

2012 Legislative Ag Chairs Summit Speaker Information

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack

Tom Vilsack was appointed by President Barack Obama as the 30th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and sworn into office on January 21, 2009.



As Secretary of Agriculture, Vilsack is working hard to strengthen the American agricultural economy, to revitalize rural communities, to protect and conserve our natural resources, and to provide a safe, sufficient and nutritious food supply for the American people. Because USDA's work affects every American everyday, we are proud to be the 'Every Way, Every Day' USDA.

Prior to his appointment, Vilsack served two terms as the Governor of Iowa. In that role, and as a state senator and the mayor of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, Vilsack has a remarkable record of making positive change in the lives of those he has served.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Vilsack was born into an orphanage and adopted in 1951. He received a bachelor's degree from Hamilton College in 1972 and earned his law degree from Albany Law School in 1975. Following school, he and his wife Christie moved to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa - her hometown - where he practiced law. The Vilsacks have two adult sons, Jess and Doug; a daughter-in-law, Kate, who's married to Jess; and one grandchild.

Larry Elsworth

Agricultural Counselor to the Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Elsworth was previously executive director at the Center for Agricultural Partnerships (CAP), and led initiatives that solve agricultural problems by helping farmers adopt more environmentally sound and profitable farming practices. The Center has focused on increasing participation among farmers who have not previously participated in federal programs, particularly specialty crop producers. Additionally, Elsworth served as special assistant for pesticide policy from 1993 to 1996 for the Office of the Secretary at USDA. He was also a liaison to Domestic Policy Council in the White House. He's had 15 years experience as a fruit production grower, using integrated pest management in the field

Elisabeth Hagen

U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary for Food Safety

Dr. Hagen was sworn-in as Under Secretary for Food Safety on August 20, 2010. In this position, she oversees the policies and programs of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), USDA's public health regulatory agency that ensures the nation's commercial



meat, poultry, and egg products are safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged. She also chairs the U.S. Codex Steering Committee, which provides guidance to U.S. delegations to the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Since joining federal government in 2006, Dr. Hagen has advanced a science-based, public health agenda at USDA. She directed mission-critical outbreak and consumer complaint investigations, oversaw agency risk assessments and regulatory testing programs, and led key policy development efforts for emerging public health issues as a senior executive in the FSIS Office of Public Health Science, most recently as Deputy Assistant Administrator. Prior to her appointment as Under Secretary, she served as USDA's Chief Medical Officer, advising FSIS and other USDA mission areas on a range of human health issues, such as food safety, nutrition, and zoonotic diseases.

Dr. Hagen has also been actively involved in interagency efforts to better protect the public from foodborne illnesses, including the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet) Steering Committee, which guides the work of the nation's premier foodborne illness monitoring system. She was also a member of the Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR), a national collaborative effort to detect, investigate, control, and prevent foodborne disease outbreaks.

Before joining public service, Dr. Hagen taught and practiced medicine in both the private and academic sectors. In addition to several hospital and university appointments, her experience includes research and publications in infectious diseases and providing medical care to underserved populations.

Dr. Hagen holds an M.D. from Harvard Medical School and a B.S. from Saint Joseph's University. She completed specialty medical training at the University of Texas Southwestern and the University of Pennsylvania, and is board certified in infectious diseases.

Doug O'Brien
USDA Deputy Undersecretary for Rural Development



Doug O'Brien J.D., LL.M., was appointed Deputy Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development on August 1, 2011. Prior to his appointment, O'Brien served as a Senior Advisor to Secretary Tom Vilsack and Chief of Staff to Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan.

Before joining the United States Department of Agriculture, O'Brien served as the Assistant Director at the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In this capacity, he assisted the Director in administering the day-to-day operations of that department in such areas as plant industries, animal health, and its laboratories. In addition, he was responsible for developing the department's biofuels, bioproducts and renewable energy policy efforts.

O'Brien has also served as Senior Advisor to Iowa Governor Chet Culver, Interim Co-Director for the National Agricultural Law Center in Fayetteville, Ark., and Senior Staff Attorney at the Drake Agricultural Law Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

He is former counsel for the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, where he worked on the 2002 Farm Bill, livestock marketing, concentration, agricultural credit, and cooperative issues.

He also served as Legislative Assistant for Representative Leonard Boswell, focusing primarily on Rep. Boswell's work on the House Agriculture Committee, and as a Clerk for Justice Jerry Larson of the Iowa Supreme Court. O'Brien graduated from Loras College and earned a Juris Doctorate with honors from the University of Iowa. In addition, he holds a Master's Degree in Agricultural Law from the University of Arkansas.

O'Brien, who was raised on a diversified farm in Iowa, has dedicated his career to agriculture and rural policy.

Mike Scuse
**Acting Under Secretary for U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services**

Prior to this position, Scuse served as Deputy Under Secretary for the FFAS mission area from 2009 to 2011 with primary responsibility over our domestic programs (Farm Services Agency and Risk Management Agency).



Before joining USDA, Scuse was Secretary of Agriculture for Delaware from May 2001 until September 2008, when Governor Ruth Ann Minner (D) named him as her chief of staff. From 1996 to 2001, Scuse served as both chairman of the Kent County (Delaware) Regional Planning Commission and chairman of USDA's FSA State Committee. Before that, he was Kent County Recorder of Deeds. In addition to serving as NASDA vice president while agriculture secretary, Scuse was also president of the Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture. He lives in Smyrna, Delaware, with his wife Patrice.

Ambassador Islam Siddiqui
U.S. Trade Representative Chief Agricultural Negotiator

Islam A. Siddiqui serves as Chief Agricultural Negotiator with he rank of ambassador at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. He is responsible for bilateral and multilateral negotiations and policy coordination regarding agricultural trade.



Dr. Siddiqui most recently served as Vice President for Science and Regulatory Affairs at CropLife America, where he was responsible for regulatory and international trade issues related to crop protection chemicals. Previously, he has also served as Vice President for Agricultural Biotechnology and Trade at CropLife America.

From 2004 to 2009, Dr. Siddiqui served on the Industry Trade Advisory Committee on Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals, and Health/Science Products & Services at the U.S. Department of Commerce where he advised the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and USTR on international trade issues related to these sectors.

In 2001, Dr. Siddiqui was appointed Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), where he focused on agricultural biotechnology and food security issues.

He served the Clinton Administration in several capacities from 1997-2001: at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Dr. Siddiqui was Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory

Programs; Senior Trade Advisor to Secretary Dan Glickman; and Deputy Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs. As a result, he worked closely with the USTR and represented USDA in bilateral, regional and multi-lateral agricultural trade negotiations. Before joining USDA, Dr. Siddiqui spent 28 years with the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Dr. Siddiqui earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in plant pathology, both from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. His B.S. degree in plant protection is from Uttar Pradesh Agricultural University in Pantnagar, India

David White
Chief of Natural Resources Conservation Services

Dave White was named Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service on March 24, 2009. He began his 33-year career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a conservation aid in Missouri. Subsequently, he has served the agency in South Carolina, Montana and its Washington, D.C. headquarters. As Chief, he leads 12,000 employees and manages a budget in excess of \$4 billion.



From 2002 to 2008, Mr. White was assigned as the NRCS State Conservationist in Montana. For much of 2007 and 2008, he was also detailed to Senator Tom Harkin's Capitol Hill office, where he helped the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry craft the Conservation Title of the 2008 Farm Bill.

His earlier jobs in the Washington, D.C. area include two details to the staff of Senator Richard Lugar, in support of agriculture committee work on energy and alternative fuels and the 2002 Farm Bill, and a tour in the White House Task Force for Livable Communities.

Mr. White is an honors graduate of the University of Missouri, where he studied agriculture. He and his wife have a grown son and daughter.

NRCS provides leadership in a partnership effort to help America's private land owners and managers conserve their soil, water, and other natural resources.

Speakers -Saturday, Jan 7, 2012

Al Almanza

Food Safety and Inspection Service Administrator



Alfred V. Almanza serves as administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service, overseeing the regulation of meat, poultry and processed egg products. Almanza has been in a limited term appointment as administrator of FSIS since July 2007. In this position, Almanza leads FSIS and its more than 9,500 employees in their mission of protecting public health through food safety. The appointment is subject to final approval from the Office of Personnel Management.

Almanza's FSIS career began in 1978 as a food inspector in a small slaughter plant in Dalhart, Texas. Since that time he has served in a variety of positions throughout the Agency including deputy district manager, labor management relations specialist and processing inspector. Prior to accepting the administrator position, Almanza was the district manager for the Dallas District where he provided leadership and direction to more than 600 employees located in more than 350 federally inspected establishments.

Dr. John E. Anderson

Baird Family Professor of Economics and Associate Dean College of Business Administration

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

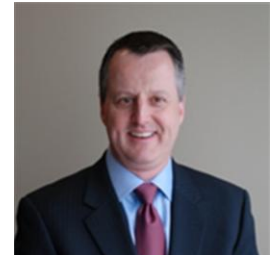


Dr. John Anderson is an academic economist and an advisor to public policymakers in the field of public finance, fiscal reform, and tax policy. His academic research and policy advising has been published in more than one hundred journal articles, book chapters, and government report. A new edition of his public finance textbook, used by students around the world, has been published by Cengage Learning in 2011.

Dr. Anderson served as a senior economist with the President's Council of Economic Advisers in Washington, DC, in 2005-06. He has also advised state governors and legislatures, and numerous state agencies in the United States. In the international arena, Dr. Anderson has served as a technical advisor on fiscal reform projects and local government reform projects in Moldova, Montenegro, and Macedonia. He has taught and provided educational reform and curriculum advising to universities in Bulgaria, China, Russia, Mongolia, and Tajikistan. During 2010-11 he was a Visiting Scholar at the Peking University—Lincoln Institute Center in Beijing, conducting research on Chinese municipalities and their public finances. Dr. Anderson earned his B.A. in mathematics and economics at Western Michigan University and his Ph.D. in economics at Claremont Graduate University in California.

Charlie Arnot
CEO, Center for Food Integrity and President of CMA consulting

Charlie Arnot is CEO of the Center for Food Integrity and President of CMA, a consulting company with offices in Missouri, Iowa, Indiana and Ohio. The Center for Food Integrity is a non-profit organization dedicated to building consumer trust and confidence in today's food system with members from the U.S. and Canada.



In his role as president of CMA, Charlie and the CMA team work with companies and associations across the food system in issues management, public relations, strategic facilitation and marketing communications. Charlie is recognized as a thought leader on food and agriculture issues and is a thought provoking writer and speaker.

Charlie spent ten years as vice president of communications and public affairs for Premium Standard Farms; he worked for a public relations agency, was an award winning radio journalist and worked in video and film. Charlie grew up in southeast Nebraska and graduated from the University of Nebraska with a Bachelor of Journalism degree.

Laura Barringer
Senior Associate, Global Harvest Initiative

Laura was born and raised on a family farm in South Dakota. Laura has worked for John Deere for over 10 years and is now serving as the John Deere representative at the Global Harvest Initiative. She has held numerous assignments at John Deere after starting as a design engineer for large tractors. One of her more recent assignments was the Manager of Business Development where she evaluated potential future opportunities for the company to invest in. Laura has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame, a M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Iowa State University and a MBA for the University of Northern Iowa.



Dr. K. George Beck
Weed Science, Professor and Extension Specialist,
Colorado State University

George Beck is a Professor of Weed Science in the Department of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management at Colorado State University and a Cooperative Extension Weed Specialist. George's research, outreach, and education focuses on the biology of invasive and noxious weeds that are important in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region. Much of George's work is directed at developing successional weed management systems for key invasive weed species, including predictive modeling of invasions. Currently, his research focuses on the ecology and mechanisms to control cheatgrass, yellow toadflax, and diffuse knapweed. In addition, he has also worked on tamarisk, Russian thistle, and Canada thistle.



Joe Black,
President, Southern Bancorp Community Partners

Joe Black currently serves as President Southern Bancorp Capital Partners, a non-profit CDFI affiliate of Southern Bancorp, a CDFI bank holding company serving rural markets in Arkansas and Mississippi. Southern Bancorp is a \$1 Billion dollar institution and is the largest private sector rural development agency in the nation. Prior to joining Southern, Joe served as Economic Liaison to the First Congressional Office and Program Coordinator at the Center for Economic Development.



Joe has a BS from Arkansas State University and a MBA from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He has completed a four year term as a Commissioner to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission and Chairman of the Bond Guaranty Committee, the state highest ranking economic development organization. He was recently appointed by the Governor of Arkansas to the State Board of Education. Present and past Board memberships include the Coalition of Community Development Financial Institutions, CHRISTUS Health Community Direct Investment Fund, Arkansans for Charity Excellence, Crossroads Coalition, as well as a host of other local and regional affiliations with community based development groups working toward economic self-sufficiency in less developed markets.

Phil Brasher
Washington Correspondent

Washington correspondent with Gannett newspapers who specializes in coverage of food and agriculture policy.

Richard Budell
Florida Department of Agriculture

Mr. Budell joined the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in 1985. He has held a variety of management positions within the Department and is currently the Director of the Office of Agricultural Water Policy. In his current position, he is responsible for the development and implementation of agricultural Best Management Practices addressing non-point source water quality impacts statewide. Mr Budell has served on numerous advisory committees to FDEP including the Pollutant Trading Policy Advisory Committee and the Designated Use Classification Policy Advisory Committee. Mr. Budell recently completed work on a National Academy of Sciences Committee evaluating the nutrient reduction strategies being employed in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Mr. Budell has a BS degree from Boise State University and a masters from Florida State University.

Dr. Judith Capper
Assistant Professor of Dairy Science,
Washington State University



Dr. Capper is an Assistant Professor of Dairy Sciences in the Department of Animal Sciences at Washington State University. Born in the UK, she undertook her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Harper Adams University College (UK) where her post-graduate research focused on the relationship between ruminant nutrition and neonatal behavior. Following a two-year lectureship in Animal Biology at the University of Worcester (UK), her post-doctoral research at Cornell focused on two areas: ruminant lipid metabolism, and modeling the environmental impact of dairy production. Within the lipid metabolism field, her research is upon the effects of nutrition on milk fat depression and changes in milk fatty acid composition. At Cornell, Jude worked with Prof. Dale Bauman to develop a deterministic model of the environmental impact of dairy production, based on the NRC (2001) nutrient requirements for dairy cows. The initial focus was on productive efficiency, and the potential for biotechnology (rbST) to mitigate environmental impact of milk production. This was followed by a study comparing the environmental impact of dairy production in 1944 (the “good old days”) to 2007. At WSU, Jude’s position is split between teaching (40%) and extension (60%) and her program focuses on quantifying the environmental impact of dairy and beef production systems, identifying the factors that contribute to mitigating resource use and greenhouse gas emissions and communicating the results to producers, consumer and policy-makers. Current projects include comparisons of the historical and modern US beef industry; evaluation of the effect of dairy breed on the environmental impact of cheese production; and quantifying the impact of performance-enhancing technologies on resource use and greenhouse gas emissions from beef production.

Dr. Bruce Chassey
Professor of Food Microbiology, University of Illinois



Dr. Chassy received his A.B. in Chemistry from San Diego State University in 1962, and his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Cornell University in 1966. Dr. Chassy worked as a Research Chemist for the National Institute of Dental Research, National Institute of Health for 21 years before he came to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as the Head of the Department of Food Science. Following that department's merger with the Division of Foods and Nutrition, Dr. Chassy was appointed Head of the new Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. He served in that role until May 2000 when he became Assistant Dean for Science Communications in ACES. Dr. Chassy has served as a member of a number of professional societies including the FDA Food Advisory Council; Executive Committee and Councilor for the Institute of Food Technologists and past Chair of the IFT Biotechnology Division. He served as a NIH Visiting Professor, received the U.S. Public Health Service Special Recognition Award, was named in Who's Who in Science and Technology, and was an ASM International Visiting Professor. Dr. Chassy has also been a member of Phi Tau Sigma, Sigma Xi, the New York Academy of Science, American Men of Science, and held a Fulbright Distinguished Lectureship in Spain.

Dr. Steve Crawford
New Hampshire State Veterinarian

Douglas Durante
Executive Director, Clean Fuels Development Coalition

Mr. Durante serves as the Executive Director and Washington Representative of the Clean Fuels Development Coalition (CFDC), a non-profit organization he assisted in forming in 1987. The CFDC has a broad-based membership including ethanol, automotive, agricultural, and other alternative energy interests. Mr. Durante has been working in the fields of energy, transportation, and the environment since 1977. He was the Director of Public Affairs for the National Alcohol Fuels Commission and also served as a Special Assistant in the Office of Alcohol Fuels at the U.S. Department of Energy. Mr. Durante has been involved in the development of several ethanol projects throughout the U.S. on behalf of his member companies and other clients. Mr. Durante has served on numerous state and federal advisory committees, including Chair of the Fuels Subcommittee of the Federal Biomass Advisory Committee and on the Governors' Ethanol Coalition's Biomass Advisory Committee. He also served on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Fuels Advisory Committee, and the Department of Energy's Business Roundtable Advisory Group. He has served on fuel and pollution control commissions in Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Kentucky, and New Mexico. He holds a B.A. degree in English and Journalism from Elon University (North Carolina) and has completed a number of graduate courses and programs in business and government affairs.

Anne Evans
District Director, US Department of Commerce

Connecticut native Anne Evans was appointed in January 2008 as the District Director of the US Department of Commerce International Trade Administration District Office in Middletown, Connecticut. As Director she leads a team of trade specialists and export finance professionals in assisting over 2,500 Connecticut companies export and attract overseas customers to their businesses. Since her appointment as Director she has led business development trade missions to Europe, Asia, the Middle East and South America which included three trade missions with Congressional members.



In her over 30 years in private industry she was the third generation in her family's Middletown, Connecticut tire business, expanding the business from a Main Street tire retailer to a global tire recycler. She was the Chief Executive of EER Limited, an international waste tire management company specializing in US military and government waste tires. She was also President of TYRES 2000 Limited, an international tire trader and reseller. Her experience in the tire industry began in 1978. It includes retailing, wholesaling, retreading, importing, exporting, waste tire collection, waste tire recycling, thermal recovery project development and management, consulting, and servicing as an expert witness in US courts.

In 1989 on the invitation of the British government, Anne founded Elm Energy & Recycling (UK) Limited to help alleviate Britain's national problem of scrap tires. Elm Energy & Recycling (UK) Limited's power station was the largest electricity generator fueled with waste or

renewable fuels in Britain's Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation: Renewal Energy Order brought about by the privatization of the electricity industry and market.

The Elm Energy plant cost about \$80 million to development and construct. In addition to the original concept design, Anne was the key person negotiating all environmental permits and overseeing construction and financing, attracting equity from a major US utility company and debt from UK and Japanese banks. She also negotiated the long-term contracts for waste tire disposal with the UK's largest retailers, distributors, manufacturers and retreaders.

When commissioned, Elm Energy was the cleanest electricity generator in Britain using a carbon-based fuel, and received the prestigious Automobile Association of Britain award for environmental achievement, and Mrs Evans was named "Foreign Investor of the Year (1994)" by *Corporate Relocation Magazine*. Elm Energy & Recycling (UK) Limited used about 10 million waste tyres per year or about 20 percent of Britain's annual production of waste tires.

Anne left Elm Energy as its Managing Director at the end of 1994 to develop facilities in Europe and retained a minority share in Elm Energy until 1999 when the Elm Energy plant was sold to a French waste processing company.

Anne remained active in the UK waste tyre collection and processing industry serving as a director to Tyre Collection Services Limited of Birmingham, UK (one of Britain's largest national waste tire collection companies). She developed that company's E+ Programme (Environment Plus) for environmentally sensitive collection and disposal of waste tires, and worked with the UK Tyre Industry Council on developing its Responsible Recyclers Scheme which was adopted by the British government to be the industry standard.

Dr. Tony Forshey
Interim Director, Ohio Department of Agriculture and
Ohio State Veterinarian

Dr. Tony Forshey is chief of the Division of Animal Health, which is charged with protecting and promoting the health of Ohio's livestock and poultry industries. Dr. Forshey serves as the state veterinarian and oversees operations for the division.



Dr. Forshey practiced veterinary medicine for 27 years with an interest in swine production. He served on several major swine health manufacturer advisory boards including Elanco Animal Health, Pfizer Animal Health, Newport Laboratories and Schering Plough. He has served as an Adjunct Associate Professor at The Ohio State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine for the past 10 years.

Dr. Forshey serves as the vice-chair of the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board; co-chair, the Swine Update Program, Department of Preventive Medicine, OSU; chair, the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association Swine Sub-Committee to the Ohio Department of Agriculture; chair, the equine and the aquaculture task forces for the department; and an ex-officio member of the Ohio Livestock Coalition and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation boards of directors. He is a member of the Ohio Swine Health Advisory Board; the steering committee of The Ohio Pork Industry Center; the American Veterinary Medical Association; the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association; the United States Animal Health Association and the National Institute of Animal

Agriculture boards of directors; the Ohio Pork Producer Council (OPPC) Producer Education Committee; the OPPC Swine Health and Research Committee; the Ohio Livestock Export Council; and the OSU Extension 4-H Animal Sciences Strategic Advisory Committee.

His honors and awards include: the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association's Veterinarian of the Year Award (2010); Ohio Pork Producers Council Service Award for Outstanding Service to the Ohio Swine Industry (1998); the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association's Meritorious Award for service to the Ohio Swine Industry(1997); the Outstanding Alumnus Award, Shenandoah High School, Sarahsville, Ohio (1996); Who's Who in American Society and Business Citation (1992); and the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award, The Ohio State University, College of Veterinary Medicine (1987).

Chuck Hassebrook
Executive Director, Center for Rural Affairs

Chuck Hassebrook is Executive Director of the Center for Rural Affairs of Lyons, Nebraska.



The Center is a nationally recognized research, advocacy and development organization that supports small communities, small business and family farming and ranching. Hassebrook has served 34 years with the Center, winning changes in federal tax, farm, conservation and rural development policy.

Hassebrook serves on the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, including two terms as chair, and is current Chair of the Board of the USDA North Central Region Rural Development Center. He previously served on the Nebraska Rural Development Commission, US Department of Agriculture National Commission on Small Farms, USDA Agricultural Science and Technology Review Board and the Board Bread for the World.

Chuck is a University of Nebraska graduate and a native of Platte Center, Nebraska, where his family has been engaged in farming for more than a century. He lives with his wife Kate and sons Anton and Peter in Lyons.

Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman

Governor Dave Heineman is proud to be a life-long Nebraska. He was born in Falls City and grew up in Fairbury, McCook, Benkelman and Wahoo, where he graduated from high school.

He served five years in the Army after graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point and served five years in the United States Army. He is also a graduate of the Army's Airborne and Ranger Schools.



Governor Dave Heineman was sworn-in as Nebraska's 39th Governor on January 21, 2005, when Governor Mike Johanns became the Secretary of Agriculture. Governor Heineman was elected to his first full term on November 7, 2006 by the largest margin in the states' history. In May of 2006, he overcame a forty point deficit to win an historic primary. Prior to becoming Governor, he served more than three years as Lieutenant Governor and nearly seven years as

State Treasurer. Governor Heineman's vision for Nebraska is based on four priorities: education, economic vitality, efficiency in government, and protecting families.

A leader for Nebraska's agricultural industry, Governor Heineman secured a \$400 million trade agreement with Taiwan for Nebraska wheat, soybeans and corn. He also signed two \$30 million trade agreements with Cuba for Nebraska wheat, soybeans, dry beans, pork and beef. Additionally, under his watch, Nebraska has also opened its first-ever international trade office abroad in Tokyo, Japan. Governor Heineman also served as Chairman of the Governor's Ethanol Coalition in 2007.

Jason Henderson
Vice President, Kansas City Federal Reserve



Jason R. Henderson is vice president and Omaha Branch executive with the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. He joined the Omaha Branch in August 2006 as Branch executive. In this role, he serves as the Bank's regional economist and representative in the state of Nebraska, recruits and works closely with the Branch's board of directors, and is responsible for briefing the Kansas City Fed's president—a member of the Federal Open Market Committee—on economic and business activity in the state. In addition, Jason leads several Bank and Federal Reserve System efforts to track agricultural and rural economies, including the quarterly publication of the Tenth District Survey of Agricultural Credit Conditions and the Federal Reserve System's Agricultural Finance Databook. He also manages the Main Street Economist, a bi-monthly publication covering economic issues affecting rural areas.

Jason serves as the Bank's regional research coordinator. His research interests include rural development, agricultural economics and industrial organization. He has published more than 60 research articles in Bank and external research publications on topics such as entrepreneurship, land values, demographics, the growth of knowledge-based activity in rural America, the use of electronic commerce in agricultural industries, and the growth of value-added food manufacturing activity.

Jason speaks frequently to a wide range of business, financial and policy audiences across the United States and internationally. His articles on the rural economy have been cited by policy officials, researchers, and various media outlets, including The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Financial Times, and USA Today. He has also provided testimony on agricultural credit conditions to a congressional subcommittee.

Prior to being named Omaha Branch executive, Jason served as a senior economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. He holds a Ph.D. from Purdue University and a bachelor's degree in economics from Central College in Pella, Iowa. He serves on the Dean's Advisory Board for the College of Agriculture at Purdue University and the National Advisory Board for the College of Business Administration at the University of Nebraska – Omaha. He is a member of the executive committee for the Nebraska Council of Economic Education and is an adviser for the Economics, Accounting, and Management Department at Central College.

Jason was raised on a family farm in Northeast Iowa and lives in the Omaha metro area with his wife and three children.

Jason Krips
Assistant Deputy Minister, Industry Development and Food Safety, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.



Jason Krips joined Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development in July 2008. He brings with him a strong and diverse background in the areas of issues management, leadership, stakeholder consultations, personnel management and team building in both the private and public sector. Jason is a lawyer, having been admitted to the Alberta Bar in 1997. Jason also holds a Bachelor of Commerce (With Distinction) with a specialty in Human Resources Management from the University of Alberta. He practiced law for a number of years with the firm of Wilson & Hulburt where, amongst other areas, he specialized in representing agricultural clients on legislative and industry policy issues, as well as planning law and environmental issues.

Jason joined the Alberta Government in 2000 as the Legislative Manager with the Department of Government Services, and in 2004 he moved to the position of Director of Research and Analysis with the Policy Coordination Office of Executive Council. Jason also served as the Executive Assistant for the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development from 2004-2006, and Executive Assistant for the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology from late 2006 – July 2008.

Part of Jason's role with Agriculture and Rural Development is to assist the newly formed Industry Development and Food Safety (IDFS) Sector to work collaboratively with the new Livestock and Meat Agency to ensure the successful implementation of the Strategy. Key among the various initiatives within the Strategy that the IDFS Sector will be working on is traceability, and the other is that we have security in food safety.

Robert Lestz,
GasFrac, Chief Technology Officer

Robert Lestz is a degreed petroleum engineer with 26 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and currently serves as the Chief Technology Officer for GasFrac Energy Services. He spent 22 1/2 years at Chevron working in the areas of well stimulation, artificial lift, coiled tubing, completions, and remedial well work operations. Robert last led a multidiscipline R&D organization at Chevron's technology company specifically focused on Unconventional Resources. Part of this effort involved building and managing external partnerships at Universities and National Laboratories. He holds 5 patent (including those associated with the GasFrac technology) and has additional patent applications pending. He previously served on the board of directors of the Petroleum Technology Transfer Council and on the United States Department of Energy Oil Shale Ad Hoc Group and is currently on the advisory board of the University of Utah Institute for Clean and Secure Energy. He has also published numerous articles in trade journals and peer reviewed technical journals.

Dr. Steve Ingham
Food Safety Administrator, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Steven Ingham has been a faculty member in the UW-Madison Department of Food Safety and a food safety specialist with the UW-Extension since 1993. In that capacity, he has developed and delivered food safety training and services to Wisconsin food processors and regulators and

conducted applied food safety research, along with performing administrative and teaching responsibilities. He previously held faculty posts at Louisiana State University and the University of Saskatchewan (Canada). Ingham served as the DATCP Division of Food Safety administrator from November 2008 until July 2010 while on leave from the University. He earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Cornell University. His research has been published in peer-reviewed publications including the *Journal of Food Protection*, the *International Journal of Food Microbiology*, and the *Journal of Dairy Science*.



Bill Northey
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

Bill Northey is a fourth generation farmer from Spirit Lake, Iowa who grows corn and soybeans. Northey returned to Spirit Lake to farm with his grandfather after graduating from Iowa State University in 1981.

He is serving his second term as Iowa Secretary of Agriculture after being reelected in November of 2010.

As Secretary, Northey has committed to traveling to each of Iowa's 99 counties every year to hear from farmers and rural residents with a stake in the future of agriculture. These meetings allow him to listen to their needs and better lead the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship as it seeks to serve the people of the state.

His priorities as Secretary of Agriculture are advancing science and new technologies to better care for our air, soil and water and reaching out to all Iowans to tell the story of Iowa agriculture.

Miyun Park
Executive Director, Global Animal Partnership

Executive Director of Global Animal Partnership, Miyun Park has worked to improve the welfare of farm animals for more than 15 years. Ms. Park has delivered presentations around the world, including China, India, Croatia, South Korea, Belgium, Egypt, Italy, and across the United States, on behalf of animals in agriculture, is widely published, including a chapter co-authored with Andrea Gavinelli, Head of Unit, Animal Welfare, of the European Commission, and serves on the Editorial Board of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation's Gateway to Farm Animal Welfare portal.



My background differs from that of many of my colleagues. I grew up without much, if any, contact with animals and didn't begin learning about farming and its impacts on animals until I was at university. Over the years, I've been extraordinarily fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with many of the most passionate and committed advocates for higher farm animal welfare, whether legislators, ranchers, corporate executives, farmers, restaurateurs, scientists, retailers, auditors and certifiers, policymakers, or individuals.

Finding common ground with people from wildly different backgrounds and realizing that no matter how foreign we may be to each other, we can and do agree that we must work together

collaboratively and positively to improve the welfare of animals raised for food is why I've chosen to work for Global Animal Partnership.

I truly believe that the multi-stakeholder foundation on which our organization is firmly rooted can bring about the greatest advancements—for animals, producers, consumers, and purveyors alike. Regardless of our professions, histories, or personal philosophies, each one of us is able to bring about positive change.

I'm incredibly thankful for being able to contribute to the work of Global Animal Partnership and our unique, multi-tiered 5-Step Animal Welfare Rating Standards.

Brent Paterson

**Executive Director, Irrigation and Farm Water Division.
Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development**



Brent Paterson received a B.Sc. and M.Sc. from the University of Alberta, Faculty of Agriculture, specializing in soil sciences. He has worked more than 30 years with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development in a variety of programs related to irrigation water management, subsurface drainage, salinity reclamation, and rural water supply.

Brent Paterson is currently Executive Director of the Irrigation and Farm Water Division with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, located in Lethbridge, Alberta. He is responsible for all agriculture programs related to irrigation, agricultural water management, water quality, and rural water supply throughout Alberta. He supervises approximately 75 research, professional and technologist staff located throughout the province. A major program focus is on research and development in support of Alberta's 650,000 hectares of irrigation. Irrigation expansion and productivity, on-farm irrigation water use efficiency, climate change, and quality water for safe food production are currently the highest priority areas.

Brent Paterson's has experience with agricultural water management, salinity reclamation and water quality programs in a number of countries, including Egypt, China, India, Pakistan, Iran and Ethiopia.

Marc Ribaldo

**Senior Economist, U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Economic Research Service**



Dr. Marc Ribaldo is currently a senior economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service. He received a B.S. in Natural Resource Management from the University of Maine (1977), an M.S. in agricultural and resource economics from the University of Maine (1979), and a Ph.D in agricultural economics from Penn State University (1983). He has been working at ERS since 1983, and is currently in the Resource, Environmental, and Science Policy Branch of the Resource and Rural Economics Division.

Dr. Ribaldo has worked primarily on water quality issues related to agriculture, including the water quality impacts of agricultural and conservation programs, the impacts on agriculture of policies for protecting water quality, and the design of policies for reducing nonpoint source

pollution. More recently, he led projects that examined the role of private markets in supporting conservation measures on farms, and policy options for improving nitrogen management.

Michael Sheldon
Greenway Farms



Mike graduated from the University of Oxford in 1982, with a BA in Classics and Modern Languages. From there he joined PIC (a major pig genetics firm) on their graduate trainee programme, and spent 14 years with that company in various roles, most notably Production Manager for the UK and Marketing Manager for Europe. In 1996 he set up Greenway Farms Ltd to buy two 500 sow breeding units from PIC, and produced breeding stock for them under contract for 5 years. From 2001 to the present, the company has operated a single 500 sow unit producing 13,000 slaughter stock each year. Meanwhile, he was the founding Chief Executive of the UK's pig industry trade association (NPA) in 1999, and ran that for two years. During that time, he was involved in managing the consequences of the UK's unilateral ban of close confinement sow stalls. Since 2001 to the present, he has been a board member of the UK's pig levy board (BPEX), a board with activities spanning marketing, technology, knowledge transfer and economics. Within the board Mike has particular responsibility for marketing activity.

Ray Starling,
General Counsel, North Carolina Department of Agriculture

Ray Starling serves as the General Counsel for the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and as a state and federal liaison for the Department. NASDA has awarded Starling exemplary work that impacts the national ag scene. Adjunct professor at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He recently completed a Marshall Memorial Fellowship, an opportunity to visit five European with other young leaders from across the U.S.

Peter Thornton
Assistant Director, International Marketing
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



Peter Thornton is the Assistant Director for International Marketing for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Previously, Peter was the Vice President of International Marketing for the American Peanut Council in Alexandria Virginia. Before that, he worked in various positions in the Asia Division of the American Soybean Association in St. Louis Missouri. Peter and his family moved to North Carolina to join up with the rest of his family who are long time North Carolinians.

Peter received his bachelors in Economics from American University and his Masters in International Relations from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Peter and his wife, Kim McCombs-Thornton, have three children, Matthew, Andrew and Tad. His home is in Cary, North Carolina.

The NCDA&CS International Marketing department is charged with developing export markets for North Carolina agriculture related products. It has seen tremendous success in the past bringing international buyers together with North Carolina suppliers of agricultural products. The International Marketing staff has worked closely with several producer associations to develop new demand for North Carolina products in international markets. They have successfully introduced products unique to North Carolina to new audiences. Peter continues to capitalize on those successes in the international markets, by utilizing the agriculture related expertise found in the Department of Agriculture and across the state of North Carolina, to develop and implement targeted strategically based market plans to further expand opportunities for North Carolina companies overseas.

Lori Williams,
Executive Director, National Invasive Species Council (Department of the Interior)

Lori provides overall direction on national and international invasive species policy development and serves as the principle Council contact at the national level with other Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, State and local governments, and tribes. She supervises the Council staff, reviews and recommends legislative proposals, and briefs top Federal officials regarding invasive species issues. Lori is particularly interested in improving coordination and building partnerships with State and local governments.

Lori graduated from the University of Georgetown's Foreign Service and School of Law. She has been the legislative counsel to both House and Senate committees, directed the congressional relations office and been Special Assistant to the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within the Department of the Interior, and served as Vice President for ocean programs at the Center for Marine Conservation.

Christopher Dionigi
Assistant Director for National Policy and Programs
National Invasive Species Council (Department of the Interior)

Chris has a primary responsibility for domestic policy development. He works with a wide variety of stakeholders and representatives of state governments in the U.S. to develop and coordinate invasive species policies, programs, and information networks. Chris is especially interested in ensuring that resource managers have the tools and support they need to effectively address invasive species issues.

Chris received a Ph.D. in Crop Science (emphasis in Weed Science) from Iowa State University, and B. A. and M. S. degrees in Biology from the University of Northern Colorado and the University of Louisiana, respectively. He conducted research from 1989 to 2000 and served as the Lead Scientist of Aquaculture Research Program at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans, Louisiana. Additionally, he was detailed to ARS's Weed Science National Program Staff in 1999, and he served a 10-month USDA Graduate School legislative fellowship on the U.S. Senate Committee for Agriculture in 2000. He has authored over 25 peer-reviewed manuscripts

As the only national meeting of state legislators with agriculture and rural responsibilities, the Summit's pro-agriculture and rural community mission of profitable agriculture and vibrant rural communities requires solid public policy that can only be accomplished by educated and

active state legislators. Providing both an opportunity for networking and a balanced, nonpartisan agenda to facilitate the sharing of information is the goal of the 2012 Summit.

Dr. Christopher Walsh

Professor of Horticulture, University of Maryland

Dr. Walsh is a Professor and the Undergraduate Program Coordinator for the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture. He received a both a Ph.D. and MS in Pomology from Cornell University and a B.A. in Chemistry from Middlebury College. Dr. Walsh has worked in the production and handling of fruit crops for more than three decades with his research focusing on production and postharvest physiology. The goal of his research is to identify and test metrics for use in food assurance programs through the study of the effects of typical production inputs on the epiphytic bacteria present on the surface of fresh fruits.

Dr. Walsh also coordinates with the JIFSAN international training courses in Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and has organized over 15 "Train-the-Trainers" programs. He also trains and assists local fruit and vegetable growers in the mid-Atlantic Region in developing GAPs programs.