



2017 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit

January 6-8, 2017 in Baton Rouge, LA

Agenda 11.20.16

The Legislative Ag Chairs Summit always begins with optional site visits of local agriculture activities. The Site Visits for the 2017 Summit in Baton Rouge includes a Delta Grain Terminal, Catfish, Crawfish, Alligators, and the Nation's Largest Prison Farm. Site visits begin on Thursday, January 5, 2017.

Site Visits 1 and 4: Grain Terminal and Monsanto agriculture chemical production

ADM Ama is the grain division's highest volume export facility with concrete silo storage of 5 million bushels. Annual volume ranges between 330 million to 400 million bushels with over twenty types of grain and processed products shipped to over 90 countries. The Monsanto plant is in the middle of an expansion to add Dicamba production to the crop chemicals already produced there. This site visit will take approximately 6 hours because of a 90 minute bus ride to the facility, you will be seeing a good portion of south Louisiana. Jeans recommended, closed toe, slip resistant shoes, no jewelry. If demand is sufficient, it will be offered twice;

Site Visit 1: Thursday, January 5: Leave at 12:30 pm, return by 6:00 pm

Site Visit 4: Friday, January 6: Leave at 12:00 pm, return by 5:30 pm

Site Visit 2: Catfish and Crawfish

You will be visiting Guidry's catfish processing facility, Cajun family owned and operated since 1976, located in the heart of south Louisiana, it is the largest catfish processing facility in the state and one of the largest producers of U.S. farm raised catfish in the United States. Guidry's caters to both the foodservice industry as well as the retail customer, offering over 70 different catfish items, as well as their blend of fish fry and hushpuppies. Crawfish production is a double cropping system with rice. Depending on how the flooding impacted them and the weather in December you may be part of a harvesting crew!

Friday, January 6, 2017: Leave Baton Rouge at 7:30 am - Return to Baton Rouge by 1:00 pm

Tour Guidry's catfish processing then Crawfish/rice farm, lunch at Crawfishtown USA. Jeans recommended, closed toe, slip resistant shoes, no jewelry.

Site Visit 3: Angola Prison

When many states have ended their use of farms for prisoners, the largest maximum security prison in the United States with 6,300 prisoners still produces much of what they consume. They grow, process and freeze produce, the beef operation provides work experience and uses much of the ground around the prison. Essentially every prisoner has a job or is taking classes in this program, they have a crafts unit, auto mechanic shop, farm equipment and leather repair and hold two rodeos a year, all run by the inmates and open to the public. It's not what you expect from a prison.

Friday, January 6, 2017: Leave Baton Rouge at 8:00 am - Return to Baton Rouge by 3:30 pm

Lunch at the prison, by the inmates. Dress is casual with no light blue or gray shirts, cell phones, purses, bags must be left on bus, take medication, ID in pocket.

Site Visit 5: Alligator and Gator Boats

Walls Alligator Farm and Gator Trax Boats. See over 10,000 alligators produced for their hide and meat and Gator Trax's shallow water boats that you can maneuver with ease through whatever water you want to take on.

Friday, January 6, 2017: Leave hotel at 1:00 pm for Walls Alligator Farm and Gator Trax Boats. Return to hotel by 5:00 pm

Jeans recommended, closed toe, slip resistant shoes.



The Legislative Ag Chairs Summit Educational Sessions will take place at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capital Center hotel, beginning Friday, January 7 and concluding at noon on Sunday, January 8.

Attendance is limited to 150 legislators, by invitation-only. Invitation are extended to legislative committee chairs, and by referral from National Conference of State Legislatures and Council of State Governments. All on-site expenses; registration, meals and hotel, are covered by State Agriculture and Rural Leaders, a 501 c(3). The meeting is staffed by National Conference of State Legislatures and Council of State Governments.

Friday, January 6, 2017

- 6:00 pm Opening reception
- 6:45 pm Welcome from Louisiana Agriculture Commissioner, Dr. Mike Strain
- Regional Dinners: four regional dinners, based on Council of State Government regions. Each dinner will have regional agriculture economist in them to moderate a post dinner discussion on the economic status of ag and rural in each region.
Midwest moderated by Dr. John Lawrence, Iowa State
West moderated by Dr. Mickey Paggi, Fresno State
East moderated by Dr. James Dunn, Penn State
South moderated by Dr. Scott Brown, University of Missouri
- 9:00 – 10:00 pm Delegate Meeting, Paramount room
- 9:00 -9:45 Kansas City Planning meeting
- 9:30 – 11:30 pm Hospitality Suite

Saturday January 7, 2017

- 6:30 – 7:45 am Buffet Breakfast
- 8:00 am **Consumer focus group and discussion panel**
How rural/ag can best influence the conversation. How can rural advocates turn/keep the conversation about our issues positive?
Consumer Focus Session, moderated by Percy & Company
Plenary Discussion: *Janice Tranberg, Executive Director, SaskCanola*
Matthew Bailey, Executive Vice President, Foundation for Biomedical Research
Dawn Caldwell, Finding Our Common Ground
- 9:45 am **Breakout Session I:**
A. Promoting resiliency in rural communities and responding to natural disasters.
It has been a stressful year for many rural communities, the flood in Baton Rouge and fire in Alberta are just two of the extreme events that tremendously impacted rural communities. Rural communities face special challenges related to emergency preparedness and response, including resource limitations, remoteness, separation, low population density and communication issues. This session will focus on successful rural responses to floods, fires, droughts and other natural disasters.
Dr. Adam Whelchel, Director of Science, The Nature Conservancy

Oneil Carlier, Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

William Rachal, Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

B. Integrating an “All of the Above Energy” policy into rural economic development.

Rural communities are in the driver’s seat for all energy, regardless of source, how do we maximize the return to the community and what issues are we facing?

Larry Sherwood, President, Interstate Renewable Energy Council

Rich Walsh, Senior Vice President, Valero

C. How can we bring broadband home?

We all know that good, reasonable priced broadband is a requirement for a viable community, how do we get that? This session will focus on the technology, the financing and the methods to bring broadband to your district.

Bill Coleman, Community Technology Advisors

Don Williams, Senior Program Specialist, Broadband USA

D. Does aquaculture offer economic opportunities?

Aquaculture is different in different parts of the country, but in Louisiana it is an economic driver, fish/shellfish consumption is increasing, how can we help it grow economies and in other parts of the country? Michigan Representative Triston Cole, Moderating.

Mr. Sebastian Belle, Executive Director, Maine Aquaculture Association

Leo Ray, Owner Fish Breeders of Idaho

Dr. Jimmy Avery, Extension Professor, Mississippi State University

11:15 am

Buffet Networking Lunch

1:00 – 2:15 pm

Concurrent Plenary

I. Water Quality

The most important issue that few of our constituents are talking about. This session will feature what states are doing and how they are funding it.

Christopher Henney, President, Ohio Agribusiness Association

Mike Naig, Deputy Director, Iowa Department of Agriculture

Ann Swanson, Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission

II. Water Quantity

In some states, it isn’t quality, it is quantity – how do you allocate limited resources and what can agriculture do to respond?

Burke Griggs, Washburn University School of Law

Danny Merkley, Director, Water Resources, California Farm Bureau Federation

Clive Strong, Idaho Deputy Attorney General

2:30- 3:45pm

Breakout Session II:

E. Does the bioeconomy offer economic growth for rural communities?

The bioeconomy comprises the use renewable biological resources from land and sea – such as crops, forests, fish, animals and micro-organisms – to produce food, materials and energy. A new report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows that in 2014, the biobased products industry contributed \$393 billion and 4.2 million jobs to America's recovering economy. The report also indicates that the sector grew from 2013 to 2014, creating or supporting an additional 220,000 jobs and \$24 billion over that period. This session will focus on developing markets and

competitiveness in bioeconomy sectors.

Joe Hrdlicka Executive Director, Iowa Biotechnology Association

Dr. Murray McLaughlin, Executive Director, Bioindustrial Innovation Canada

F. States must decide how to respond to Food Safety Modernization Act

Now that the Food Safety Modernization Act is law and the FDA has released the regulations for it, states have to make the decision, to harmonize all, some or none of the FSMA rules into state regulations for food and feed. The answer will determine the funds the state receives from the FDA and how their companies work in the marketplace. On top of all of this is the implementation of the Veterinary Feed Directive Act. Illinois Representative Norine Hammond, Moderating

Joe Reardon, Consumer Protection Assistant Commissioner, North Carolina Dept Agriculture

Angela Mills, Manager, Regulatory Compliance, Southern States Cooperative

Marcie Campion, Ph.D. Vice President of Technical Services, Pro-Pet

G. The future of forestry and agritourism

Rural economies have often depended on natural resource industries, from agriculture to forestry. But today, we need to find ways to overcome challenges and expand the players, do new opportunities in forestry, increased young farmers and activities like agritourism offer ways to grow these industries? How can states be involved?

Seth Barnes, Oregon Forest & Industries Council

Lindsey Shute, Executive Director, National Young Farmers Coalition

H. Transportation

The quality of our transportation infrastructure is paramount to getting products into and out of rural communities. Are there answers to funding of infrastructure projects? How will the growing number of electric and hybrid vehicles impact our infrastructure funding?

Kevin Pula, Transportation Research Analyst, NCSL

Mr. Mike Steenhoek, Executive Director, Soy Transportation Coalition

4:00-5:15 pm

Breakout Session III:

I. Creating jobs in rural communities.

To sustain rural communities, their schools, hospitals and public services, it will require job re-growth, thinking outside the box, fiscal capital and strong leadership. This session will focus on how to get it done.

Arlene Dickinson, CEO, District Ventures

Tammy Hornbeck, Communities Unlimited

J. How can trade support rural communities?

Trade is a focus of this year's presidential campaign, but in reality, what is the role of trade for agriculture and rural communities and how can we maximize any federal decisions for our industries?

David Rinneard, Agriculture Business Banking, BMO Harris Bank

Rory McAlpine, Senior Vice President, Maple Leaf Foods

K. How are states responding to endangered and invasive species?

While the feds may make the rules, the states have to deal with the impacts of endangered species regulations, and states are also facing growing invasive species challenges, what are our options?

Scott Cameron, Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition

James L Noles, Partner, Balch & Bingham

L. Growing animal agriculture

Strong animal agriculture is important for meeting growing food demands and serve as a great value added market for grain and forage producers and byproduct utilization. But ballot initiatives and hesitation by some communities are challenging growth. How can we be good neighbors and face the challenges?

Diane Sullivan, Massachusetts

Brad Mitchell, Deputy Executive Director, Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation

Dr. Steve Davis, Colorado Quality Research

Senator John Kuehn, Nebraska

6:00 pm

Reception and Dinner; Vision Networking Roundtables

Val Giddings, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation

Each table will have a topic on it. We suggest you select your dinner table by topic and join your peers and our conference speakers to delve deeper into complex topics

Sunday, January 8

8:30 am

Buffet Breakfast and Annual Meeting

9:00 am

Federal Topics

Canadian Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay (confirmed)

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack (invited)

10:00 am

What to Expect with the New Administration

Ann Hazlett, Senate Agriculture Committee Counsel

Marge Kilkelly, Agriculture Analyst, Senator Angus King

awaiting one confirmation

11:00 am

A Look at Recent State Agriculture/Rural Laws and Rising Issues

Harrison Pittman, Director of the National Ag Law Center

11:30 am

Lunch and Closing