

WASHINGTON
WATCH
2024



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 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 received 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

81st NAFB Convention

November 13-15, 2024
Westin Crown Center
Kansas City, Missouri

82nd NAFB Convention

November 19-21, 2025
Westin Crown Center
Kansas City, Missouri



WASHINGTON WATCH SOCIAL MEDIA

Post and follow Washington Watch 2024 on social media with the official hashtag:

#NAFBWW24

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2024 Washington Watch Committee



Spencer Chase
Corn Refiners Association
Washington, DC



Sabrina Halvorson
AgNet West Radio Network
Fargo, North Dakota
Committee Chair



Stephanie Hoff
Midwest Farm Report
Radio Network
Madison, Wisconsin



Jessica Domel
Texas Farm Bureau Radio
Network
Waco, Texas



DeLoss Jahnke
RFD Radio Network
Bloomington, Illinois



Mary Kay Thatcher
Syngenta
Washington, DC



Susan Littlefield
KRVN Rural Radio Network
Surprise, Nebraska



**Jesse Harding
Campell**
Marsh Wren Creative
Grand Island, Nebraska



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

Welcome to Washington Watch 2024! I'm thrilled you're here.

We have a packed yet exciting schedule ahead for the next few days, and it offers plenty of opportunities for news gathering, relationship building, and an adventure or two. I hope you brought extra batteries and a lot of stamina.

We'll kick things off Monday with a member meeting and the Issues Forum, where you can have face-to-face conversations with the ag industry associations with whom we work so often over the phone or email. They're here for your interviews and are ready for the microphone.

Tuesday, we head to the USDA building for a morning filled with invited speakers such as Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and EPA Senior Advisor for Ag Rod Snyder. Our time at the USDA is extremely beneficial to our listeners back home as we ask the nation's ag leaders about the programs, efforts, and issues that affect our farmers. Come prepared with questions and your cord for the mult box.

Tuesday afternoon, we have two panels planned that will explore the issues of the delayed farm bill and ag labor. We've pulled together a variety of panelists to hear from top experts and also to get viewpoints we don't always hear.

Finish your work early on Tuesday because that evening we head over to NCBA headquarters for a reception, then we are off on a special dinner cruise on the Potomac.

Wednesday is what I consider the event's pièce de résistance with our visit to Capitol Hill. We will hear from our elected representatives and ask them the questions important to our listeners.

This event is a superbly meaningful news opportunity, and as I said at the beginning, I truly am thrilled that you're here. If you have any questions over the next few days, please ask. I'm happy to help.

Most sincerely,



Sabrina Halvorson
2024 Washington Watch Chair



The logo for Washington Watch features the word "WASHINGTON" in a large, blue, cursive script font with a gold outline. Below it, the word "WATCH" is written in a smaller, blue, serif font.



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



In 2012, NAFB members met with 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.



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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

**On Social Media:
@EthanolRFA**

We'll see you at the Issues Forum!

Monday, April 29

- 8:30 a.m.-
12:30 p.m. **NAFB Board of Directors Meeting**
Holiday Inn Capitol: House
- 1:30 p.m. **NAFB Member Business Meeting & Registration**
Holiday Inn Capitol: Congressional I
Registration Sponsor: Syngenta
- 3-4 p.m. **Issues Forum Registration**
Holiday Inn Capitol: Capitol Ballroom Foyer
Issues Forum Registration Sponsor: NASA
- 3-6 p.m. **Issues Forum**
Holiday Inn Capitol: Capitol Ballroom
Issues Forum Sponsor: The Fertilizer Institute
- 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
- Speaker: Doug McKalip, Chief Agricultural Negotiator, USTR
Dinner Speaker Sponsor: NCIS



Doug McKalip

Chief Agricultural Negotiator, USTR

 @USTRTradeRep

Doug McKalip is the chief agricultural negotiator in the office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). Before joining USTR, he served as senior advisor to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack on all agricultural matters relating to trade, national security, animal and plant health regulations, and a wide portfolio of domestic and international issues. McKalip formerly served in a leadership capacity in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, biotechnology regulatory services. He served as a senior advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture from 2015 to September 2016, and also as acting chief of staff.

McKalip was senior advisor for agriculture and rural affairs at the White House Domestic Policy Council, where he counseled President Barack Obama on issues involving farm, ranch, and rural policy. He served as the director of the White House Rural Council and coordinated the executive branch-wide response to the 2012-2013 drought. McKalip holds a master's in public policy from the American University in Washington, D.C., and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Pittsburgh. He is a graduate of the Executive Fellows Program at Harvard Kennedy School of Government (2020), a fellow in the California Agricultural Leadership D.C. Exchange (2018), and a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, Virginia (2005). He also participated in the Student Council for U.S. Affairs at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Tuesday, April 30

- 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.



Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture

 @USDA

Thomas J. Vilsack was confirmed as the 32nd United States Secretary of Agriculture on Feb. 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 U.S. Department of Agriculture is Investing in America 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 that the food system of today and the future is more resilient and more competitive globally. It will also offer consumers affordable, nutritious food grown closer to home.

From excessive drought to more extreme fires, our producers, farmers and ranchers are on the frontlines confronting the challenges associated with climate change. 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.

Secretary Vilsack continues to take bold, historic action to reduce barriers to access for historically underserved communities. By working to ensure all aspects of civil rights and equity are integrated, USDA is rooting out generations of systemic racism and building systems and programs inclusive of all USDA employees and customers.

Secretary Vilsack is also focused on ensuring Americans have consistent access to safe, healthy, and affordable food. USDA is investing in bold solutions that enhance food safety, improve the various far-reaching and powerful nutrition programs in the Department, and reduce food and nutrition insecurity in America.

Tuesday, April 30

8:40 a.m.



Terry Cosby

*Chief for the Natural Resources
Conservation Services*

 @USDA_NRCS

During his more than 40-year career with NRCS, **Terry Cosby** has held numerous leadership and staff positions. He began his career as an NRCS intern in Iowa in 1979 and rose through the agency's ranks to become its 17th chief on May 24, 2021. Prior to his current position, Terry served as NRCS's acting chief for several months.

Terry's conservation and agricultural roots run deep. He grew up on his family's cotton farm and attended a land grant university that prepared him well to serve all producers, including those who were historically underserved. His childhood, education, and passion for conservation and agriculture paved the way for him to reach great heights throughout his NRCS career. Prior to being named acting chief, Terry served as NRCS state conservationist in Ohio for 16 years. His other leadership positions include Deputy state conservationist in Idaho, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Missouri, and Area Resource Conservationist in Iowa.

Terry's great-grandfather purchased the family farm in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi, in the late 1800s. Terry, a Tallahatchie County native, earned his Bachelor of Science in agricultural education from Alcorn State University in Alcorn, Mississippi, the nation's first Black land grant college. Terry and his wife Brenda are the proud parents of four children. His leisure activities include hunting, fishing, and spending as much time as possible with his seven grandchildren.

9 a.m.



Joseph Parsons

*Acting Administrator
for National Agricultural Statistics Service*

 @usda_nass

Joseph Parsons currently serves as the Acting Administrator for NASS. He previously served as the Associate Administrator since November 2023. As Associate Administrator, Parsons was responsible for overall oversight and coordination of agency operations and the agricultural statistics program carried out within the various organizational units in NASS. Prior to this appointment, Parsons served as chair of USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board and director of the NASS Methodology Division.

Since beginning his federal career in 1985, Parsons has held various roles and responsibilities at NASS, including serving as the agency's chief information officer, chief data officer, and senior research statistician, chairing the agency's strategic planning council, and providing leadership in multiple field offices.

Parsons was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 2011 after completing USDA's Senior Executive Candidate Development Program and American University's Key Executive Leadership Certificate Program. As part of his leadership training, he served a detail as visiting executive at Statistics Canada.

Parsons graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with honors in agricultural economics and earned a master's degree from the University of Maryland-College Park in Survey Methodology. He grew up on the family dairy farm in southwestern Missouri and worked on several farming operations throughout high school and college.

Tuesday, April 30

9:20 a.m.



Jeff Marootian

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Energy Department's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

 @EPA

Jeff Marootian is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. He previously served as a Senior Advisor to Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm and as Special Assistant to the President in the Biden-Harris White House. He was also a member of the Biden-Harris Presidential Transition Team.

Prior to joining the Biden-Harris Administration, Jeff was the Director of the District Department of Transportation, where he led the adoption of sustainable transportation technologies and oversaw more than \$4 billion of critical infrastructure and utility projects including the reconstruction of the historic Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge.

Marootian previously served in the Obama-Biden Administration as the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Chief Sustainability Officer at the U.S. Department of Transportation. He is an alumnus of The George Washington University where he has also taught as an adjunct faculty member in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Administration.

9:40 a.m.



Daniel Whitley

Administrator for the Foreign Agriculture Service

 @USDAForeignAg

Daniel Whitley began serving as the Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) in July 2021. Prior to this role, Daniel served as the Associate Administrator for policy and analysis where he led the Global Market Analysis and the Trade Policy and Geographic Affairs units. In this capacity, he led the agency's efforts to analyze agricultural export markets and policy formulation to advance American agricultural interests.

He has more than 20 years of experience at USDA and began his career as an intern with the Farmer's Home Administration in a rural Louisiana field office; later, he joined the Economic Research Service before starting his tenure with FAS in 2001. Since joining FAS, Daniel has served in a number of leadership positions, including Deputy Administrator of Global Analysis. In this capacity, he represented the U.S. government in key international forums including the World Trade Organization, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, and the International Grains Council. Daniel is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana and holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Southern University in Baton Rouge and a master's degree in agricultural economics from Louisiana State University. He currently lives with his family in Washington, DC.

Tuesday, April 30

10 a.m.



Rod Snyder

*EPA Director of the Office of Agriculture
and Rural Affairs Senior Advisor for Agriculture*

 @EPA

Rod Snyder was appointed Senior Advisor for Agriculture to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in October 2021. He is recognized for his nearly two decades of leadership at the intersection of agricultural and environmental policy.

From 2014-2021, Snyder served as president of Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, which is the largest multi-stakeholder initiative working to advance the sustainability of commodity crop farming in the United States. In this role, he forged science-based consensus among diverse stakeholders across the food and agriculture value chain on complex issues such as climate change, water quality, biodiversity, and pest management. In 2015, Snyder co-founded the Sustainable Agriculture Summit, which has grown to be the largest and most prominent annual sustainable agriculture conference in North America.

Prior to his time at Field to Market, Snyder held positions as Public Policy Director for the National Corn Growers Association and Government Affairs Leader for CropLife America. He has been a longtime champion of agricultural solutions to climate change and has, on two occasions, organized farmer delegations to participate in UN Climate Summits in Paris and Copenhagen.

Snyder holds a B.A. in political science from Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania. He resides on his family farm in Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia.

10:20 a.m.



Steve Peterson

*Associate Administrator
for the Farm Service Agency*

 @USDAFSA

Steven J. Peterson currently serves as the Associate Administrator for the Farm Service Agency (FSA). In this position, he provides leadership for FSA and its mission to support agricultural production across America through a network of more than 2,100 county and 50 state offices. Peterson began his federal government career in Pennsylvania and served as the County Executive Director. He later worked for FSA in Maryland as a program specialist.

For the past 22 years, he has worked in the FSA national office in Washington, D.C., serving as a program specialist, branch chief, director of the FSA Production, Emergencies, and Compliance Division, and most recently Associate Administrator for FSA. Peterson is a 2006 graduate of the Federal Executive Institute Leadership for a Democratic Society Program, and he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a concentration in botany from Towson University. A native of Maryland, Peterson farmed with his father his entire life but has taken a hiatus since 2016. Peterson has three adult daughters; he and his wife live in Maryland.

Tuesday, April 30

10:40 a.m.

Group Photo
The Apron at USDA

11 a.m.



Jennifer Lester Moffitt

*Under Secretary
of for Marketing and Regulatory Programs*

 @USDA

Jennifer Lester Moffitt is the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs at the United States Department of Agriculture, the first woman to serve in this position. At USDA, she provides leadership for the Agricultural Marketing Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, working to build a more reliable, resilient, and equitable food system by strengthening agricultural markets and ensuring the health and welfare of animals and plants. Prior to joining USDA, Under Secretary Moffitt worked for the California Department of Food and Agriculture where she championed the critically important work of farmers and producers in her roles as Undersecretary and Deputy Secretary. A 5th generation Californian, Under Secretary Moffitt has deep roots in agriculture and ran her family's organic farm and processing operation for 10 years, expanding domestic and international markets, and implementing climate smart agricultural practices. As a former farmer and now policymaker, Under Secretary Moffitt believes in the importance of engaging agricultural stakeholders and working collaboratively to sustain our environment, strengthen our rural economies, and support new and better markets for producers and consumers.

11:20 a.m.



Robert Bonnie

*Under Secretary
of Farm Production and Conservation*

 @USDA

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.

Tuesday, April 30

Noon-1p.m.

Boxed Lunch

Holiday Inn Capitol: Capitol I

Sponsor: Corn Refiners Association

Policy Insights

Holiday Inn Capitol - Capitol I

1:15 p.m. Farm Bill Panel

Joseph Glauber, Senior Research, International Food Policy Research Institute

Brian Kuehl, Director of Government and Public Affairs, Pinion Global

Joseph Glauber



Joe Glauber is a Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, DC and serves as interim Secretary of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). He also holds appointments at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the American Enterprise Institute. Prior to joining IFPRI, Glauber spent more than 30 years at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including as chief economist

from 2008 to 2014. From 2007-2009, Glauber was the Special Doha Agricultural Envoy at the office of the U.S. Trade Representative, where he served as chief agricultural negotiator in the Doha talks. He is the author of numerous studies on agricultural insurance, trade policy, and U.S. farm policy.

Brian Kuehl



Brian Kuehl is a partner and director of government and public affairs at Pinion, a global food and agriculture accounting and business advisory firm (www.PinionGlobal.com). In this role, Brian coordinates Pinion's advocacy and lobbying efforts and works with food and agricultural associations to build national advocacy campaigns.

Brian also serves as executive director of Farmers for Free Trade (www.FarmersforFreeTrade.com), a 501c4 non-profit that advocates for trade that benefits U.S. agriculture.

Brian was a founder and managing partner of Vela Environmental, a consulting firm that became part of Pinion in 2013. Prior to founding Vela Environmental, Brian served as chief of staff, legislative director, and environmental and energy adviser to U.S. Senator Max Baucus.

Brian was a Loeb Fellow at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and served as a U.S.-Japan Leadership Foundation Fellow. Brian received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Colorado at Boulder School of Law and his B.A. from the University of California at Davis. Brian lives in Sheridan, Wyoming, with his wife, Michelle Sullivan.

Tuesday, April 30

Policy Insights

Holiday Inn Capitol - Capitol I

2:15 p.m. Labor Panel

Kristi Boswell, Ag Policy Lawyer, Alston & Bird Law Firm

John Hollay, Director Workforce & Labor, International Fresh Produce Association

Matt Mika, Vice President Advocacy & Government Affairs, AmericanHort



Kristi Boswell

Kristi Boswell is counsel in the Legislative & Public Policy Group and a member of the Food, Beverage & Agribusiness Team at Alston & Bird Law Firm. Kristi advises and advocates for agricultural and food clients on complex regulatory and legislative issues, including labor, immigration, the Farm Bill, trade promotion, agricultural innovation, food supply management, conservation, and sustainability.

Kristi is a preeminent agricultural labor and immigration policy advisor and was instrumental in streamlining long standing agriculture labor regulatory reforms in the H-2A visa program and drafting immigration legislation. She was active in implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill and orchestrated the development of COVID-19 and trade mitigation assistance under Commodity Credit Corporation authorities. Along with her enterprise-wide USDA experience, she has worked with the Department of Labor, Department of Homeland Security, State Department, Food & Drug Administration, and Congressional committees.

Before joining Alston & Bird, Kristi served as a senior advisor to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where she implemented the secretary's priorities and advised the secretary on decision-making. Kristi also held policy roles at the White House and served as the director of congressional relations at the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Growing up on a farm, Kristi has a natural passion for agriculture and rural America. She received an agricultural legal certificate in law school and focused undergraduate studies on agricultural economics and public policy.



John Hollay

John Hollay serves as Director, U.S. Government Relations for the International

Fresh Produce Association (IFPA). In this role, John focuses on immigration and labor policy as well as issues related to the supply chain, farm policy, taxes, trade, transportation, and floral policy. John held a similar role for the United Fresh Produce Association prior to the formation of IFPA. Before

joining the fresh produce industry, John served as Vice President of Government Relations for the National Milk Producers Federation and senior legislative assistant for Congressman Joe Courtney of Connecticut. John resides in Arlington, Virginia with his wife Kate.



Matt Mika

Matt Mika is the vice president of advocacy & government affairs at AmericanHort. Matt leads the advocacy team in public policy and industry advocacy and has more than 25 years of experience working in policy and politics at the federal, state, and local levels.

Prior to joining AmericanHort, Matt served as the director of government relations for Tyson Foods, Inc., in Washington, D.C. During his 12-year tenure with Tyson Foods, he worked on issues before the House and Senate Agriculture and Appropriations Committees, along with focusing on House-specific issues regarding agriculture, transportation, environment, energy, and ethanol matters.

Matt's prior work includes working for the American Meat Institute, now the North American Meat Institute. He also worked for three members of the Michigan delegation: Rep. Nick Smith (R-MI-07), Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI-04), and Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI-07). Mika spent five years working in the Michigan state legislature for former Lieutenant Governor Dick Posthumus and former State Representative David Palsrok (110th). Additionally, Matt ran several successful campaigns and worked on the advance team for President George W. Bush.

A Mississippi native who was raised north of Detroit, Michigan, Mika has lived in Washington, D.C. since 2004. Matt holds his Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice with a political science/pre-law minor from Adrian College, where he also played football and baseball. An avid sports fan, Matt participates in many sports including baseball, softball, golf, hockey, basketball, and others.

Matt serves as commissioner of the United States House Softball League (USHSL). He is the head volunteer coach for the Republican team for the annual bipartisan Congressional Baseball Game. Matt is one of five survivors who was shot at a Congressional Baseball practice in 2017. He is also the director and president of Washington, D.C., Chapter of the SBLA (Sports Business and Leadership Association).

Tuesday, April 30

Rooftop Reception

4-5:30 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: National Cattlemen's Beef Association

Dinner Cruise

6 p.m.

Arrive on your own to the City Cruises Port.

Vessel: Spirit of Washington

580 Water St. SW Washington, D.C. 20024

Sponsor: National Corn Growers Association

6:15 p.m.

Dinner Cruise begins boarding

7-9:30 p.m.

Dinner Cruise on the Potomac River

Wednesday, May 1

6:45 a.m. Optional — Meet to walk to Longworth House Office Building as a group.

7:15 a.m. Arrive on your own to Longworth House Office Building Room 1302 on the third floor
(Please allow time to get through security — BRING PHOTO ID.)

Continental Breakfast

Sponsor: Associated Milk Producers Inc.



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

Wednesday, May 1

Capitol Hill Speakers

7:40 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

7:40 a.m. - INVITED



Congressman Earl Blumenauer

Oregon (D) - District 3

@repblumenauer

House Budget Committee; House Ways and Means Committee; Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

8 a.m.



Congressman John Duarte

California (R) - District 13

@RepDuarteCA13

House Committee on Agriculture; House Committee on Natural Resources; House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

8:20 a.m.



Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson

Pennsylvania (R) - District 5

House Agriculture Committee Chair

@CongressmanGT

House Committee on Agriculture; House Committee on Education and the Workforce

8:40 a.m.



Senator John Boozman

Arkansas (R)

@JohnBoozman

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; Senate Committee on Appropriations; Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; Senate Committee on Government Affairs

9 a.m.



Senator Deb Fischer

Nebraska (R)

@SenatorFischer

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Senate Committee on Appropriations; Senate Committee on Armed Services; Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Senate Committee on Rules and Administration; Senate Select Committee on Ethics

9:20 a.m.



Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski

Illinois (D) - District 13

@RepNikkiB

House Committee on Agriculture; House Committee on Small Business; House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Wednesday, May 1

9:40 a.m.



Congressman Don Bacon

Nebraska (R) - District 2

 [@RepDonBacon](#)

House Committee on Agriculture; House Committee on Armed Services;
House Committee on Armed Services Quality of Life Panel



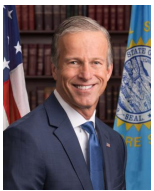
Congressman Tracey Mann

Kansas (R) - District 1

 [@RepMann](#)

House Committee on Agriculture; House Committee on Small Business;
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

10:20 a.m.



Senator John Thune

South Dakota (R)

Senate Minority Whip

 [@SenJohnThune](#)

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Senate Committee
on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Senate Committee on Finance

10:40 a.m.



Congresswoman Sharice Davids

Kansas (D) - District 3

 [@RepDavids](#)

House Committee on Agriculture; House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

11 a.m.



Senator John Hoeven

North Dakota (R)

 [@SenJohnHoeven](#)

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Senate Committee
on Appropriations; Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources;
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

11:20 a.m.



Senator Debbie Stabenow

Michigan (D)

Senate Agriculture Committee Chair

 [@SenStabenow](#)

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Joint Committee
on Taxation; Senate Committee on Budget; Senate Committee on
Environment and Public Works; Senate Committee on Finance

Wednesday, May 1

Capitol Hill Speakers

7:40 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

11:40 a.m.



Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett

Texas (D) - District 30

 @RepJasmine

House Committee on Agriculture; House Committee on Agricultural Labor Working Group; House Committee on Oversight and Accountability

12 p.m.



Congressman Brad Finstad

Minnesota (R) - District 1

 @RepFinstad

House Committee on Agriculture; House Committee on Armed Services

12:20 p.m. INVITED



Senator Amy Klobuchar

Minnesota (D)

 @SenAmyKlobuchar

Joint Committee on Printing; Joint Committee on the Library; Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee; Senate Judiciary Committee; Senate Rules and Administration Committee Chair



2023 Washington Watch participants pose for a group photo with Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg.

ISSUES FORUM

sponsored by



Agricultural Retailers Association

SPOKESPERSON:

- Daren Coppock, president & CEO, dcoppock@aradc.org

TOPICS:

- transportation
- supply chain
- farm bill
- energy
- modern agriculture technology
- people

Media Contact:

Andrea Mowers
Director, Communications & Member Experience
(202) 595-1729
andrea@aradc.org
<https://www.aradc.org/>

American Farm Bureau

SPOKESPERSON:

- Sam Kieffer, Vice President, Public Policy, sk@fb.org
- Roger Cryan, Chief Economist, rogerc@fb.org
- Joe Gilson, Director, Government Affairs Spokesperson, jgilson@fb.org

TOPICS:

- Farm Bill
- labor
- farm economy
- federal milk marketing orders
- ag census
- regulatory reform

Media Contact:

Mike Tomko
Director, Communications
(202) 406-3617
miket@fb.org
fb.org

American Feed Industry Association

SPOKESPERSON:

- Constance Cullman, AFIA President & CEO, ccullman@afia.org
- Leah Wilkinson, AFIA Vice President of Public Policy & Education, lwilkinson@afia.org

TOPICS:

- trade priorities
- sustainability efforts in the feed industry
- legislative priorities - Innovative FEED Act, EMIT LESS Act, Securing American Agriculture Act, Farm Bill
- regulatory issues - FDA regulatory reviews, EPA's review of formaldehyde

Media Contact:

Victoria Broehm
AFIA Senior Director of Communications
(703) 558-3579
vbroehm@afia.org
afia.org

American Sugar Alliance

SPOKESPERSON:

- Luther Markwart, Executive Vice President & CEO, American Sugarbeet Growers Association, lmarkwart@americansugarbeet.org

TOPICS:

- American sugarbeet and sugarcane farmers provide a reliable and abundant supply of sugar for American food manufacturers and consumers.
- No-cost sugar policy is a win for consumers, producers, and food manufacturers. Without it, our sugar supply chain would be subject to volatile markets distorted by foreign governments' subsidies.
- Bipartisan members of Congress agree that sugar policy is part of a strong Farm Bill and essential to American food security.

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Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)

SPOKESPERSON:

- Beth Ellikidis, Vice President, Agriculture & Environment, bellikidis@bio.org
- Lynne Finnerty, Senior Director, Public Affairs, lfinnerty@bio.org

TOPICS:

- biotechnology
- genetic engineering
- climate
- food security
- biomanufacturing
- regulations
- trade
- Farm Bill

Media Contact:

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Clean Fuels Alliance

SPOKESPERSON:

- Kurt Kovarik, Vice President, Federal Affairs, kkovarik@cleanfuels.org
- Paul Winters, Director, Public Affairs, pwinters@cleanfuels.org

TOPICS:

- status of biodiesel, renewable diesel, and sustainable aviation fuel industry
- growth and investment in oilseed processing; developments in winter oil-seeds to meet demand from clean fuels industry
- status and impact of guidance on tax policies for SAF and on-road transportation fuels; changes to GREET lifecycle carbon models
- Renewable Fuel Standard

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CropLife America

SPOKESPERSON:

- Genevieve O'Sullivan, VP, Communications and Marketing, gosullivan@croplifeamerica.org
- Alexandra Dunn, President and CEO

TOPICS:

- newly released Lifecycle Assessment - how pesticides contribute to sustainability on the farm
- 2025 Congressional appropriations for EPA
- pesticide regulation and the Endangered Species Act
- trade issues impacting the industry

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Farm Credit

SPOKESPERSON:

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

TOPICS:

- an update on the farm economy
- the importance of investing in rural communities
- resources for farmers and ranchers to manage stress

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The Fertilizer Institute

SPOKESPERSON:

- Corey Rosenbusch, President & CEO, crosenbusch@tfi.org
- Veronica Nigh, Senior Economist, vnigh@tfi.org

TOPICS:

- Biostimulant Certification program
- critical minerals
- baltimore bridge
- spring planting
- fertilizer markets
- economic updates
- Farm Bill
- 4Rs
- USDA Ag Economist position

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Gevo

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- Lindsay Fitzgerald, VP of Government Relations, LFitzgerald@gevo.com
- Nancy Young, Chief Sustainability Officer, nyoung@gevo.com

TOPICS:

- policy
- regulatory landscape
- biofuels/SAF
- land use
- sustainability

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Growth Energy

SPOKESPERSON:

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

TOPICS:

- E15 and how biofuels serve as the bridge from the farm to the fuel tank
- sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and its enormous economic potential for the ag sector
- carbon-reduction tax incentives and how they could impact operations on the farm

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National Farmers Union

SPOKESPERSON:

- Rob Larew, President,
- Anne Steckel, Senior Advisor, asteckel@nfudc.org
- Mike Stranz, Vice President of Advocacy, mstranz@nfudc.org

TOPICS:

- join NFU President Rob Larew to discuss Farmers Union priorities in the upcoming farm bill and NFU's continuing efforts to support family farmers and ranchers

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NASA

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- Brad Doorn, NASA Agriculture Lead, bradley.doorn@nasa.gov
- Cordelia Hiers Brady, NASA Agriculture, cordelia.hiersbrady@nasa.gov
- Chris Thorne, NASA Agriculture, christopher.s.thorne@nasa.gov

TOPICS:

- NASA has more 50 years of supplying agriculture decision makers with Earth observation data used in agricultural planning.
- All NASA data is free and openly available to all.
- USDA's World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE Report) relies on data from Landsat, a USGS mission designed, built, and launched jointly with NASA.
- NASA works with the U.S. Drought Monitor to provide better and more informative forecasts.
- NASA data from its satellites and instruments in space (SMAP, GRACE, and GPM) are used in tools to help deliver actionable information to agricultural producers.
- NASA provides intuitive, easy-to-use tools for visualizing, analyzing, and working with Earth science data.
- NASA has two consortia focused on agriculture: NASA Harvest and NASA Acres. NASA Harvest studies Ukraine and other international and U.S. agriculture work. NASA Acres focuses on U.S. agriculture producers.

Media Contact:

Liz Vlock

NASA Office of Communications

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National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

SPOKESPERSON:

- Ted McKinney, Chief Executive Officer, ted.mckinney@nasda.org
- RJ Karney, Senior Director of Public Policy, RJ.Karney@nasda.org

TOPICS:

- Farm Bill
- food safety
- labor reform
- pesticide regulations
- PFAS

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National Cattlemen's Beef Association

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- Ethan Lane, Vice President of Government Affairs, elane@beef.org
- Steve Johnson, Associate Director of Policy Communications
- Tanner Beymer, Senior Director of Government Affairs, tbeymer@beef.org
- Kelsea Kemp, Associate Director of Government Affairs, kkemp@beef.org
- Sigrid Johannes, Director of the Public Lands Council & NCBA Government Affairs, sjohannes@beef.org
- Mary Thomas-Hart, Chief Counsel, mhart@beef.org
- Allison Rivera, Executive Director, Government Affairs, arivera@beef.org

TOPICS:

- overview of NCBA's policy priorities
- tax policy
- cell-cultured meat
- business issues
- climate & natural resources
- public lands grazing
- Farm Bill
- transportation
- infrastructure
- cattle health

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National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

SPOKESPERSON:

- Chuck Conner, President & CEO, cconner@ncfc.org
- Lisa Van Doren, Chief of Staff and Vice President, Government Affairs, lvandoren@ncfc.org
- Zach Gihorski, Director, government affairs and sustainability, zghorski@ncfc.org

TOPICS:

- expiring tax provisions in the impact on co-ops and farmers
- ag labor
- farm policy
- climate policy & agriculture

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National Pork Producers Council

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- Lori Stevermer, President & Minnesota Pork Producer, oharaa@nppc.org
- Maria C. Zieba, Vice President of International Affairs, ziebam@nppc.org
- Chase Adams, Senior Director of Congressional Relations, adamsc@nppc.org
- Christina Banoub, Manager of Competition, Labor and Tax Issues, banoubc@nppc.org
- Dr. Ashley Johnson, Director of Food Policy, johnsona@nppc.org

TOPICS:

- competition & labor
- dietary guidelines
- environment & sustainability
- Farm Bill
- international trade
- line speeds
- market & consumer trends
- pork producer perspective
- swine traceability

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National Sorghum Producers

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- Craig Meeker, Chairman, NSP Board of Directors, craigsmeeker@gmail.com
- Garrett Love, NSP Board of Directors, garrett.t.love@gmail.com

TOPICS:

- Farm Bill
- biofuels
- trade
- 2024 crop outlook

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Renewable Fuels Association

SPOKESPERSON:

- Troy Bredenkamp, Senior VP, Government & Public Affairs, tbredenkamp@ethanolrfa.org
- Jared Mullendore, Policy Counsel a& Director, Government Affairs, jmullendore@ethanolrfa.org

TOPICS:

- finding a legislative solution that allows year-round E15
- IRA implementation & impacts on ethanol
- SAF and other opportunities for low-carbon ethanol
- preserving the integrity of the Renewable Fuels Standard
- combining EVs & FFVs through the Flex Fuel Fairness Act
- ethanol trade opportunities, challenges in EU, Brazil

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United Soybean Board

SPOKESPERSON:

Patrick Giberson, United Soybean Board Farmer-Leader,
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Mac Marshall, United Soybean Board Vice President of Market Intelligence,
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TOPICS:

- The Whole Bean: how U.S. soy provides food AND fuel
- Infrastructure and Connectivity Investments: The soy checkoff invests in infrastructure research to connect the U.S. soybean supply to end-users. Recent investments in the Lower Mississippi Dredging Project, Lock & Dam #25, and the Port of Grays Harbor ensures U.S. soybean farmers can meet global demand by maintaining crucial transportation routes and facilities.
- Communication & Education Investments: bringing the U.S. soy brand to life by integrating soy-based products into events and programming, hear about the latest collaborations with Kansas City Barbeque Society, SXSW, and Hollywood.
- Biobased Innovations: Recent innovations in agriculture have expanded the use of soybeans into a variety of products, ranging from biodegradable oil for chainsaws to firefighting foam. With more than 1,000 soy-based products currently available, these advancements are transforming the industry, protecting the environment and proving safer for human use.
- Market Opportunities for U.S. Soy: Hear more about the soy checkoff's long-term strategic initiatives that advance market opportunities for the U.S. soybean industry and factors affecting agricultural commodities domestically and internationally.
- U.S. Agriculture Punching Above its Weight: Discuss insights into USDA's 2022 Census of Agriculture. Even though farmers make up 1% of the U.S. population, agriculture's contributions to economic growth are delivering big! U.S. farmers produce a third of the world's soybeans, which in turn contribute over \$124 billion to the U.S. economy each year.
- How U.S. Soy Provides Food AND Fuel: U.S. soy is critical not only to the global food economy and the animal agriculture sector but also for making renewable biomass-based diesel fuel more accessible. U.S. soy also provides more sustainable products, offering a biobased alternative to petroleum and plastics. Find out why soy's versatility is its greatest attribute.

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U.S. Wheat Industry

SPOKESPERSON:

- Jake Westlin, NAWG Vice President of Policy & Communications, jwestlin@wheatworld.org
- Peter Laudeman, USW Director of Trade Policy, plaudeman@uswheat.org

TOPICS:

- enhancing the farm safety net for wheat growers
- supporting voluntary conservation programs
- developing export market opportunities
- influencing WTO agricultural negotiations
- supporting food assistance strategies
- discussing the future of wheat breeding innovation

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Notes

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