



Issues Forum Guide 2019

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

SPONSORED BY:



RFA

**RENEWABLE
FUELS
ASSOCIATION**

Agricultural Retailers Association

SPOKESPERSON:

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

TOPICS:

- rural infrastructure/transportation needs — Drive Safe Act (S. 1374/HR 641)
- CFATS reauthorization beyond current extension
- trade — importance of passing USMCA; impacts on supply chain for tariffs
- ag labor/immigration reform — main ag labor bills in Congress (S. 175/HR 641)
- regulatory reform for agricultural retailers — Reducing EPA Duplication to Advance Pesticide Enforcement Act (HR 890); new WOTUS rule

Media Contact:

Melisa Augusto, Director of Communications and Marketing

P: (202) 595-1712

E: melisa@aradc.org

aradc.org

American Farm Bureau Federation

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Dr. John Newton**, Chief Economist, jnewton@fb.org
- **Paul Schlegel**, Managing Director, Public Affairs, pauls@fb.org
- **Will Rodger**, Director, Policy Communications, willr@fb.org
- **Ray Atkinson**, Director, Strategic Communications, raya@fb.org
- **Mace Thornton**, Executive Director of Communications, macet@fb.org

TOPIC:

- front-burner agricultural policy issues and the economic conditions of American agriculture

Media Contact

Mace Thornton, Executive Director of Communications

P: (202) 406-3641

E: macet@fb.org

fb.org

American Seed Trade Association

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Andrew LaVigne**, President & CEO, alavigne@betterseed.org
- **Abigail Struxness**, Senior Director, International Programs & Policy, astruxness@betterseed.org

TOPICS:

- **INNOVATION:** Plant breeding innovation offers exciting potential for our planet, our health, and our food. If newer breeding methods like gene editing result in plant varieties that are the same or indistinguishable from varieties developed through more traditional methods, they should not be treated differently from a policy perspective.
- **TRADE:** Seed is a global industry, with U.S. exports totaling \$1.9 billion in 2018. Seed exports to the United State’s largest markets — Mexico and Canada — combined for a total of \$630 million last year. ASTA urges swift passage of USMCA which strengthens science-based sanitary and phytosanitary regulations; provides strong intellectual property protections, including adoption of UPOV 91 requirements; and promotes innovation by harmonizing the agricultural biotechnology trait approval process.
- **AGRICULTURE RESEARCH:** Continued funding is needed for USDA agriculture research, including critical programs like the Germplasm Enhancement of Maize (GEM) program and the National Plant Germplasm System.

Media Contact:

Bethany Shively, Vice President, Strategic Communications

P: (703) 837-8140

E: bshively@betterseed.org

betterseed.org

American Sugar Alliance

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Ryan Weston**, Chairman, rweston@sugarcaneleague.org
- **Phillip Hayes**, Director of Media Relations, phayes@northbridgecomm.com

TOPICS:

- 2018 Farm Bill
- economic conditions in sugar country
- global sugar market

Media Contact:

Phillip Hayes, Director of Media Relations

P: (703) 351-5055

E: phayes@northbridgecomm.com

sugaralliance.org

Corn Refiners Association

SPOKESPERSON:

- **John Bode**, President & CEO, jbode@corn.org

TOPICS:

- food labeling and nutrition
- sustainability and innovation
- economic impact — food/ag industries

Media Contact:

Thomas Parks, Communications Manager

P: (202) 534-3504 C: (203) 739-9723

E: tparks@corn.org

corn.org

CropLife America

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Chris Novak**, CEO, novak@croplifeamerica.org
- **Genevieve O'Sullivan**, Director, Communications & Marketing, gosullivan@croplifeamerica.org

TOPICS:

- industry outlook
- sustainability

Media Contact:

Genevieve O'Sullivan, Director, Communications and Marketing

P: (202) 731-1812

E: gosullivan@croplifeamerica.org

croplifeamerica.org

Farm Credit

SPOKESPERSON:

- **Todd Van Hoose**, President & CEO, vanhoose@fccouncil.com

TOPICS:

- navigating the farm economy: how Farm Credit is working with farmers and ranchers across the country
- rural infrastructure: understanding the investment and unique needs

Media Contact:

Mark Hayes, Vice President, External Communications

P: (202) 587-9053 C: (574) 265-3989

E: markhayes@fccouncil.com

farmcredit.com

Growth Energy

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Leigh Claffey**, Director of Communications, lclaffey@growthenergy.org
- **Chris Bliley**, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, cbliley@growthenergy.org
- **Emily Skor**, CEO, eskor@growthenergy.org

TOPICS:

- expanding access to global markets
- securing year-round E15
- stopping excessive granting of small refinery exemptions

Media Contact:

Leigh Claffey, Director of Communications

P: (202) 545-4000

E: lclaffey@growthenergy.org

growthenergy.org

Microsoft

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Richard Cullen**, Executive Director, Connect Americans Now, richard@connectamericansnow.com
- **Jon Conradi**, Outreach Director, Connect Americans Now, jon@connectamericansnow.com

TOPICS:

- rural broadband deployment
- TV white spaces technology
- broadband data

Media Contact:

Jon Conradi, Outreach Director, Connect Americans Now

P: (202) 677-7060

E: jon@connectamericansnow.com

connectamericansnow.com

National Biodiesel Board

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Kurt Kovarik**, Vice President, Federal Affairs, kkovarik@biodiesel.org
- **David Cobb**, Director, Federal Affairs, dcobb@biodiesel.org
- **Paul Winters**, Director, Public Affairs, pwinters@biodiesel.org

TOPIC:

The biodiesel industry supports more than 60,000 jobs and \$11 billion in economic activity across the country. Biodiesel and renewable diesel are used from coast to coast for transportation, home heating, and other needs. They fulfill the environmental and energy security goals of the federal Renewable Fuel Standard and multiple state policies. The industry's top policy priority is a forward-looking, multi-year extension of the biodiesel tax incentive.

Media Contact:

Paul Winters, Director, Public Affairs

P: (202) 737-8801 C: (202) 359-6571

E: pwinters@biodiesel.org

biodiesel.org

National Cattlemen's Beef Association

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Colin Woodall**, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, cwoodall@beef.org
- **Ethan Lane**, Senior Executive Director, Federal Lands, elane@beef.org
- **Danielle Beck**, Senior Director, Government Affairs, debeck@beef.org
- **Scott Yager**, Chief Environmental Council, syager@beef.org
- **Darryl Blakey**, Manager of Legislative Affairs & Market Regulatory Policy, dblakey@beef.org
- **Kent Bacus**, Senior Director, Government Affairs, kbacus@beef.org

TOPICS:

- endangered species
- trade
- fake meat
- waters regulations
- cattle markets
- Green New Deal

Media Contact:

Ed Frank, Senior Director, Policy Communications

P: (202) 879-9125 C: (703) 408-0572

E: efrank@beef.org

policy.ncba.org

National Corn Growers Association

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Jon Doggett**, CEO, doggett@ncga.com
- **Brooke Appleton**, Vice President of Public Policy, appleton@ncga.com
- **Lesly McNitt**, Director, Trade, mcnitt@ncga.com
- **Kathy Bergren**, Director, Renewable Fuels, bergren@ncga.com

TOPICS:

- United States-Mexico-Canada agreement
- ethanol
- agriculture economy

Media Contact:

Liz Friedlander, Director, Policy Communications

P: (202) 628-7001

E: friedlander@ncga.com

ncga.com

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Chuck Conner**, President and CEO, cconner@ncfc.org

TOPICS:

- immigration reform
- trade
- farm policy
- future of American agriculture

Media Contact:

Justin Darisse, Vice President, Communications

P: (202) 879-0816 C: (240) 426-5912

E: jdarisse@ncfc.org

ncfc.org

National Farmers Union

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Roger Johnson**, President, rjohnson@nfudc.org
- **Anne Steckel**, Biofuels Advisor, asteckel@nfudc.org

TOPICS:

- farm economy
- trade issues
- consolidation
- climate change
- biofuels

Media Contact:

Hannah Packman, Communications Coordinator

P: (202) 554-1600

E: hpackman@nfudc.org
nfu.org

National Milk Producers Federation

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Alan Bjerga**, Senior Vice President, Communications, ABjerga@nmpf.org
- **Christopher Galen**, Senior Vice President, Member Services & Strategic Initiatives, cgalen@nmpf.org

TOPICS:

- implementation process of dairy title of 2018 Farm Bill
- impact of trade conflicts on dairy exports and prices
- status of FDA regulation on fake dairy foods

Media Contact:

Christopher Galen, Senior Vice President, Member Services & Strategic Initiatives

P: (703) 243-6111 C: (571) 217-3326

E: cgalen@nmpf.org
nmpf.org

National Pork Producers Council

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Dustin Baker**, Director, Economics & Domestic Production Issues, bakerd@nppc.org
- **Dr. Dan Kovich**, Director, Science & Technology, kovichd@nppc.org
- **Dr. Liz Wagstrom**, Chief Veterinarian, wagstroml@nppc.org
- **Maria Zieba**, Director, International Affairs, ziebam@nppc.org

TOPICS:

- international trade
- Farm Bill implementation
- agricultural labor
- gene editing
- the new swine inspection system
- African swine fever

Media Contact:

Jim Monroe, Senior Director, Communications

P: (202) 347-3600

E: monroej@nppc.org

nppc.org

National Sorghum Producers

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Tim Lust**, CEO
- **Delanie Crist**, Communications Coordinator

TOPICS:

- international trade policy
- Farm Bill implementation
- farm economy
- increased E15 use
- safeguarding crop protection tools

Media Contact:

Delanie Crist, Communications Coordinator

P: (806) 749-3478 C: (575) 760-7992

E: delanie@sorghumgrowers.com

sorghumgrowers.com

Renewable Fuels Association

SPOKESPERSON:

- **Bob Dinneen**, Senior Strategic Advisor

TOPICS:

- RFS waivers
- trade
- 2020 RVO
- RFS reset
- litigation

Media Contact:

Jessica Bennett, Vice President, Government and External Affairs

P: (202) 289-3835

E: jbennett@ethanolrfa.org

ethanolrfa.org

The Fertilizer Institute

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Kathy Mathers**, Vice President, Public Affairs, kmathers@tfi.org
- **Chris Glen**, Director, Political Communication, cglen@tfi.org
- **Jennifer Martin**, Director of Public Relations, jmartin@tfi.org

TOPICS:

- planting season update
- state and regional 4R certification programs
- measuring ag sustainability

Media Contact:

Kathy Mathers, Vice President, Public Affairs

P: (202) 251-2273

E: kmathers@tfi.org

tfi.org

United Soybean Board/Soy Checkoff

SPOKESPERSON:

- **David Iverson**, United Soybean Board Director, Meal Target Area Coordinator

TOPICS:

- In a time when soybeans are front page news, it is crucial that soy checkoff dollars work to cultivate a market as far-reaching and productive as soybean farmers themselves. The United Soybean Board is working harder than ever to open new markets and grow existing demand for U.S. soybeans in a multitude of ways. David Iverson runs a fourth-generation family farm and grows soybeans in South Dakota.
- future markets for U.S. soybeans
- current U.S. soy demand
- Soy Checkoff return on investment
- high oleic soybean products/market

Media Contact:

Candace Bergesch, Media Relations manager

P: (314) 236-6999 C: (573) 470-4300

E: candace.bergesch@obpagency.com

unitedsoybeanboard.org

U.S. Apple Association

SPOKESPERSON:

- **Diane Kurrle**, Senior Vice President, dkurrle@usapple.org

TOPICS:

- USMCA
- tariffs
- ag Labor
- Farm Bill

Media Contact:

Tracy Grondine, Director, Communications

P: (703) 442-8850

E: tgrondine@usapple.org

usapple.org

U.S. Grains Council

SPOKESPERSON:

- **Kim Atkins**, Vice President and COO, katkins@grains.org

TOPICS:

- current trade policy environment for agriculture, including hot topics - USMCA, China, Japan, free trade agreements
- impact of trade policy issues on U.S. feed grains (corn, sorghum, barley) and ethanol exports
- finding new demand around the globe; our work to develop markets
- the importance of Farm Bill programs and others - the Market Access Program (MAP), the Foreign Market Development (FMD) program, and Agricultural Trade Promotion (ATP) program, continuing this robust outreach

Media Contact:

Bryan Jernigan, Director, Communications

P: (202) 789-0789

E: bjernigan@grains.org

grains.org

U.S. Wheat Industry, National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), and U.S. Wheat Associates

SPOKESPERSONS:

- **Chandler Goule**, NAWG CEO, cgoule@wheatworld.org
- **Joshua Tonsager**, NAWG Vice President of Policy and Communications, jtonsager@wheatworld.org
- **Ben Conner**, USW Vice President of Policy, cbconner@uswheat.org
- **Steve Mercer**, USW Vice President of Communications, smerc@uswheat.org

NAWG TOPICS:

- outlook for Congressional action on trade (USMCA, CPTPP, and China/tariffs)
- 2018 Farm Bill implementation: overcoming barriers
- appropriations: threats to crop insurance
- appropriations: importance of research funding and NAWG's requests
- National Wheat Foundation activities: National Wheat Yield Contest

USW TOPICS:

- trade issues with USMCA, CPTPP, and China/tariffs; 25% of U.S. wheat exports at risk
- tariff rate quota should help move more U.S. wheat to Brazil
- why Latin America and Asia represent future markets for U.S. wheat

USW Media Contact:

Steve Mercer, Vice President of Communications

C: (913) 449-4134

E: smerc@uswheat.org

uswheat.org

NAWG Media Contact:

Caitlin Eannello, Director of Communications

P: (202) 547-7800 C: (240) 423-4345

E: ceannello@wheatworld.org

Notes:

Notes:

Notes:



National Association of Farm Broadcasting

P.O. Box 500
Platte City, MO 64079
816.431.4032
NAFB.com

Issues Forum Sponsored by:

