



The National Press Club
Washington, D.C.

All times listed below are in Eastern.

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- 8:00 AM WELCOME**
- Sara Wyant, founder and editor, Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc.
- 8:05 AM VIEW FROM THE TOP**
Moderator: Sara Wyant
- Jewel Bronaugh, Ph.D., Deputy Secretary of Agriculture
- 8:30 AM GLOBAL AND DOMESTIC FACTORS DRIVING FARM PRODUCTION AND FOOD DEMAND**
Moderator: Spencer Chase, managing editor, Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc.
- Nick Fereday, executive director food & consumer trends, Rabobank
- 9:10 AM TOP POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS INFLUENCING THE NEXT FARM BILL**
Moderator: Jeff Nalley, contributing editor, Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc.
- Randy Russell, president, The Russell Group
- Chuck Conner, CEO, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC)
- Kathryn Unger, vice president North America government relations, Cargill
- 10:00 AM BREAK**
- 10:30 AM WHAT DO FOOD COMPANIES WANT IN THE NEXT FARM BILL?**
Moderator: Philip Brasher, executive editor, Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc.
- Chris Adamo, vice president Governmental Affairs, Policy & Partnerships, Danone North America
- Matt Dillon, chief sustainability officer, Farmer Focus
- Aubrey Bettencourt, president and CEO, Almond Alliance of California
- Dan Christenson, senior director for government affairs, PepsiCo
- 11:30 AM PERSPECTIVE**
Moderator: Spencer Chase
- House Ag Committee Ranking Member G.T. Thompson, R-Pa.
- 11:45 AM PERSPECTIVE**
Moderator: Philip Brasher
- House Ag Committee Chairman David Scott, D-Ga.
- 12:00 PM LUNCH**



12:30 PM LESSONS LEARNED FROM PAST FARM BILLS

Moderator: Jeff Nalley

- Former Senate Ag Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan.
- Former House Ag Committee Chairman Collin Peterson, D-Minn.

1:15 PM BREAK

1:30 PM A CLOSER LOOK AT NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION

Moderator: Spencer Chase

- Lynn Tjeerdsma, conservation and farm bill advisor
- Melinda Cep, Ph.D., vice president for natural solutions and working lands, National Audubon Society
- Dan Yeoman, managing director, Soil and Water Outcomes Fund, and CEO, ReHarvest
- Jonathan Coppess, assistant professor, University of Illinois
- Ryan Taylor, director of public policy, Ducks Unlimited

2:15 PM THE FUTURE OF RISK MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER PROGRAMS

Moderator: Sara Wyant

- Tom Zacharias, Ph.D., president, National Crop Insurance Services (NCIS)
- Zippy Duvall, president, American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF)
- Nicole Berg, president, National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG)
- Kam Quarles, CEO, National Potato Council

3:00 PM BREAK

3:30 PM PERSPECTIVE

Moderator: Sara Wyant

- Senate Ag Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich.

3:45 PM WHY RURAL AMERICA NEEDS FARM BILL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Moderator: Philip Brasher

- Ellen Vollinger, SNAP director, Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
- Rob Larew, president, National Farmers Union (NFU)
- Roger Szemraj, principal, OFW Law

4:30 PM PERSPECTIVE

Moderator: Philip Brasher

- Senate Ag Committee Ranking Member John Boozman, R-Ark.

4:45 PM CLOSING COMMENTS

- Sara Wyant, founder and editor, Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc.

**5:00 –
7:00 PM CELEBRATION OF AGRICULTURE RECEPTION**

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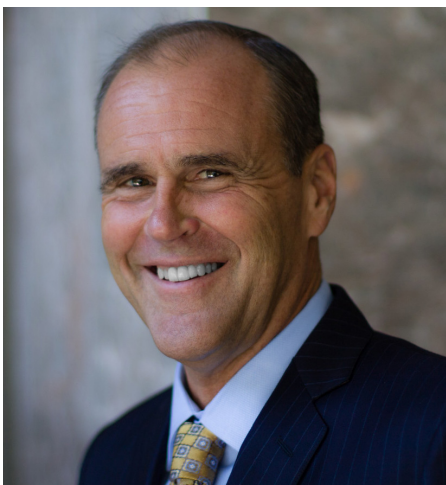
Deputy Secretary Jewel Bronaugh

Jewel H. Bronaugh, Ph.D., is the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. Prior to her confirmation at USDA, she was the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Bronaugh previously served as the Virginia State Executive Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency. Before her FSA appointment, she was the Dean of the College of Agriculture at Virginia State University (VSU) with oversight of Extension, Research and Academic Programs. Bronaugh received her Ph.D. in Career and Technical Education from Virginia Tech.



Nick Fereday

Nick Fereday is the Executive Director, Food & Consumer Trends at Rabobank. Previously, he was a senior economist and vice president of Sales, Research & Marketing at LMC International, an independent economic and business consultancy for the agribusiness sector. Fereday also worked as a senior research economist for The Natural Resources Institute in the U.K. Additionally, he has worked as a freelance economic journalist, a senior economist with the Government of Papua New Guinea, as well as a lecturer/tutor in Applied Economics. Fereday holds a M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics from Reading University in the U.K.



Randy Russell

Randy Russell is president of The Russell Group. Prior to joining the firm in 1986, Russell served in a number of agricultural policy positions, both inside and outside of government, including Chief of Staff for Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economics at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Vice President for Agriculture and Trade Policy at the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, Director of Government Relations for The Pillsbury Company, and the 1981 Farm Bill Coordinator for USDA. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Board for the World Food Program USA. Russell and his wife have a small farm in Round Hill, Va., where they raise alpacas, as well as chickens and turkeys. He attended George Mason University, where he did both his undergraduate studies in Public Administration and graduate studies in Economics.



Chuck Conner

Chuck Conner is president and CEO of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. He brings more than 25 years of experience in national and state government and agricultural trade association leadership to the position. Prior to joining NCFC, Conner served as deputy secretary of USDA starting in 2005. From August 2007 to January 2008, Conner served as both USDA's acting secretary and deputy secretary – helping to shape the Bush administration's agricultural, trade and immigration policies. Earlier in his career, he served as president of the Corn Refiners Association. Conner is a graduate of Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science degree and is the recipient of Purdue's

Distinguished Alumni Award.



Kathryn Unger

Kathryn Unger is vice president of Cargill's North America government relations team where she is responsible for driving business value for the company by anticipating, analyzing and influencing government and regulatory intervention in North America. She joined Cargill in 2014, most recently serving as managing director of Cargill's North American aquaculture business. Unger serves on the board of the Cargill Hispanic Latino Council (CHLC), which strives to make Cargill the employer of choice for Hispanic Latino talent and is chair of the board of Urban Ventures. Unger holds an undergraduate degree in education and a master's degree in accounting from the University

of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an MBA from Stanford University.



Chris Adamo

Chris Adamo is vice president of Governmental Affairs, Policy & Partnerships at Danone North America, assisting one of the world's largest B Corporations with strengthening the role of business in driving social and environmental impact. He helps Danone North America navigate a confluence of issues related to public policy and partnerships to help the company sustainably grow and provide healthier options. Prior to Danone, Adamo was the chief of staff for the White House Council on Environmental Quality under President Obama from 2015 until 2017, where he helped design and implement policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, as well as manage

various natural resource matters. Previously, he worked for 10 years in the U.S. Senate as an adviser to various U.S. Senators, both Democrats and Republicans. Adamo graduated with a degree in economics and business from Kalamazoo College and a law degree from Vermont Law School.



Matt Dillon

Matthew Dillon joined Farmer Focus as Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) in March 2022 after a decade with Clif Bar & Company, where he most recently held the position of Vice President, Government Relations and Social Responsibility. At Farmer Focus, Dillon is responsible for minimizing the company's environmental footprint while maximizing its positive impact on family farms and the communities in which Farmer Focus operates. Dillon is the co-founder of the Organic Seed Alliance, where he helped launch the nation's first organic plant breeding programs and created technical assistance programs for organic farmers in seed production. In 2012 he was appointed to serve on the National Genetic Resource Advisory Council and in 2016 was honored by GOOD Magazine as one of the GOOD 100. Dillon currently serves on the boards of The Organic Trade Association and the Organic Political Action Coalition.



Aubrey Bettencourt

Aubrey Bettencourt is a fourth-generation California farmer and is president and CEO of the Almond Alliance of California (AAC). The alliance's members include almond processors, hullers/shellers, growers and allied businesses. She is committed to the work of the farmer and the agricultural community and the collaborative energy it will take to assure a sustainable and reliable food, fiber, fuel and infrastructure to meet a growing global need. Previously, Bettencourt served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Water and Science at the Department of the Interior and as the California State Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency. Bettencourt graduated with a degree in History from Westmont College and lives in the Central San Joaquin Valley.



Dan Christenson

Dan Christenson joined PepsiCo in April of 2016 and is the Senior Director for Government Affairs based in Washington, D.C. In this role, Christenson leads PepsiCo's team that engages with the federal government. Previously, Dan served at the Department of Agriculture from 2011 to 2016, where he was Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy to Secretary Tom Vilsack from 2014 to 2016. Before joining USDA, Christenson served for several years as a Senior Professional Staff Member on the Senate Agriculture Committee (2005-2011), first under Chairman Tom Harkin (2005-2009), and later under Chairwoman Blanche Lincoln (2009-2011). He also currently serves on the Board of Advocates for Baylor University's Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty. Christenson grew up in Marshalltown, Iowa, is a magna cum laude graduate of Luther College, and received his M.A. from Iowa State University.



Representative Glenn “GT” Thompson

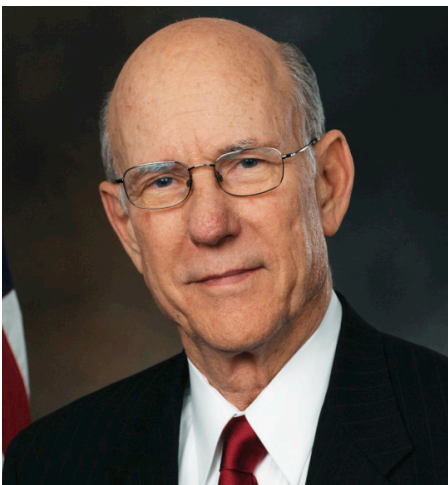
A life-long resident of Howard Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania, Congressman Glenn “GT” Thompson represents Pennsylvania’s 15th District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Thompson is currently ranking member on the House Agriculture Committee and is a senior member of the House Education and Labor Committee. Prior to being elected, Thompson spent 28 years as a therapist, rehabilitation services manager and licensed nursing home administrator. He is a proud graduate of Penn State and Temple Universities, where he earned a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Education, respectively. He and his wife, Penny Ammerman-Thompson, have three adult sons, Parker,

Logan, and Kale.



Chairman David Scott

Rep. David Scott, D-Ga., represents Georgia’s 13th Congressional District and serves as chairman of the House Ag Committee. Scott is also a senior member of the Financial Services Committee and a member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. Scott served on numerous House Ag Committee subcommittees and secured \$80 million in funding in the 2018 Farm Bill for agriculture-focused scholarships at the 19 Historically Black 1890’s Land-Grant Colleges and Universities across the country. Scott earned his BA degree and graduated with honors in 1967 from Florida A&M University. During the summers of his junior and senior years at FAMU, David was selected to serve as a management intern in the office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Labor Management Relations in Washington, D.C. Upon graduation, he was awarded scholarships to the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned his MBA degree with honors in 1969. Upon earning his MBA, Scott moved to Atlanta, Georgia, and started his own advertising business, Dayn-Mark Advertising.



Former Senator Pat Roberts

Former Senator Charles Patrick Roberts, R-Kan., served eight terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, from 1981 to 1997, before his election to the Senate in 1996. He is the first person to chair both the House and the Senate agriculture committees, positions he used to reshape decades of farm policy. He also served on the Committee on Finance, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP), Select Committee on Ethics, and Committee on Rules & Administration. Roberts served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps and previously worked as a newspaper reporter. Roberts received his B.A. in journalism from Kansas State University in Manhattan.



Former Representative Collin Peterson

Former Rep. Collin C. Peterson is currently President and founder of his government affairs and public policy firm, The Peterson Group. He also has a partnership with Combest Sell and Associates in Washington, D.C. to advise and consult on policies that bolster U.S. agriculture and rural America. He previously represented Minnesota's Seventh District from 1991 to 2021. He served as Chairman and Ranking Member of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee from 2005 to 2021 and was instrumental in writing and passing four farm bills. He is a nationally recognized expert on agriculture policy and has a strong reputation for his steadfast commitment to bringing everyone to the table while

offering positive and practical solutions to difficult problems. He earned a BA in Accounting and Business Administration from Minnesota State University Moorhead, served in the National Guard, and went on to become a Certified Public Accountant in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.



Lynn Tjeerdsma

Lynn Tjeerdsma is a conservation and farm bill adviser. After 15 years of full-time farming and ranching 1,800 acres in South Central South Dakota, Tjeerdsma was hired as County Executive Director of the Moody County South Dakota Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, now the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). During the 30 years spent in Washington, D.C., Tjeerdsma assisted in drafting four farm bills in the U.S. Senate and administering two farm bills as Specialist, Branch Chief, Assistant to the Administrator and Assistant Deputy Administrator at FSA. He also spent two years as Policy Initiatives Manager for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation

Partnership. Tjeerdsma began working for U.S. Senator John Thune in 2006 as Agriculture and Alternative Energy Legislative Assistant and for five years served as his Senior Policy Adviser, retiring in September 2019.



Melinda Cep

Melinda Cep, Ph.D., serves as Audubon's vice president for natural solutions and working lands. In this new role for Audubon, she works to improve bird habitat and advance natural climate solutions. Prior to joining Audubon, Cep served as the legislative and policy director for the House Committee on Agriculture. Before her time with the committee, Cep held multiple positions at the USDA, served as senior director of food and markets at the World Wildlife Fund, and served as appropriations and policy adviser for Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut. She holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine.



Ryan Taylor

Ryan Taylor is a fourth-generation rancher, a published author, a former policymaker and an advocate for rural people and the land. He currently works as a director of public policy for Ducks Unlimited. He focuses on policy related to wetlands and grassland habitat that benefits waterfowl, but also benefits people, grazing and agriculture in North and South Dakota, and Montana. Taylor served in the North Dakota State Senate from 2002 to 2012 and was chosen to be the senate minority leader in 2011. He was awarded a Bush Foundation Fellowship in leadership in 2013. In 2015, he was appointed by the President Obama to serve as state director for USDA Rural Development in North Dakota.

Taylor is a graduate of North Dakota State University with degrees in Agricultural Economics and Mass Communications.



Dan Yeoman

As CEO of ReHarvest Partners, Dan Yeoman leads business planning, new customer relationships, outcome customer contracting and capital strategy. Yeoman helped to launch ReHarvest, a co-manager of the Soil and Water Outcomes Fund, and has served as ReHarvest's Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Financial and Strategy Officer at Quantified Ventures, ReHarvest's parent company. At the Soil and Water Outcomes Fund, he leads financial planning, new customer relationships, outcome customer contracting and capital strategy. Yeoman's background includes management consulting with McKinsey & Company and corporate finance with General Electric and Genworth

Financial. Yeoman has an MBA from Duke University and a BA from Wesleyan University.



Jonathan Coppess

Jonathan Coppess is on faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, director of the Gardner Agriculture Policy Program and author of "The Fault Lines Of Farm Policy: A Legislative And Political History Of The Farm Bill." He has served as chief counsel and special counsel for the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Administrator of the Farm Service Agency at USDA and Legislative Assistant to Senator Ben Nelson. Coppess grew up on his family's farm in Western Ohio. He earned his Bachelor's from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and his Juris Doctor from The George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C.



Kam Quarles

Kam Quarles is the CEO of the National Potato Council. He also serves as co-chairman of the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance, is a board member and Founder's Society donor of the Potato Leadership, Education and Advancement Foundation (LEAF), and is a member of the USDA/USTR Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee. Prior to joining the council staff, Quarles worked for seven years as the lead agriculture lobbyist for the law firm of McDermott Will & Emery. In addition to the National Potato Council, Quarles's clients included the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, Sunkist Growers, Chiquita Brands International, the California Avocado Commission and other specialty crop interests. He also previously served as vice president for the United Fresh Produce Association and vice president of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. He has also served as a staff member in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Quarles holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Southern California and a master's degree in International Commerce and Policy from George Mason University in Virginia.



Tom Zacharias

Thomas Zacharias, Ph.D., is President of National Crop Insurance Services (NCIS). During his tenure with NCIS, he has served on several USDA and crop insurance industry workgroups and task forces. He is also the industry liaison for NCIS with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). He is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Agricultural Production Insurers (AIAG) and a member of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA). Zacharias holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois, with B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University.



Zippy Duvall

Zippy Duvall is president of the American Farm Bureau Federation. He is a third-generation farmer from Georgia, where he owns a beef cow herd, raises broiler chickens and grows his own hay, all while continuing to restore the land he inherited. Through his leadership as AFBF president, Duvall has helped to shape a new farm bill, defeat misguided regulations, shepherd new trade agreements and ensure farmers and ranchers are supported through natural disasters and the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to being elected AFBF president, he was president of the Georgia Farm Bureau and served on the AFBF board of directors. Duvall and his late wife, Bonnie, were married for more than 40 years, raised four children and welcomed five grandchildren.



Nicole Berg

Nicole Berg is the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) president and is a fourth-generation farmer. She works alongside her dad and two brothers at their family farm in Paterson, Wash. They grow dry-land and irrigated wheat; blue grass seed; field corn; sweet corn, sweet peas, green beans and alfalfa. Berg also sits on the Board of the Benton Conservation District and has received the NACD/NRCS Olin Sims Conservation Leadership Award. She has been involved with the Washington Association of Wheat Growers for more than 15 years and is very active in natural resource issues in Washington state. She also serves on the Community First Bank Board of Directors. Berg graduated from Washington State University with a degree in agricultural communications.



Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow is the Senior Senator from Michigan and Chairwoman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. She also serves as a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and is a senior member of the Finance Committee and Budget Committee. As author of the 2014 Farm Bill, Stabenow helped make historic investments in land and water conservation, clean energy, food access, and rural development. In the bipartisan 2018 Farm Bill, she worked across the aisle to provide certainty for farmers, expand the diversity of American agriculture, and create new opportunities for climate-smart agriculture, with the most advanced climate-smart agriculture policies to date. She continues that work as co-author of the bipartisan Growing Climate Solutions Act, which passed the Senate 92-8 and helps farmers tap into new economic opportunities through voluntary carbon markets. Stabenow received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Michigan State University.



Rob Larew

Rob Larew is president of the National Farmers Union, a grassroots organization representing more than 200,000 family farmers and ranchers and rural communities across the United States. Before being elected to lead the organization in 2020, Larew served as its vice president of public policy and communications. Prior to his employment with NFU, Larew served over 22 years in Congress and USDA, working on agriculture policy and communications. Most recently, he was the staff director of the House Ag Committee, where he oversaw the committee's efforts during the 2008 and 2014 farm bills. He previously served as the director of congressional and public affairs at USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. He worked as an agricultural aide to Rep. Collin Peterson and the late Sen. Paul Wellstone. Larew was raised on a dairy farm in Greenville, West Virginia. He graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science degree in Dairy Science and completed graduate work in agronomy from Penn State.



Ellen Vollinger

Ellen Vollinger is Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/ Food Stamps) director for Food Research & Action Center (FRAC). Vollinger has led FRAC's efforts to bolster SNAP/Food Stamps, particularly to serve working families, legal immigrants and victims of disasters. She has worked with administrators, elected officials, industry representatives, and nonprofit partners on strategies to provide a more accessible and effective nutrition assistance safety net. She serves on the eGovernment Payments Council. Her prior positions include serving as director of the nonprofit National Committee for Full Employment as well as a practicing attorney with the Washington,

D.C., law firm of Ross, Dixon and Masback. Ellen has a B.A. in American Studies from Smith College, a master's degree in Legislative Affairs from The George Washington University, and a J.D. magna cum laude from American University's Washington College of Law.



Roger Szemraj

Roger Szemraj is principal at OFW Law in Washington, D.C. Szemraj advises associations and individual clients on agricultural appropriations, farm bills, food assistance programs, international food aid and development programs, food safety issues, trade issues, and research programs. He has more than 30 years of experience on Capitol Hill concentrating on these matters, having served as chief of staff to three House members and associate staff to the House Appropriations Committee. During the 106th Congress, he had a John C. Stennis Congressional Staff Fellowship. Szemraj graduated from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service with a Bachelor of

Science degree in Foreign Service and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.



Senator John Boozman

First elected to the Senate in 2010, John Boozman was sworn in for a second term on Jan. 3, 2017. Prior to serving in the Senate, he represented the people of the 3rd District of Arkansas in the House of Representatives. Boozman serves as the ranking member of the Senate Ag Committee in the 117th Congress. He will also continue to serve on the Committee on Appropriations, which is responsible for allocating federal funds, and the Committee on the Environment and Public Works, where much of the nation's infrastructure policy is developed. He graduated from the Southern College of Optometry in 1977. Boozman entered private practice that same year, co-founding a

family business with his brother to ultimately become a major eye care provider to Northwest Arkansas. Boozman is married to the former Cathy Marley and they currently reside in Rogers. The couple has three daughters and four grandchildren.