



STATE AGRICULTURE & RURAL LEADERS

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www.agandruralleaders.org

AGRICULTURE
is the nation's
LARGEST EMPLOYER
with more than **23 MILLION JOBS**
[that's 17% of the civilian workforce]
involved in some facet of
AMERICAN AGRICULTURE.
Source: National FFA Organization

We would not exist without our great private industry members



STATE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LEADERS

As a respected leader on agriculture and rural policy, you are cordially invited to participate in the 2013 Legislative Ag Chairs Summit to be held June 7-9, 2013 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

As an active participant in agriculture and rural policy, you are aware of the challenges our communities and industries are facing. There are almost daily calls to action from food safety, environmental or animal rights activists. Ever changing federal regulations impact industry, producers and our state and provincial policies. As state and provincial legislators responsible for adjusting and implementing the policies that address food production and natural resource management, we hear from everyone with an issue related to economic development, food, fiber and energy production. It is beyond difficult for us to stay up on every issue that impacts our rural communities.

Never has there been a more important time to join forces and work together. Never has the linkage between state agriculture, food and economic development policy and viable rural communities been more important. The good news is that over the last decade, we have developed an organization that that has proven successful in providing an unparalleled opportunity for elected officials with an interest in agriculture and rural communities to work together, collaborate and create problem-solving partnerships.

The Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit is the only meeting that provides a non-partisan educational opportunity on agriculture and rural issues for state and provincial officials.

The 12th Annual Summit will begin Friday (June 7) with an optional dairy policy session, followed by a tour of British Columbia's agriculture highlights. Saturday's plenaries and breakout sessions will cover topics from animal welfare to value based messaging, with the agenda planned by 2012 legislative attendees.

Additional information, including the working agenda is available on the SARL website (www.sarl.us) or give one of us a call. The LAC is designed to provide the sound, science based information you need to address agriculture and rural issues to help you shape the best policy for your communities. We hope to see you there.

Senator Bill Heath, GA
President 404-656-3943

Senator Larry Rhoden, SD
Vice President 605-985-5461

REVIEWING THE 2012 LEGISLATIVE AGRICULTURE CHAIRS SUMMIT

The 2012 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit was held January 6-8, in Washington, D.C. The House and/or Senate chairs from 47 states and 8 Canadian provinces attended this invitation-only meeting. The Summit focused on the reauthorization of the farm bill through participation in policy updates from both the Administration and Congress. There were also member-only discussions with Nebraska Governor and NGA Chair Dave Heineman, experts on animal welfare, water quality, rural energy production and hydraulic fracturing, food safety certification systems, invasive species and more.

In addition to the invited legislators, the only other attendees are SARL private industry members. More than 300 potential attendees are turned away each year to keep the meeting at a size where discussion can occur. All on-site expenses for elected officials are provided and travel scholarships are also available.

WHAT ATTENDEES SAY ABOUT THE SUMMIT



LAC Summit attendees hear from USDA Secretary Vilsack at the White House

“The top state agriculture policy makers all attend Ag Chairs.” Sen. Mike Brubaker, PA



Representatives Sweeney (IA) and Baumgardner (CO) get answers from USDA-FSA head Michael Scuse. Sweeney says *“no meeting has more timely or informative topics”*

“Of all the conferences I can attend, Ag Chairs is the most educational.”
Rep. Jerry Brown, AR



“Ag Chairs is the only meeting for state and provincial legislators that works to resolve the most challenging issues in agriculture and rural viability.”
MLA Leo Glavine, Nova Scotia

“The opportunity to have open discussion is key to the success of the Summit.” Sen. Jean Leising (IN) questions FDA leadership about the agency’s role on the farm.

The combination of smaller breakouts and discussion oriented plenary have served the Summit well. The program is designed for action oriented information that legislators can put to use in their legislature and their districts. Each year’s agenda is planned by attendees at the previous Summit. Time is also available for networking and collaboration building.

STATE AGRICULTURE & RURAL LEADERS

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State Agriculture and Rural Leaders, facilitates the Legislative Ag Chairs Summit. The Summit is collaboratively hosted with Council of State Governments and the National Conference of State Legislatures.




NATIONAL CONFERENCE
of STATE LEGISLATURES
The Forum for America's Ideas

SAVE THE DATE



TO: Agriculture and Rural Legislative Leaders and Agriculture Industry Leaders
FOR: 2013 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit XII
WHEN: June 7-9, 2013
WHERE: Vancouver, British Columbia
NOTE: Make sure your passport is up to date!

2013 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit “WHAT WORKS”

The agenda for the 2013 Summit will focus on state and provincial policy that is working. Plenary and breakout topics will include:

- Rural Energy Generation
- Rural Economic Development
- Animal Welfare
- The Future of State Fairs
- National Farm Policy
- Infrastructure Funding
- The Future of Horse Racing
- Timber and Lumber Economies
- Local Food Systems
- Consumer Confidence
- Sharing Water, Water Quality
- Trade and Labor

For the most up to date information, see www.sarl.us

The Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit is designed for state and provincial legislative committee, caucus and chamber leadership with an interest in agriculture and rural policy. Attendance is by invitation only. If you know of someone who should be invited, please contact us.

All sessions are designed to provide information that applies directly to constituent and state legislative issues.

Registration, meals and hotel costs are covered by SARL, a 501 c(3) educational non-profit run by state and provincial legislators dedicated to enhancing the roles of agriculture and rural development leadership across North America.

Registration materials are enclosed or can be accessed online at www.sarl.us.

There are travel scholarships available for attendees whose states or campaign funds do not provide travel.

To apply for travel assistance, or for more information on any aspect of the Ag Chairs Summit, please call Dr. Carolyn Orr (765) 893-8209 or visit www.sarl.us