



Issues Forum Guide 2017

AN OVERVIEW OF ISSUES FORUM COMPANIES,
THEIR SPOKESPERSONS AND INTERVIEW TOPICS

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Agricultural Retailers Association

SPOKESPERSON:

- **Daren Coppock**, President and CEO, dcoppock@aradc.org

TOPICS:

- Ag retail regulatory outlook under new administration
- ARA Policy Priorities
- Midwest Ag Retail Forum scheduled for late summer, Wichita, KS
- ARA Conference & Expo, November 28-30 Arizona Biltmore, Phoenix, AZ
- ResponsibleAg
- Coalition to Advance Precision Agriculture

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American Farm Bureau Federation

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Dr. Bob Young**, Chief Economist, boby@fb.org
- **Mary Kay Thatcher**, Senior Director of Congressional Relations, mkt@fb.org

TOPICS:

- Farm Bill
- Agriculture Economy

Media Contact

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American Seed Trade Association

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Andrew LaVigne**, President and CEO, alavigne@betterseed.org
- **Bernice Slutsky**, Sr. VP, Domestic & International Policy, bslutsky@betterseed.org

TOPICS:

- Trade
- Plant Breeding Innovation Policy
- USDA science and research program funding
- Farm Bill

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American Soybean Association

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Richard Wilkins**, Chairman, richard.soyfarmer@gmail.com
- **Patrick Delaney**, Director, Policy Communications, pdelaney@soy.org
- **Jessica Wharton**, State Policy and Communications Coordinator, jwharton@soy.org

TOPICS:

Visit with ASA as we pursue an aggressive legislative agenda in the 115th Congress to move the needle for soybean farmers. ASA's legislative efforts will focus on expected action on a farm bill that protects and strengthens the risk management framework, tax reform that recognizes farms as the rural economic engines they are, and the transportation infrastructure that represents a clear advantage over our competition. In the executive branch, ASA looks to collaborate with the administration to pursue regulatory work that focuses on rolling

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back Obama-era regulations on water quality, defending the RFS, improving the regulatory approval timeline both in the U.S. and in our export markets for new biotech traits. And we will rely on allies in Congress and the administration who understand the value of export markets and global trade to the soybean farmers as we continue our effort to expand trade relationships with our partners abroad.

Media Contact:

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American Sugar Alliance

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Phillip Hayes**, Director of Communications, phayes@northbridgecomm.com
- **Luther Markwart**, Board Member, lmarkwart@americansugarbeet.org

TOPICS:

- US Sugar Policy
- Global sugar market
- Foreign sugar subsidies
- Biotech Issues

Media Contact:

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Corn Refiners Association

SPOKESPERSON:

John W. Bode, President and CEO, jbode@corn.org

TOPICS:

- Ag and Trump Administration
- NAFTA
- Mexico
- Bioeconomy
- Sustainability

Media Contact:

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CropLife America

SPOKESPERSON:

- **Kelly Bray**, Senior Director, Government Affairs, kbray@croplifeamerica.org

TOPICS:

- Communication Campaigns: #GiveaCrop
- Endangered Species
- Other Issues in the Crop Protection Industry

Media Contact:

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Growth Energy

SPOKESPERSON:

- **Emily Skor**, CEO, eskor@growthenergy.org
- **Chris Bliley**, VP of Regulatory Affairs, cbliley@growthenergy.org

TOPICS:

- Point of Obligation
- RVP
- Expanding the domestic marketplace - Expansion and Adoption of E15 among independent retailers
- The Renewable Fuel Standard and Congressional Oversight The RFS Renewable Volume Obligations
- Expanding the international marketplace through exports— ethanol and distillers grains
- Biofuels – driving innovation, creating jobs, improving our environment, reducing our dependence on foreign oil and giving consumers a choice

Media Contact:

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National Biodiesel Board

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Anne Steckel**, Vice President of Federal Affairs, asteckel@biodiesel.org
- **Jessica Robinson**, Director of Communications, jrobinson@biodiesel.org
- **Rosemarie Calabro Tully**, Director of Public Affairs and Federal Communications, rcalabrotully@biodiesel.org

TOPIC:

Federal policy is at the forefront of the energy industry and in the biodiesel world few issues are more important than growth

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in the Renewable Fuel Standard and a reinstatement of the biodiesel tax incentive. These issues, among others, are key to continuing the successes of America's Advanced Biofuel. The biodiesel industry has a major impact on jobs and rural economies, supporting 64,000 jobs and more than \$11 billion in economic impact while bringing direct value back to soybean and livestock farmers across the country.

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National Cattlemen's Beef Association

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Colin Woodall**, Sr. VP of Government Affairs, cwoodall@beef.org
- **Ethan Lane**, Executive Director, Public Lands Council and NCBA Federal Lands, elane@beef.org
- **Danielle Beck**, Director of Government Affairs, dbeck@beef.org
- **Kent Bacus**, Director of International Trade, kbacus@beef.org

TOPICS:

- GIPSA
- International Trade and Market Expansion
- Tax Reform
- Endangered Species Act Modernization

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National Corn Growers Association

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Lesly McNitt**, Director of Public Policy, mcnitt@ncga.com
- **Brooke Appleton**, Director of Public Policy and Political Strategy, appleton@ncga.com
- **Ethan Mathews**, Director of Public Policy, mathews@ncga.com

TOPICS:

- Trade
- Regulatory
- Farm Bill
- Waterways, transportation, and infrastructure

Media Contact:

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National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Chuck Conner**, President and CEO, cconner@ncfc.org
- **Lisa Van Doren**, Vice President and Chief of Staff, Government Affairs, lvandoren@ncfc.org

TOPICS:

- Farm Bill
- Immigration
- Agriculture in the Trump Administration
- Trade

Media Contact:

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National Farmers Union

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Roger Johnson**, President, rjohnson@nfudc.org
- **Rob Larew**, Sr. VP of Public Policy and Communications, rlarew@nfudc.org

TOPICS:

- Farm Economy
- Trade
- Consolidation
- Climate

Media Contact:

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National Milk Producers Federation

SPOKESPERSON:

Christopher Galen, Senior Vice President of Communications, cgalen@nmpf.org

TOPICS:

- Dairy policy and Farm Bill
- Immigration Reform
- Trade policy, esp. NAFTA
- Enforcement of food labeling standards

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National Pork Producers Council

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Nick Giordano**, Vice President and Counsel, Global Government Affairs, giordanon@nppc.org
- **Michael Formica**, Assistant Vice President, Domestic Affairs & Counsel, formicam@nppc.org
- **Liz Wagstrom**, Chief Veterinarian, wagstroml@nppc.org
- **Dustin Baker**, Deputy Director, Economics & Domestic Production Issue, bakerd@nppc.org

TOPICS:

- International Trade
- GIPSA and Environmental Issues Spokes
- FMD Vaccine Bank, Science and Technology Issues
- Economics of Pork Production, Immigration

Media Contact:

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National Sorghum Producers

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Don Bloss**, Chairman of the Board, dbloss_01@hotmail.com
- **Jennifer Blackburn**, External Affairs Director, Jennifer@sorghumgrowers.com

TOPICS:

- NSP efforts to preserve crop insurance as a farm safety net, oppose cuts to the farm bill and roll back regulations that have been harmful to agriculture as farmers experience challenging economic times across the countryside.
- NSP's engagement advocating for a strong energy title and continued support of the Renewable Fuels Standard.
- Sorghum's role as a natural conservation crop with water-

saving and rotation benefits that make it poised for opportunity in conservation discussions.

- Sorghum's continued demand both by international export customers and domestic market expansion.
- NSP analysis on farm policy, including advocacy for programs that work for sorghum farmers like PLC, which will add approximately \$400 million to farmers' bottom lines this fall.
- NSP advocacy for increased research to further enhance sorghum's diversity as a feed, fuel and food crop while also addressing concerns facing our industry, including new pests like the sugarcane aphid.

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Renewable Fuels Association

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Bob Dinneen**, CEO, bobd@ethanolrfa.org
- **Rachel Gantz**, Communications Director, rgantz@ethanolrfa.org

TOPICS:

- Renewable Fuel Standard and EPA's Renewable Volume Obligation
- Export efforts--ethanol and DDGS
- E15 and the expansion of higher-level ethanol blends
- Cellulosic ethanol

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The Fertilizer Institute

SPOKESPERSON:

Kathy Mathers, Vice President of Public Affairs

TOPICS:

- Keeping fertilizer in the field
- Fertilizer supply and demand update
- Trends in sustainability

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U.S. Grains Council

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Tom Sleight**, President and CEO
- **Floyd Gaibler**, Director of Trade Policy and Biotechnology, fgaibler@grains.org
- **Mike Dwyer**, Chief Economist, mdwyer@grains.org

TOPICS:

- NAFTA renegotiation/Mexico as the top U.S. grain export market
- Trade policy priorities moving forward - ethanol, China
- Booming grain exports this marketing year and trends
- Work to develop long-term, diversified demand for grain

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**U.S. Wheat Industry, National Association of
Wheat Growers and U.S. Wheat Associates**

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Ben Conner**, USW Director of Policy, cbconner@uswheat.org
- **Alan Tracy**, USW President
- **Chandler Goule**, NAWG Chief Executive Office, cgoule@wheatworld.org
- **Jimmie Musick**, NAWG Vice President, jmusick@pldi.net

NAWG Topics:

- Farm Bill Implementation and Setting the Stage for the 2018 Farm Bill
- FY 2018 Agriculture Appropriations Priorities
- National Wheat Foundation Activities: National Wheat Yield Contest and National Wheat Action Plan
- Outlook for Congressional action on Trade
- Environmental Regulations

USW Topics:

- Importance of trade to wheat growers in the new administration, including NAFTA and trade enforcement
- U.S. wheat exports grow as USW promotes quality and more competitive prices
- USDA export market development programs build export revenue, farm income and U.S. jobs
- U.S. wheat growers are dedicated to sustainability and responsible stewardship

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