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Dorr named to lead U.S. Grains Council

By Sara Wyant

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Starting Nov. 16, Iowa farmer and former USDA Undersecretary for Rural Development Tom Dorr will take the helm as president and CEO of the U.S. Grains Council. Based in Washington, D.C., the Council is the largest export market development organization for sorghum, barley, corn, and their co-products.

Dorr said his first priority will be to work with the Council's membership, Board of Directors and staff to clearly define, not just the challenges, but the opportunities for international grain trade.

Citing recent USDA reports that indicate another bumper crop may be headed for the bins this fall, Dorr says U.S. producers have the ability to produce all and more than the market needs in an environmentally-sensitive way. "But we need to understand how to best mesh our global strategies with domestic and international demand," he added.



As USA Undersecretary for Rural Development, Tom Dorr (on left) met with European Union leaders last summer to discuss pathways to new marketing and economic opportunities, including investments in ports and waterways.

"It's clear that our granddads' international trade policy isn't going to work today," Dorr told Agri-Pulse."

In addition to serving as undersecretary for Rural Development, Dorr has served as a member of the board of directors of the 7th District Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, the Iowa Board of Regents and as a member and officer of the Iowa and National Corn Growers Associations. He was the president of a family farm and agribusiness company in Marcus, IA for 29 years. Dorr succeeds Ken Hobbie, USGC's president and CEO for the last 18 years and who has been with the Council for a total of 33 years and will continue to advise the Council.