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McCain campaign rolls out Farm & Ranch team

Compiled by Agri-Pulse staff

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With just 28 days left before the presidential elections, the McCain-Palin campaign released a list of farmers and ranchers, as well as congressmen and former USDA and state officials, who have endorsed their ticket. The list includes 12 state Farm Bureau Presidents and representatives of the livestock, sugar and ethanol industries.

As we've reported over the last few weeks, the Obama-Biden campaign has also released the names of several farmers and industry officials who support their initiatives, including six former presidents of the National Corn Growers Association.

"If you look at the issues that I think are important to agriculture and rural America -- energy, trade, taxes, judges that the next president is likely to appoint, and national security -- John McCain trumps his opponent on every issue," said Charlie Kruse, a fourth-generation farmer from Drexel, MO. who co-chairs the McCain-Palin Farm & Ranch Team National Steering Committee.

Kruse currently serves as President of the Missouri Farm Bureau, although the campaign points out that members of the National Steering Committee are endorsing as private citizens and are not acting in an official capacity for their respective organizations.

Co-Chairs of the McCain-Palin National Steering Committee include:

Former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John Block, Illinois
U.S. Senator Sam Brownback, Kansas
U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss, Georgia
U.S. Representative Bob Goodlatte, Virginia
U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, South Carolina
U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley, Iowa
Fourth Generation Missouri Farmer Charlie Kruse
Former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture James Moseley, Indiana
U.S. Representative Adam Putnam, Florida

Steering Committee Members include:

North Dakota Farm Bureau Eric Aasmundstad
Former Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture and State Senator Don Ament
Louisiana Farm Bureau President Ronnie Anderson
Washington Farm Bureau President Steve Appel
Armstrong Farms Owner Jay Armstrong, Kansas
Missouri Governor Matt Blunt
U.S. Representative Roy Blunt, Missouri
U.S. Senator Kit Bond, Missouri
Kansas Farm Bureau President Steve Baccus
Georgia Agribusiness Council President Gary Black
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson
Kansas Livestock Association President Tracy Brunner
Oregon Farm Bureau President Barry Bushue
U.S. Senator Thad Cochran, Mississippi
U.S. Sugar Corp. Senior VP Robert Coker, Florida
Nevada Farm Bureau President James “Hank” Combs
U.S. Senator Mike Crapo, Idaho
Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels
Pennsylvania Farmer Keith Eckel
U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson, Missouri
Michigan State Representative Judy Emmons
U.S. Senator, John Ensign, Nevada
Florida Crystals Corp. Executive VP Pepe Fanjul, Jr.
U.S. Representative Jeff Flake, Arizona
Colorado Farm Bureau President Alan Foutz
U.S. Representative Virginia Foxx, North Carolina
U.S. Representative Sam Graves, Missouri
Harris Farms Chairman and CEO John C. Harris, California
Former Wisconsin Secretary of Agriculture Jim Harsdorf
Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman
Former Delta Pine President & CEO W. Thomas Jagodinski, Tennessee
Former National Cattleman’s Beef Association President Mike John, Missouri
U.S. Representative Tim Johnson, Illinois
Pacific Ethanol Chairman William L. Jones, California
Orange County Produce Founding Partner A.G. Kawamura, California
Iowa Farmer Lindsey Larson
Lasseter Tractor Company CEO Willard Lasseter, Georgia
U.S. Representative Tom Latham, Iowa
U.S. Representative Bob Latta, Ohio
Lynch Livestock President and CEO Gary Lynch
Former National Cattlemen’s Beef Association President Jan Lyons, Kansas
New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands Patrick H. Lyons
Former New Hampshire Farm Bureau President Wayne Mann
California Farm Bureau President Doug Mosebar
U.S. Representative Marilyn Musgrave, Colorado
Western Growers Association President and CEO Thomas Nassif
Minnesota Farm Bureau President Kevin Paap
U.S. Representative Joe Pitts, Pennsylvania

National Steering Committee Co-Chair William Richards, Ohio
U.S. Senator Pat Roberts, Kansas
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation President Kevin Rogers
U.S. Representative Paul Ryan, Wisconsin
U.S. Representative Adrian Smith, Nebraska
Texas Commissioner of Agriculture Todd Staples
North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler
South Dakota Farm Bureau President Scott VanderWal
CropLife America President and CEO Jay Vroom
Former Pennsylvania State Senator Noah Wegner
New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau President Michael White
Indiana Farmer Mike Yoder

More details can be found on the McCain-Palin 2008 web site at rural.JohnMcCain.com.

More details on Barack Obama's rural issues at <http://www.barackobama.com/issues/rural/>

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