



WASHINGTON WATCH 2022



WASHINGTON DC

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 evening 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 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 Micheal Clements at news@nafb.com or at phone (816) 226-4063.

FUTURE NAFB NATIONAL MEETING DATES

79th NAFB Convention
November 16-18, 2022
Westin Crown Center
Kansas City, Missouri

80th NAFB Convention
November 15-17, 2023
Westin Crown Center
Kansas City, Missouri



WASHINGTON WATCH SOCIAL MEDIA

Post and follow Washington Watch 2022 on social media with the official hashtag:

#NAFBWW22

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The history of farm broadcasters meeting in Washington, D.C., dates back to the first years of the association, as NARFD members met with President Harry Truman in 1946 at the White House.



With the White House in the background, President Truman addressed radio farm directors again at the 1950 Washington, D.C., USDA-NARFD meeting.

Washington Watch 2022 has arrived!

During the last two years, many have had to adjust their schedules due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While many have had to work from home and conduct their businesses from outside the office, farm broadcasters have continued to work their “normal” schedules, providing the latest in ag markets and news to farmers and ranchers across the country.

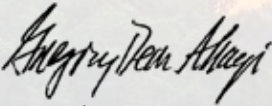
We have seen many events start to get back to normal and for farm broadcasters to get back to covering events, meetings, and conventions to provide the latest information and news to their listeners. Yes, we can visit with those who represent farmers and ranchers in Washington, D.C., virtually, on the phone, and when they’re back home. It’s important for farm broadcasters to have a chance to come to the nation’s capital, and that’s why it’s a pleasure to officially welcome you to NAFB’s Washington Watch 2022.

We always say there’s plenty that’s happening when it comes to agriculture. What we’ve seen both the last couple of years and through the first quarter of 2022 has shown ag continues to be an important topic in Washington, D.C. It gives us a chance to connect with members of Congress, the current administration, commodity and livestock organizations, and partners in our industry. These governmental players understand the importance of getting their messages back to your listeners and know we, as farm broadcasters, are a vital part of being able to do that. It’s safe to say the topics of discussion are many and the chances to discuss them are just the same.

You’ll hear from many who will soon be forming the next farm policy to those who were instrumental in shaping current ag-based legislation. We’ll also hear from speakers who analyze where agriculture is going in the future, not only domestically but internationally, as well.

We appreciate you joining us and hope your time in Washington, D.C., is busy but fruitful as you take home all that you heard from the nation’s capital.

Sincerely,



Greg Akagi

2022 Washington Watch Chair

2022 Washington Watch Committee



Greg Akagi

Kansas Agriculture Network
WIBW Radio
Topeka, Kansas



Susan Littlefield

KRVN Rural Radio Network
Surprise, Nebraska



Jeff Nalley

Cromwell Ag Radio Network
Utika, Kentucky

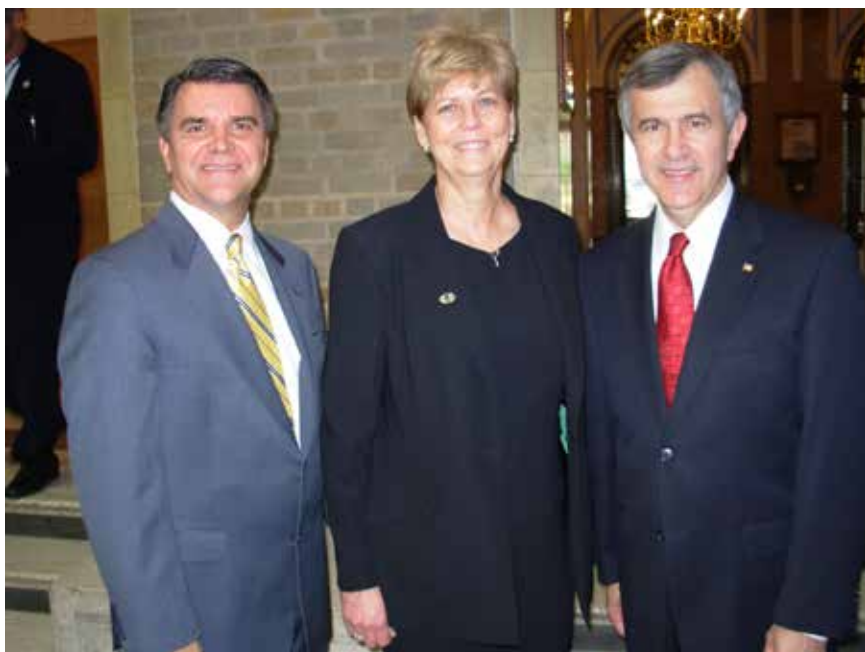


Carah Hart

Red River Farm Network
Grand Forks, North Dakota



In 2012, NAFB members met with White House officials, key USDA personnel (including U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack), and White House officials in the Indian Treaty Room in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.



2007 NAFB President Pam Fretwell (center) poses with Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Connor (left) and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns at Washington Watch 2007.



YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR EVERYTHING ETHANOL

RFA is proud to support the National Association of Farm Broadcasting. We salute the work you do keeping rural America informed and engaged.

www.EthanolRFA.org

Twitter: @EthanolRFA

We'll see you at the Issues Forum!

Monday, May 2

- 8:30 a.m. **NAFB Board of Directors Meeting**
Holiday Inn Capitol: House
- 2 p.m. **NAFB Member Business Meeting & Registration**
Holiday Inn Capitol: Congressional I
Registration Sponsor: Syngenta
- 3-6 p.m. **Issues Forum**
Holiday Inn Capitol: Capitol Ballroom
Issues Forum Sponsor:
- 6-6:45 p.m. **Issues Forum Reception**
Holiday Inn Capitol: Congressional Foyer
Reception Sponsor: United Soybean Board
- 7 p.m. **Dinner & Speaker**
Holiday Inn Capitol: Congressional I
Dinner Sponsor: Farm Credit



Randy Russell
President
The Russell Group

 @RussellGroupDC

Randy Russell was born and raised in Virginia. Prior to joining The Russell Group in 1986, Russell served in a number of agricultural policy positions, both inside and outside of government, including chief of staff for Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block, deputy assistant secretary for economics at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), vice president for agriculture and trade policy at the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, director of government relations for The Pillsbury Company, and 1981 Farm Bill coordinator for the USDA. Russell also served on the Senate agriculture committee staff for former Senator Rudy Boschwitz (R-MN). Russell attended George Mason University (GMU), where he conducted both his undergraduate studies in public administration and graduate studies in economics. He is a proud alumni member of GMU's baseball team, where he played catcher. Randy currently serves as chairman of the board and is on the executive committee for the World Food Program USA, which raises awareness and funding to fight hunger around the globe. The World Food Program recently was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its work addressing global hunger. Russell also has been actively involved in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program in northern Virginia; he was a Big Brother for ten years and was named president, vice president, and treasurer of the Northern Virginia Council of Big Brothers/Big Sisters and served on the board of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the National Capital Area. Russell also serves on the board of governors of the Bryce Harlow Foundation, encouraging the highest standards for professional lobbying and government affairs, and he has and continues to serve as a mentor for fellowship recipients interested in going into advocacy. Russell and his wife, Beth, live in McLean, Virginia, and have six children. The Russells are co-founders of The Golden Phoenix Foundation, working to address the issue of childhood abandonment around the world. He and Beth also are active members of the National Council for Adoption, which helps promote domestic and foreign adoptions as well as foster care. Additionally, the couple has a small farm in Round Hill, Virginia, where they raise alpacas as well as an assortment of other animals.



Tuesday, May 3

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

Speakers

Williamsburg Room 104-a

8 a.m.



Pete Buttigieg

Secretary of Transportation

@SecretaryPete

Pete Buttigieg currently serves as the 19th United States secretary of transportation, having been sworn in February 3, 2021.

Prior to joining the Biden-Harris Administration, Secretary Buttigieg served two terms as mayor of his hometown of South Bend, Indiana. A graduate of Harvard University and a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, Buttigieg served for seven years as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve, taking a leave of absence from the mayor's office for a deployment to Afghanistan in 2014.

He returned to the Midwest after school, worked in the private sector, and was elected mayor of South Bend in 2011 with a focus on delivering a new future for the city through a fresh approach to politics and bold ideas.

His leadership helped spark citywide job growth and facilitated innovative public-private partnerships like Commuters Trust, a benefits program designed to improve the city's transportation experience for workers.

In 2019, he launched his historic campaign for president. Throughout 2020, he campaigned for the election of the Biden-Harris ticket and served on the advisory board for the presidential transition. In December, he was nominated by President-Elect Biden to be secretary of transportation. He was confirmed by the Senate on February 2, 2021, becoming the first openly gay person confirmed to serve in a president's cabinet.

Secretary Buttigieg lives with his husband Chasten, their two children Joseph and Penelope, and their two dogs.

8:45 a.m.



Hubert Hamer

Administrator

National Agricultural Statistics Service

@usda_nass

Hubert Hamer has served as the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) administrator since 2016. He brings extensive experience in all aspects of the agency's work. Before becoming administrator, he served as director of the statistics division, which produces and releases more than

400 national statistical reports each year covering the agency's crops, livestock, economic, demographic, environmental, and census programs. He also served as executive director of the NASS Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB) and executive director of the advisory committee on agriculture statistics. From 2010 until he became head of the statistics division, Hamer was chair of the ASB, leading the preparation and dissemination of market-sensitive reports compiled and issued under special security conditions known as Lockup. Since joining NASS, Hamer has served in a number of capacities in Washington, D.C., as well as the Louisiana, Illinois, and Missouri field offices. Hamer was born on a small livestock and row-crop farm in Benton County, Mississippi, and later continued his development in Grand Junction, Tennessee. He is a graduate of Tennessee State University.

Tuesday, May 3

9 a.m.



Alyssa Charney

Chief of Staff

Natural Resources Conservation Service

 [@USDA_NRCS](#)

Alyssa Charney serves as chief of staff to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Terry Cosby. Previously, Charney worked for U.S. Senator Bob Casey, handling his agriculture and environmental portfolio. Prior to her time in the Senate, she led conservation policy at the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, including work on the 2018 Farm Bill. Charney holds a bachelor's degree from Vassar College, a master's in food & agriculture Policy from the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University, and a master's in public health, also from Tufts University.

9:20 a.m.



Robert Bonnie

*Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation
Risk Management Agency*

 [@FarmersGov](#)

Robert Bonnie is the under secretary for Farm Production and Conservation at USDA. Prior to joining USDA, Bonnie was at Duke University first as a Rubenstein Fellow and later as an Executive in Residence at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions working on conservation and environmental issues in rural America. In 2020, Bonnie also worked with the Bipartisan Policy Center on its Farm and Forest Carbon Solutions Initiative. Bonnie was under secretary for Natural Resources and Environment at USDA from 2013 to 2017, and a senior advisor to Secretary Tom Vilsack from 2009 to 2013. Prior to joining USDA, Robert was vice president for land conservation at Environmental Defense Fund where he focused on developing incentives to reward stewardship on private lands. Robert has master's degrees from Duke in forestry and environmental management. He lives with his wife, Julie, and daughter, Lilly, in Loudoun County, Virginia.

9:45 a.m.



Tom Vilsack

Secretary of Agriculture

 [@SecVilsack](#)

Thomas J. Vilsack was confirmed as the 32nd United States secretary of agriculture on February 23, 2021, by the U.S. Senate. He was nominated by President Joe Biden to return to a role where he served for eight years under President Barack Obama.

Under Secretary Vilsack's leadership, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is building back better by restoring the American economy, strengthening rural and historically underserved communities, responding to threats of climate change, creating good-paying jobs for American workers and the next generation of agricultural leaders, and investing in our kids and our families.

Secretary Vilsack is spearheading a transformation of the food system by creating more, better, and fairer markets and ensuring the food system of today and the future is more resilient and more competitive globally. It will offer consumers affordable, nutritious food grown closer to home.

From excessive drought to more extreme fires, America's producers, farmers, and ranchers are on the frontlines confronting the challenges associated with climate change. The USDA is engaging the agriculture and forestry sectors in voluntary, incentive-based climate solutions to improve the resiliency of producers and to build wealth that stays in rural communities. Additionally, USDA is advancing investments in science and research to offer producers a toolbox to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

By working to ensure all aspects of civil rights and equity are integrated, the USDA is rooting out generations of systemic racism while building systems and programs inclusive of all USDA employees and customers.

Tuesday, May 3

10:30 a.m.

The People's Garden Ribbon Cutting


 @USDA

11:05 a.m.



Zach Ducheneaux

*Administrator
Farm Service Agency*

 @usdafsa

Zach Ducheneaux was appointed administrator for United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency on February 22, 2021. In this role, Ducheneaux provides leadership and direction on agricultural policy, administering loan programs, and managing conservation, commodity, disaster, and farm marketing programs through a national network of offices. Ducheneaux previously served as the executive director of the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) and had been with the IAC since the 1990s. He also previously served as tribal council representative for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. He has spent his career educating people about the critical role of improved food systems, value-added agriculture, and foreign exports to respond to the enduring economic and social challenges facing Native Americans and reservations. Ducheneaux serves on the board of directors for Project H3LP!, a nonprofit founded by his family to benefit their local community by providing life lessons through horsemanship. His family still operates its fourth-generation ranch on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation.

Tuesday, May 3

11:45 a.m.



Michael Regan

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator

 [@EPA](#)

Michael S. Regan was sworn in as the 16th administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on March 11, 2021, becoming the first black man and second person of color to lead the U.S. EPA.

Administrator Regan is a native of Goldsboro, North Carolina, where he developed a passion for the environment while hunting and fishing with his father and grandfather, and exploring the vast lands, waters, and inner Coastal Plain of North Carolina.

As the son of two public servants -- his mother, a nurse for nearly 30 years, and his father, a retired colonel with the North Carolina National Guard, Vietnam veteran, and former agricultural extension agent -- Regan went on to follow in his parents' footsteps and pursue a life of public service.

Prior to his nomination as EPA administrator, Regan served as the secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Previously, Administrator Regan served as associate vice president of U.S. Climate and Energy and as southeast regional director of the Environmental Defense Fund, where he convened energy companies, business leaders, environmental and industry groups, and elected officials across the country to achieve pragmatic solutions to the climate crisis.

He began his career with the U.S. EPA, eventually becoming a national program manager responsible for designing strategic solutions with industry and corporate stakeholders to reduce air pollution, improve energy efficiency, and address climate change.

Throughout his career, he has been guided by a belief in forming consensus, fostering an open dialogue rooted in respect for science and the law, and an understanding that environmental protection and economic prosperity go hand in hand.

Administrator Regan is a graduate of the North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, making him the first EPA administrator to have graduated from a historically black college and university. He earned a master's degree in public administration from the George Washington University.

He and his wife Melvina are proud parents to their son, Matthew.

12:05 p.m.



Dr. Dionne Toombs

Acting Director

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

 [@USDA_NIFA](#)

Dr. Dionne Toombs is the acting director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) extramural grant funding agency for agricultural research, education, and Extension programs.

Previously, Dr. Toombs served as director of the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS), where she provided leadership on issues affecting science programs and science policy in agricultural research, education, and economics. She led activities of the OCS to strengthen science and science leadership, improve national coordination, and enhance outreach and awareness.

Dr. Toombs has significantly contributed to USDA's agricultural research, education, and Extension services while serving in various leadership roles, including heading the Division of Nutrition at NIFA. Additionally, Dr. Toombs served as the national program leader (NPL) for NIFA's Agriculture Food and Research Initiative (AFRI), leading large competitive grant programs to fund research into nutrition, food science and technology, and food safety. Prior to serving as NPL, Dr. Toombs was a program specialist for food science and nutrition at the former USDA Cooperative State Research Education & Extension Service, now NIFA.

Dr. Toombs earned her Ph.D. in nutritional sciences from Howard University, her master of science degree in food science from Alabama A&M University, and her bachelor of science degree in biology from Bethune-Cookman University.

She enjoys spending time with family, Pilates, participating in community service projects, and learning how to play golf.

Tuesday, May 3

Notes



Leadership NAFB began in 2015 with 10 NAFB members as part of the inaugural class. More than 40 members have participated in the program since its inception. Pictured are: (front row) Susan Littlefield; (middle row) Bill Zortman, Sabrina Halvorson, Lorrie Boyer, Jesse Harding Campbell; and (back row) Ken Rahjes, Rusty Halvorson, Lane Nordlund, Tom Cassidy, Micheal Clements.

Tuesday, May 3

1:00 p.m.

Boxed Lunch

Holiday Inn Capitol: Capitol I

Sponsor: Corn Refiners Association

Policy Insights

Holiday Inn Capitol - Capitol I

1:30 p.m.

What the Non-Agriculture Community Wants in the Next Farm Bill

Scott Faber

 [@faberfamilyfarm](#)

Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, Environmental Working Group

Kirin Kennedy

 [@KirinKennedy](#)

Director, People & Nature Policy, Sierra Club

Lara Bryant

 [@NRDC](#)

Deputy Director, Water & Agriculture; Nature Program, Natural Resources Defense Council

Ben Thomas

 [@EnvDefenseFund](#)

Senior Policy Director for Climate-Smart Agriculture, Environmental Defense Fund



Scott Faber leads EWG's government affairs efforts, in which capacity he has frequently testified before Congress on food, farm, energy, water, and chemical policy issues. Faber is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center. Faber is one of EWG's top spokespeople and is a frequent source for journalists with national and regional media outlets. Faber has appeared on network and cable news programs and in documentary films, and he is regularly quoted in The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, Associated Press, Politico, and CNN.com, among many others.



Kirin Kennedy is the director of people & nature policy at the Sierra Club. She is co-chair of the environmental non-profit budget and appropriations working group.

Prior to her time at Sierra Club, Kirin served as a regional vote director for the Obama for American campaign, where she organized city- and county-wide efforts to aid in turning out African American and black voters in Columbus, Ohio. She spends her time at the Sierra Club working to protect our bedrock environmental laws, including issues along American's southern border and

national forests as well as wildlife issues.



Lara Bryant promotes soil-health practices and policies that protect water quality, use water more efficiently, and help farms to be more resilient to climate change. Prior to joining NRDC, she worked on sustainable agricultural policy at the National Wildlife Federation and World Resources Institute; and she also was a chemist at a private environmental laboratory. Bryant holds a bachelor's degree in plant and soil science from the University of Tennessee and a master's degree in public administration in environmental science and policy from Columbia University. She works out of NRDC's Washington, D.C., office.

Photo credit: Rebecca Greenfield for NRDC



Ben Thomas is the senior policy director for climate-smart agriculture at the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). He focuses on creating innovative and pragmatic solutions to address environmental and climate risks from agriculture by working with key farm groups and policymakers across state and federal government. He leads EDF's work with the Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance. Prior to joining EDF, Thomas served as director of the Montana Department of Agriculture, as deputy under secretary for marketing & regulatory programs at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and as chief of staff for USDA's farm & foreign services mission area.

Tuesday, May 3

2:30 p.m.

Agriculture Trade: What Comes Next?

Ted McKinney

 @NASDAnews

Chief Executive Officer, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

Gregg Doud

 @AimpointRsrch

Vice President of Global Situational Awareness & Chief Economist, Aimpoint Research



Ted McKinney serves as the chief executive officer of NASDA, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, a position to which he was named in September 2021. Prior to NASDA, he also was the first U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under secretary for trade and foreign agricultural affairs from 2017-2021. In that role, Under Secretary McKinney led the development and implementation of the department's trade policy, oversaw and facilitated foreign market access, and promoted opportunities for U.S. agriculture through various trade programs and high-level

government negotiations.

After his USDA service, McKinney was engaged in foreign affairs and outreach involving the U.S. food and agriculture industry and its engagement with the United Nations Food Systems Summits.

In 2014, McKinney was appointed by then-Governor Mike Pence to serve as director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, a position he held until joining USDA in 2017. His career also included 19 years with Dow AgroSciences, where he served in nearly all government and public affairs roles, and 14 years with Elanco, at that time a subsidiary of Eli Lilly and Company, where he was director of global corporate affairs. His industry and civic involvement is vast, including service as founder and co-chair of the National FFA Convention Local Organizing Committee, membership on the Indiana State Fair Commission, and Purdue College of Agriculture Dean's advisory council, as well as on the boards of directors of the International Food Information Council and the U.S. Meat Export Federation.

McKinney grew up on a family grain and livestock farm in Tipton, Indiana, and was a 10-year 4-H member and an Indiana state FFA officer. He graduated from Purdue University with a B.S. degree in agricultural economics in 1981, at which time he received the G.A. Ross Award as the outstanding university senior male graduate. In 2002, he was named a Purdue Agriculture Distinguished Alumnus and, in 2004, received an FFA Honorary American degree. He also has received the Sagamore of the Wabash Award from Indiana Governors Pence and Holcomb. He and his wife Julie have three children and six grandchildren; they reside in Alexandria, Virginia.



Gregg Doud brings an unparalleled global perspective and economic expertise to the team at Aimpoint Research. He works closely with members of the Executive Intelligence Network (EIN) and plays a major role in the development of its thought leadership priorities. Prior to joining Aimpoint, Doud served in the office of the U.S. Trade Representative as chief agricultural negotiator with the rank of U.S. Ambassador. He was one of the primary architects of the U.S.-China "Phase One" trade agreement.

Doud previously served as president of the Commodity Markets Council, the leading trade association for commodity futures exchanges and their industry counterparts, where he worked to lead the industry in addressing global market and risk management issues. As a senior staff member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Doud helped craft the 2012 Senate Farm Bill, working on international trade, food aid, livestock, and oversight of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Doud served as chief economist for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association for eight years and is a former market analyst for the U.S. Wheat Associates.

Raised on a dry-land wheat, grain sorghum, soybean, swine, and cow-calf operation near Mankato in north-central Kansas, Doud continues to be involved in his family's 100-year-old farm and is a partner in a commercial cow-calf operation. He received a B.S. in agriculture with an emphasis in animal science as well as a M.S. in agricultural economics from Kansas State University. He currently resides with his family on their horse farm in Lothian, Maryland.



Tuesday, May 3

3:15 p.m.

The Impact of Renewable Energy to the Nation's Security

Vice Admiral Dennis V. McGinn, USN (Ret)

Center for Climate & Security Advisory Board member



Admiral Dennis McGinn served as assistant secretary of the Navy for energy, installations, and environment from September 2013 until January 2017. In this role, he led the transformation of naval installations toward greater mission resiliency through energy efficiency, renewable energy, microgrids, and other technologies.

Previously, Admiral McGinn served on active duty in the United States Navy for 35 years, attaining the rank of vice admiral. He also served as deputy chief of naval operations for warfare requirements and programs, overseeing the development of future Navy capabilities, and previously commanded the United States Third Fleet. While in the Navy, he served as a naval aviator, test pilot, aircraft carrier commanding officer, and national security strategist.

Admiral McGinn is a former president of the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), where he led efforts to communicate the economic, security, and environmental benefits of renewable energy. Admiral McGinn is a past member of the steering committee of the Energy Future Coalition Bipartisan Center Energy Board and co-chairman of the CNA Military Advisory Board. He presently serves on the board of directors of the Electric Power Research Institute, Willdan Group, HALO Maritime Security Systems, and Customer First Renewables as well as on the board of trustees for RMI.

Admiral McGinn holds a B.S. in naval engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy and was a chief of naval operations strategic studies fellow at the U.S. Naval War College.

Reception

5-6:30 p.m.

National Cattlemen's Beef Association Headquarters

1275 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20004

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

Sponsor: The Fertilizer Institute



In 2007, Washington Watch attendees met and interviewed White House Chef Bill Yosses then toured the First Lady's garden on the south lawn.

Wednesday, May 4

6:30 a.m. Optional — Meet to walk to Senate entrance as a group
Enter on east front side of Capitol facing the Supreme Court
Holiday Inn Capitol: Lobby

7:15 a.m. Arrive on your own to U.S. Capitol Visitor Center
Room 209-08
(Please allow time to get through security — BRING PHOTO ID)

Continental Breakfast
Sponsor: Associated Milk Producers Inc.

Capitol Hill Speakers 7:40 a.m.-12:40 p.m.

7:40 a.m.



Senator Joni Ernst
Iowa (R)

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

Committees: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Armed Services;
Environment and Public Works; Small Business and Entrepreneurship

8 a.m.



Senator Charles Grassley
Iowa (R)

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

Committees: Agriculture; Judiciary (Ranking Member); Finance; Budget

8:20 a.m.



Congressman Tracey Mann
Kansas (R) - District 1

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

Committees: Agriculture; Veterans Affairs

8:40 a.m.



Senator Debbie Stabenow
Michigan (D)
Senate Agriculture Committee Chair

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

Committees: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Budget; Environment and
Public Works; Finance

WASHINGTON
WATCH

Wednesday, May 4

9 a.m.



Senator John Boozman

Arkansas (R)

Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member

 [@JohnBoozman](#)


Committees: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Budget; Appropriations; Environment and Public Works; Veterans' Affairs; The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission)

9:20 a.m.



Congressman Rodney Davis

Illinois (R) - District 13

 [@RodneyDavis](#)

Committees: Agriculture; Transportation and Infrastructure; House Administration

9:40 a.m.



Congresswoman Angie Craig

Minnesota (D) - District 2

 [@RepAngieCraig](#)

Committees: Agriculture; Energy and Commerce; Small Business

10 a.m.



Senator Roger Marshall

Kansas (R)

 [@RogerMarshallMD](#)


Committees: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Energy and Natural Resources; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Small Business and Entrepreneurship

10:20 a.m.



Congressman Dusty Johnson

South Dakota (R) - At Large

 [@RepDustyJohnson](#)

Committees: Agriculture; Transportation & Infrastructure

10:40 a.m.



Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger

Virginia (D) - District 7

 [@RepSpanberger](#)


Committees: Agriculture; Foreign Affairs

Wednesday, May 4

11 a.m.



Senator Amy Klobuchar
Minnesota(D)


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

Committees: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Commerce, Science, & Transportation; Judiciary; Rules & Administration

11:20 a.m.



Senator John Thune
South Dakota (R)
Senate Minority Whip


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

Committees: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Commerce, Science and Transportation; Finance

11:40 a.m.



Senator John Hoeven
North Dakota (R)

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

Committees: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Energy and Natural Resources; Indian Affairs

12 p.m.



Congressman Doug LaMalfa
California (R) - District 1

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

Committees: Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure



Stewart Doan and Randy Koenen share a laugh with AMPI's Cheryl Meshke at Washington Watch 2012.



The 1952 NARFD summer meeting took place in Washington. Members, spouses, and guests lined up in front of USDA for a group photo before meeting with Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan.



Larry Quinn, a 52-year member of NAFB, played an instrumental role, helping organize multiple Washington Watch meetings during his tenure at USDA.

ISSUES FORUM

sponsored by



National Cattlemen's
Beef Association

Agricultural Retailers Association

SPOKESPERSON:

- Melisa Augusto, vice president of communications & marketing, melisa@aradc.org

TOPICS:

- transportation/supply chain solutions
- ag labor & workforce needs
- climate change & sustainable agriculture
- energy
- modern agriculture technologies
- economic growth & trade
- Farm Bill

Media Contact:

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American Farm Bureau Federation

SPOKESPERSONS:

- Courtney Briggs, senior director of congressional relations, courtney@fb.org
- Andrew Walmsley, senior director of congressional relations, andreww@fb.org
- Shelby Myers, economist, shelbym@fb.org

TOPICS:

- Waters of the United States (WOTUS)
- climate-smart agriculture
- energy

Media Contact:

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American Feed Industry Association

SPOKESPERSONS:

- Constance Cullman, president & CEO, ccullman@afia.org
- Mallory Gaines, director of market access & trade policy, mgaines@afia.org

TOPICS:

- regulatory approvals for new feed ingredients
- trade impacts from an African swine fever outbreak
- sustainability efforts in the feed industry

Media Contact:

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American Seed Trade Association

SPOKESPERSONS:

- Andy LaVigne, president & CEO, alavigne@betterseed.org
- Janae Brady, sr. director, government affairs, jbrady@betterseed.org

TOPICS:

- cover crops policy
- seed industry sustainability
- ag research priorities
- plant breeding innovation policy

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American Sugar Alliance

SPOKESPERSON:

- Luther Markwart, Chairman, lmarkwart@americansugarbeet.org

TOPICS:

- economic conditions in sugar country
- global sugar market
- sugar producers' sustainability efforts

Media Contact:

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Clean Fuels Alliance America

SPOKESPERSONS:

- Kurt Kovarik, VP federal affairs, kkovarik@cleanfuels.org
- Paul Winters, director, public affairs, pwinters@cleanfuels.org

TOPICS:

- biodiesel can lower fuel costs, provide value to farmers
- growth opportunities, market diversity in renewable diesel, and sustainable aviation
- EPA's recent handling of Renewable Fuel Standard issues
- rebranding of National Biodiesel Board to Clean Fuels Alliance America

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National Cattlemen's
Beef Association

NCBA Vision

To be the trusted leader and definitive voice of the
U.S. cattle and beef industry.

NCBA Mission

To serve the cattle and beef industry by improving the business
climate, growing beef demand, and increasing the
world's access to U.S. beef.



**YOUR SOURCE FOR NEWS AND INFORMATION
ABOUT THE CATTLE AND BEEF INDUSTRY**

Jill Johnson

Executive Director, Organizational Communications
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Corn Refiners Association

SPOKESPERSON:

- John W. Bode, president & CEO, jbode@corn.org

TOPICS:

- inflation and supply chain challenges
- ag bioeconomy

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Farm broadcasters gathered for a group picture during Washington Watch 2000 in the courtyard at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

SPOKESPERSONS:

- Chris Novak, president & CEO, novak@croplifeamerica.org
- Genevieve O'Sullivan, VP, communications & marketing, gosullivan@croplifeamerica.org

TOPICS:

- Food Security & Trade in 2022: A New Global Challenge -- Our global food supply is facing new challenges that could impact food affordability and availability. How do various regulatory systems around the globe impact the way our food is grown? How can we navigate the hurdles in international markets when it feels like politics is winning over science?
- Pesticides Through the Lens of the Endangered Species Act -- In light of EPA's new comprehensive workplan that aims to balance wildlife protection and responsible pesticide use, we will lay out the path forward for pesticides, farmers, and threatened and endangered species.
- The Case for a Fully Funded EPA -- Farmers may not love decisions that come from our regulatory agencies, but we do need a functional regulatory system to build trust with consumers and ensure the safety of our food. We will share why we need to be investing in EPA to strengthen agriculture.

Media Contact:

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Farm Credit

SPOKESPERSON:

- Todd Van Hoose, president & CEO, Farm Credit Council, todd.vanhoose@fccouncil.com

TOPICS:

- Farm Credit's strong and growing support for beginning farmers
- the state of the farm economy

Media Contact:

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Growth Energy

SPOKESPERSON:

- Emily Skor, CEO, eskor@growthenergy.org
- Chris Bliley, senior vice president of regulatory affairs, cbiley@growthenergy.org

TOPICS:

- restoring certainty to the RFS through strong RVOs; eliminating barriers to higher biofuel blends and ensuring year-round access to E15; and utilizing biofuels as a cost-effective pathway to achieve our nation's climate goals

Media Contact:

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National Cattlemen's Beef Association

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- Danielle Beck, senior executive director, government affairs, dbeck@beef.org
- Kent Bacus, senior director, international trade & market access, kbacus@beef.org
- Tanner Beymer, senior director, government affairs & market regulatory policy, tbeymer@beef.org
- Ethan Lane, vice president, government affairs, elane@beef.org
- Kaitlynn Glover, executive director, public lands council & NCBA natural resources, kglover@beef.org
- Mary-Thomas Hart, environmental counsel, mhart@beef.org
- Sigrid Johannes, associate director, government affairs & federal lands, sjohannes@beef.org

TOPICS:

- overview of NCBA's policy priorities
- NCBA's policy work in Washington, D.C.

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National Corn Growers Association

SPOKESPERSONS:

- Brooke S. Appleton, vice president of public policy, appleton@ncga.com
- Kathy Reding Bergren, director, public policy & renewable fuels, bergren@ncga.com
- Angus Kelly, director of public policy, trade, & biotechnology, kelly@ncga.com

TOPICS:

- trade
- biofuels
- general ag policy

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National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

SPOKESPERSONS:

- Chuck Conner, president & CEO, cconner@ncfc.org
- Lisa Van Doren, chief of staff & vice president, government relations, lvandoren@ncfc.org
- Mary Nowak, director of government relations, mnowak@ncfc.org

TOPICS:

- Farm Bill
- food security
- labor reform/immigration
- climate smart agriculture

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National Farmers Union

SPOKESPERSONS:

- Anne Steckel, asteckel@nfudc.org
- Rob Larew, president, rlarew@nfudc.org

TOPICS:

- consolidation in agriculture markets
- right to repair
- biofuels
- cattle market transparency

Media Contact:

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National Milk Producers Federation

SPOKESPERSON:

- Alan Bjerga, senior vice president, communications, abjerga@nmpf.org
- Chris Galen, senior vice president, membership services, cgalen@nmpf.org

TOPICS:

- NMPF leadership on milk-pricing reform
- expanding dairy trade
- expected FDA guidance on plant-based beverage labeling
- dairy and sustainability

Media Contact:

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National Pork Producers Council

SPOKESPERSONS:

- Michael C. Formica, assistant vice president & general counsel, formicam@nppc.org
- Jack Detiveaux, manager of competition, budget, & labor issues, detiveauxj@nppc.org
- Maria Zieba, assistant vice president of international affairs, ziebam@nppc.org
- Andrew Bailey, science & technology legal counsel, baileya@nppc.org

TOPICS:

- California Proposition 12
- labor
- international trade
- foreign animal disease

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National Sorghum Producers

SPOKESPERSON:

- Kody Carson, chairman, flatland88@gmail.com

TOPICS:

- Sorghum: The Resource Conserving Crop™
- sorghum, ethanol and year-round E15
- managing high input prices and risks with sorghum

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Renewable Fuels Association

SPOKESPERSONS:

- Troy Bredenkamp, Senior VP, Government and Public Affairs, tbredenkamp@ethanolrfa.org
- Jared Mullendore, Director, Government Affairs, jmullendore@ethanolrfa.org

TOPICS:

- year-round E15
- renewable Fuel Standard
- ethanol and clean-fuel legislation
- ethanol trade opportunities, challenges

Media Contact:

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The Fertilizer Institute

SPOKESPERSON:

- Kathy Mathers, vice president, public affairs, kmathers@tfi.org
- Corey Rosenbusch, president & CEO, crosenbusch@tfi.org
- Chris Glen, director, political communications, cglen@tfi.org

TOPICS:

- today's fertilizer market - causes of volatility and ways growers can get the most for their fertilizer dollars

Media Contact:

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U.S. Grains Council

SPOKESPERSON:

- Ryan LeGrand, president & CEO, bjernigan@grains.org

TOPICS:

- The U.S. Grains Council develops export markets for U.S. barley, corn, sorghum, and related products including distiller's dried grains with solubles (DDGS) and ethanol.
- With full-time presence in 28 locations, the Council operates programs in more than 50 countries and the European Union.
- The Council believes exports are vital to global economic development and to U.S. agriculture's profitability.
- LeGrand will be on hand to speak to both new and mature markets for U.S. grains and ethanol, trading through COVID-19, top markets including China and Mexico, and supply chain challenges created by current world events.

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In 1955, farm broadcasters met with President Dwight D. Eisenhower at the White House. Pictured with the President are NATRFD President Frank Atwood (left) and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ezra Taft Benson.

U.S. Wheat Industry

SPOKESPERSONS:

- Vince Peterson, president, vpeterson@uswheat.org
- Dalton Henry, vice president of policy, dhenry@uswheat.org
- Chandler Goule, chief executive officer, cgoule@wheatworld.org
- Jake Westlin, vice president of policy & communications, jwestlin@wheatworld.org

TOPICS:

- Ukraine and U.S. wheat
- 2023 Farm Bill implementation: priorities; overcoming barriers
- crop insurance & drought: U.S. wheat growers face climate-obstacles
- U.S. wheat & sustainability
- the World Trade Organization & ag: What's next?
- What's affecting global wheat demand?

Media Contacts:

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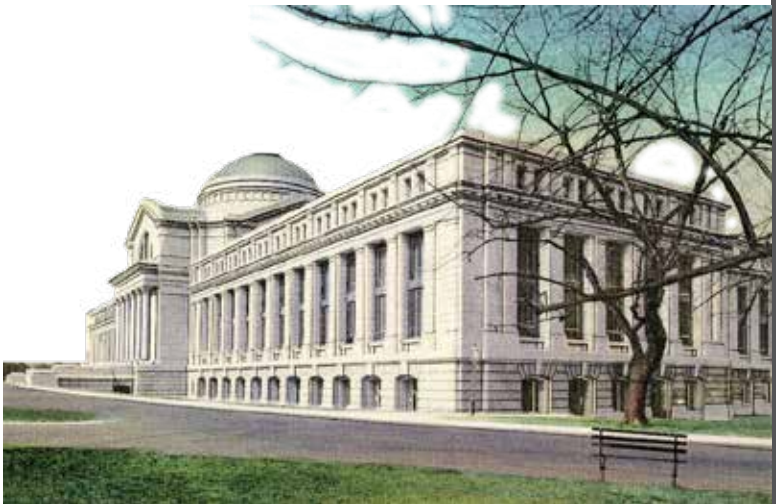
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National Association of Wheat Growers Director of Communications & Partnerships

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United Soybean Board

SPOKESPERSONS:

- Belinda Burrier, USB communication & education committee chair and farmer from Union Bridge, Maryland; burrierfarmsred@outlook.com
- Mace Thornton, vice president, communications and marketing strategy, mthornton@unitedsoybean.org

TOPICS:

- checkoff investments in soy: new uses available in thousands of products, including tires, asphalt, shoes, and turf, as a sustainable alternative to petroleum
- meeting customer needs with high-quality soy through high-oleic soybean varieties
- farmers for soil health partnership between soy, corn, and pork commodity groups to establish 30M acres of cover crops by 2030
- checkoff-funded consumer research about latest perceptions of U.S. soybeans
- demand growth for soybean oil and how the checkoff is working to discover new markets in biofuels
- checkoff investments in infrastructure, including research, analysis, design in dredging the lower Mississippi River and Lock and Dam improvements
- update on record-setting soybean exports in 2021 and what's ahead for markets in 2022
- new strategic plan with the vision to deliver sustainable soy solutions to every life, every day

Media Contact:

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2022 NAFB Board of Directors

Spencer Chase

President



Spencer Chase has been with Agri-Pulse since 2014 and has been the company's managing editor since 2017. There, he works with a team of reporters to provide the latest in farm and food policy coverage for the agriculture industry. Chase's relationship with the National Association of Farm Broadcasting (NAFB) first began as a student member and Foundation scholarship winner during his time at South Dakota State University. Since then, he has received recognition for his work including the 2017 Horizon Award and the 2020 Doan Award for his in-depth reporting to explain the nuances of the dairy industry. Chase was born and raised on a diversified crop and livestock farm in South Dakota and currently resides in Washington, D.C.

Joe Gill

President Elect



Joe Gill has been with KASM Radio since 1999 and began as farm director in 2009. Gill may be heard on the air each morning from 6-8:15 a.m. and during "Noontime News" from 12:15-12:55 p.m. Gill also serves at the station traffic manager and webmaster, and is involved in sales. KASM Radio has a rich history of farm broadcasting, with the station celebrating its 70th Anniversary in 2021.

Carah Hart

Vice President



Carah Hart is a reporter with the Red River Farm Network. Hart started at the network in August 2015. As a reporter, Hart covers agricultural news, broadcasts on-air, and produces daily programming for RRFN. She previously worked in public relations and project management, serving agriculture clients in the soybean, dairy, and beef checkoff programs. In 2021, Hart received her Honorary State FFA Degree in North Dakota. In 2018, she was awarded the NAFB Horizon Award, recognizing new farm broadcasters who show promise in the industry. She grew up on a farm near Carrollton, Missouri, and got her start in farm broadcasting at KMZU in 2007. Hart enjoys spending time with her husband Nick, family, friends, and Sir Basil the corgi.



DeLoss Jahnke

East Region Vice President

DeLoss Jahnke joined the RFD Radio Network® in 2015 as network anchor and editor. His experience includes service as agribusiness director with WMBD-AM/FM and WIRL-AM/FM in Peoria, Illinois; communications specialist with the National FFA Organization; and as a farm broadcaster with the Brownfield and Kansas Agriculture Networks. Jahnke grew up on a grain and livestock farm, and he holds a master's degree in business administration from Butler University and a B.S. in agricultural journalism from Kansas State University.



Delaney Howell

West Region Vice President

Delaney Howell grew up on a grain and livestock farm in southeast Iowa and, outside of her role in the broadcast industry, works with her fiancé, Blaine, on his family's century farm.

Launched in 2017, Howell has now been hosting her daily podcast, Ag News Daily, for nearly five years, reaching ag audiences all over the globe. The podcast aims to serve farmers interested in a longer-format medium, bringing them about 30 minutes of content every weekday.

She also has worked with other farm broadcasting entities, including her former role as the first female host of the national agribusiness show *Market to Market*, former broadcaster for Your Ag Network, and freelance reporter for This Week in Agribusiness and Agri-Pulse. Howell was recognized in 2020 as one of AgGrad's "30 under 30" for her strong passion in entrepreneurship, most notably due to her Ag Podcast Network, Global Ag Network (est. 2019).



KC Sheperd

South Region Vice President

KC Sheperd was named farm director of the Radio Oklahoma Ag Network (ROAN) in November 2021. Previously, she was associate farm director, conducting interviews, writing stories, and attending events on behalf of ROAN. She also serves as an on-air personality, providing daily ag markets, farm news, interviews, podcasts, and events on the network's 44 affiliate radio stations covering five different states. Prior to her present position, Sheperd served as an on-air personality for several country music radio stations, allowing her to interact with country music celebrities and produce local podcasts.

Paul Murphy-Spooner

Allied Industry Council Representative



Paul Murphy-Spooner directs public relations strategy, issues/crisis management, and communications compliance for the United Soybean Board (USB), which administers checkoff investments of the nation's 515,000 soybean farmers. His team focuses on creating value by investing in research, education, and promotion with the vision to deliver sustainable soy solutions to every life, every day. Prior to USB, he served in communications roles at U.S. Farmers & Ranchers In Action (USFRA), Fleishman Hillard, and Osborn Barr Paramore. His work on USFRA's "30 Harvests" docudrama and Monsanto Fund's America's Farmers Food Drive received the National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) 2019 Best in Show, Webby Awards honorary mention, and NAMA 2021 national finalist. He is a board member on the National Association of Farm Broadcasting (NAFB), representing the Allied Industry Council, and previously served as president of the Public Relations Society of America St. Louis Chapter. Murphy-Spooner is an alumnus of the University of Iowa with bachelor of arts degrees in journalism and communication studies.

Gardner Hatch

Allied Industry Council Representative



Gardner Hatch is PR/content managing supervisor at Woodruff, a marketing communications agency serving agriculture. He has been with Woodruff since 2016. At the agency, he leads a team of PR and content-marketing professionals in addition to managing strategy and communications programs for the agency's agriculture clients. Hatch has worked on the agency side in PR and account management for some of the industry's leading communications agencies, serving agribusiness large and small -- crop protection, seeds, biotech, animal health/nutrition, farm equipment, and more. A native of Illinois, he is a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism and worked as a newspaper reporter before entering the world of agriculture marketing and public relations in 1990. In addition to NAFB, Hatch also has been active and has served in leadership positions in NAMA and AAFA.

Breck Von Bank

Management Sales Council Representative



Breck Von Bank has been in radio for more than 26 years. She has held multiple positions from local sales, national sales, director of sales, and network sales. For the last 2+ years, she has been the national sales manager for Agriculture on America radio network and the American Ag Radio Network. This will be her fourth year serving on the NAFB Board of Directors.

Augie Aga

Management Sales Council Representative



Augie Aga is the director of national sales for the Northern Ag Network. Working in conjunction with the national sales team at J.L. Farmakis, he oversees all aspects of national sales for the Northern Ag Network, including working with the corporate communications and marketing personnel and advertising agencies, to helping out the local territory sales reps. Starting his career in radio in 1989, Aga brings more than 30 years of experience in radio and television advertising sales and management to the Northern Broadcasting System team. He has a vast radio and television background, serving as a local sales manager, national sales manager, general sales manager, and general manager prior to joining Taylor Brown and the Northern Ag Network in October 2013. The Northern Ag Network provides ag markets, news, and weather programming to 60 radio affiliates across Montana, Wyoming, and the western Dakotas.

Kelly Bogard

Marketing & Promotions Committee Chair



Kelly Bogard is the advertising manager for Texas Farm Bureau Media in Waco, Texas. As a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, Bogard holds two bachelor's degrees in advertising and public relations, respectively. A Waco native, Bogard returned to her hometown after completing her degrees and worked for Fastenal as an outside sales rep and CORD Communications as a textbook marketing coordinator prior to beginning her career with Texas Farm Bureau 17 years ago. Starting as an advertising assistant, Bogard worked her way up to managing all advertising for the Texas Farm Bureau communications division, which includes the Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network with more than 120 affiliate stations, two statewide publications, daily e-news, and the Texas Farm Bureau website. Bogard and her husband, Daniel, have one daughter, three cats, one dog, and two grannies with whom they share their home in China Spring, Texas, just outside of Waco.



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