brooke Shupe**, NAWG Manager of Government Affair for Risk Management
- **Bing Von Bergen**, NAWG President
- **Jim Palmer**, Incoming NAWG Chief Executive Officer
- **Shannon Schlecht**, U.S. Wheat Associates Vice President of Policy
- **Steve Mercer**, U.S. Wheat Associates Vice President of Communications
- **Julie Debes**, U.S. Wheat Associates Assistant Director of Communications

**TOPICS:**

- Introducing Jim Palmer, Incoming Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG)
- Describing the wheat industry's Farm Bill positions
- Sharing why it is so important to maintain federal export market development programs
- Outlining the wheat industry's position on food aid

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**ORGANIZATION: American Seed Trade Association**

**SPOKESPERSON(S):**

- **Andy LaVigne**, President & CEO
- **Dr. Bernice Slutsky**, Senior Vice President of Domestic & International Issues
- **Jane DeMarchi**, Vice President of Government & Regulatory Affairs
- **Kellie Boyle**, Communications Lead

**TOPICS:**

- The Accord Process
  - ◇ The next steps for patent expiration in the biotech trait arena
- The Guide to Seed Treatment Stewardship
  - ◇ Proper use and handling seeds treated with agrichemicals
- America's Plant Germplasm System
  - ◇ The Foundation of America's plant and research industry
- ASTA's involvement in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of the Agriculture Value Chain

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**ORGANIZATION: American Soybean Association**

**SPOKESPERSON(S):**

- **Danny Murphy**, President
- **Richard Wilkins**, Treasurer

**TOPICS:**

- Biodiesel and RFS
- Biotech Approvals (Domestic and Foreign)
- Biotech Labeling
- Conservation
- Crop Insurance and Risk Management
- EPA and Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC)
- Farm Bill
- Food Aid Restructuring
- Sustainability
- Trade Agreements (Japan/TPP, Europe/TTIP)
- Transportation and Waterways

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**ORGANIZATION: U.S. Grains Council**

**SPOKESPERSON(S):**

- **Marri Carrow**, Director of Communications
- **Tom Sleight**, President and CEO

**TOPICS:**

- USGC to Announce International Grain Alliance May 14
- No Farm Bill = No Export Programs
- TPP, TTIP, FTAs – what it means to your audience

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**ORGANIZATION: Renewable Fuels Association**

**SPOKESPERSON(S):**

- **Bob Dinneen**, President & CEO
- **Dawn Moore**, Communications Director

**TOPICS:**

- Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS)
- E15
- Blend Wall
- Trade and Import/Export issues
- Blender Pumps and E85

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**ORGANIZATION: The Fertilizer Institute**

**SPOKESPERSON(S):**

- **Laura Kubitz**, Manager of Public Affairs
- **Kathy Mathers**, Vice President of Public Affairs

**TOPICS:**

- 4R Nutrient Stewardship – grower education and research

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**ORGANIZATION: American Sugar Alliance**

**SPOKESPERSON(S):**

- **Ryan Weston**, Chairman
- **Phillip Hayes**, Spokesman

**TOPICS:**

- Farm Bill and U.S. Sugar Policy
- Foreign Sugar Subsidies

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**ORGANIZATION: Corn Refiners Association**

**SPOKESPERSON(S):**

- **David Knowles**, Director of Communications

**TOPICS:**

- Corn Refiners Association's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- The Corn refining industry's longstanding partnership with corn growers
- CRA's high fructose corn syrup educational campaign

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**ORGANIZATION: CropLife America**

**SPOKESPERSON(S):**

- **Kellie Bray**, Senior Director of Government Affairs
- **Mary Emma Young**, Director of Communications and Marketing

**TOPICS:**

- Endangered Species Act
- Pollinator Health
- Supporting Modern Agriculture through the CLA Tell Me More Program

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**ORGANIZATION: Growth Energy**

**SPOKESPERSON(S):**

- **Tom Buis**, CEO
- **Michael Frohlich**, Press Secretary

**TOPICS:**

- RFS and E15

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**ORGANIZATION: National Pork Producers Council**

**SPOKESPERSON:**

- **Chris Wall**, Assistant Vice President, Government Relations

**TOPICS:**

- Farm Bill
- Egg Bill

**SPOKESPERSON:**

- **Dr. Liz Wagstrom**, Chief Veterinarian

**TOPIC:**

- Antibiotics

**SPOKESPERSON:**

- **Michael Formica**, Chief Environmental Counsel

**TOPIC:**

- EPA Regulations

**SPOKESPERSON:**

- **Dave Warner**, Director of Communications

**TOPICS:**

- TPP
- US-EU FTA

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**ORGANIZATION: National Farmers Union**

**SPOKESPERSON(S):**

- **Roger Johnson**, President

**TOPICS:**

- Farm bill and Country-of-Origin Labeling

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**ORGANIZATION: National Milk Producers Federation**

**SPOKESPERSON(S):**

- **Christopher Galen**, Senior Vice President, Communications

**TOPICS:**

- Dairy policy and the Farm Bill
- Immigration Reform

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**ORGANIZATION: National Biodiesel Board**

**SPOKESPERSON:**

- **Anne Steckel**, Vice President of Federal Affairs

**TOPICS:**

- The positive benefits that biodiesel brings to farm communities and the economy at large.
  - ◇ An estimated 50,000 jobs
  - ◇ Displacing an equivalent amount of petroleum diesel
  - ◇ Reducing U.S. dependence on imported petroleum and diversifying energy portfolio
  - ◇ Reducing tailpipe emissions including greenhouse gas emissions.
- Critical policy issues impacting biodiesel's ability to continue this growth and momentum.
  - ◇ Maintaining a strong Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and continued growth for biodiesel under the RFS.
  - ◇ Winning a long-term extension of the biodiesel tax incentive, and several provisions in the farm bill that help advance biodiesel innovation and market awareness.

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

**SPOKESPERSON:**

- **Colin Woodall**, Vice President of Government Affairs

**TOPICS:**

- Farm Bill
  - ◇ Current outlook for a full five year farm bill
  - ◇ Cattlemen and women's priorities in the farm bill
- Trade
  - ◇ Importance of trade for cattlemen
  - ◇ Trans-Pacific Partnership
- Border Security and Immigration
  - ◇ Current bills in Congress
  - ◇ Importance of a year-round guest workforce for cattlemen

**SPOKESPERSON:**

- **Ashley McDonald**, Environmental Counsel

**TOPICS:**

- Clean Water Act Expansion
  - ◇ Is the EPA still looking to expand the jurisdiction of the CWA
  - ◇ Consequences of the release of producer information
  - ◇ What reforms are being considered to the SPCC

**SPOKESPERSON:**

- **Dustin Van Liew**, Director Public Lands Council

**TOPICS:**

- Federal Lands Ranching
  - ◇ Value of Federal Lands Ranching
  - ◇ Importance of provisions of the Grazing Improvement Act
  - ◇ What are cattlemen doing on the Endangered Species Act
  - ◇ What is the importance of the Catastrophic Wildfire Prevention Act

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**ORGANIZATION: National Corn Growers Association**

**SPOKESPERSON(S):**

- **Jon Doggett**, Vice President of Public Policy
- **Sam Willett**, Senior Director of Public Policy
- **Ethan Mathews**, Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs Manager

**TOPICS:**

- Ethanol
- Farm Bill

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**ORGANIZATION: National Council of Farmer Cooperatives**

**SPOKESPERSON(S):**

- **Chuck Conner**, President & CEO
- **Justin Darisse**, Vice President of Communications
- **Becca Stephen**, Communications Manager
- **Kathleen Heron**, Director of Government Relations

**TOPICS:**

- Immigration and the Farm Bill

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