

HELP WANTED IN AGRICULTURE

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF KANSAS CITY
AGRICULTURAL SYMPOSIUM
MAY 23-24, 2022



SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

KRISTI BOSWELL, AGRICULTURE POLICY COUNSEL, ALSTON & BIRD

Ms. Boswell is counsel in the Health Care Group and a member of the Food, Beverage & Agribusiness Team at Alston & Bird. She specializes in regulatory and legislative issues including labor, immigration, the Farm Bill, trade promotion, agricultural innovation, food supply management, conservation and sustainability.

Before joining Alston & Bird, Ms. Boswell was a senior advisor to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She also has had policy roles at the White House and was the director of congressional relations at the American Farm Bureau Federation.

DIANE THRONSON, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND ECONOMICS, MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Ms. Thronson is an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. She has taught at the university since 2016.

Ms. Thronson's research focuses on the intersections of labor markets and labor migration, agricultural production and development economics.

KURT COFFEY, VICE PRESIDENT, CASE IH NORTH AMERICA

Mr. Coffey is vice president and the leader of Case IH North America. He is responsible for the strategy and execution of all Case IH North America commercial functions.

Prior to his current role, Mr. Coffey was head of marketing for Case IH global and North America. He has also had other leadership roles within CNH Industrial Parts & Service and CNH Industrial Reman organizations. Before joining CNH Industrial, Mr. Coffey worked in the finance and agriculture industries, including for Country Financial and Monsanto.

CHARLES CONNER, PRESIDENT AND CEO, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF FARMER COOPERATIVES

Mr. Conner has been president and CEO of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC) since 2009. He oversees the organization's work to promote and protect the business and public policy interests of America's farmer-owned cooperatives.

Prior to joining NCFC, Mr. Conner had been deputy secretary at the U.S. Department of Agriculture since mid-2005. He was a special assistant to the President, from 2001 to 2005. From May 1997 to October 2001, Mr. Conner was president of the Corn Refiners Association. Mr. Conner also served for 17 years as an advisor to U.S. Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana.

DANIEL COSTA, DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION LAW AND POLICY RESEARCH, ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE

Mr. Costa is an attorney and the director of immigration law and policy research at the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. His research includes a range of labor migration issues as well as farm labor.

Mr. Costa also is a visiting scholar with the Global Migration Center at the University of California, Davis.

BRENT EMCH, PROJECT MANAGER, CARGILL AG SUPPLY CHAIN NORTH AMERICA

Mr. Emch is project manager for Cargill Ag Supply Chain North America. Mr. Emch is responsible for capital deployment and project management for investments throughout North America.

Mr. Emch joined Cargill in 1994 and has worked for the company in Texas, Iowa, Minnesota and Kansas. His responsibilities have included country elevator location management, regional operations leader, agronomy retail leader, soy crush origination leader and regional merchandising leader.

DEACUE FIELDS, DEAN, SENIOR ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT-ACADEMICS, DALE BUMPERS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, FOOD AND LIFE SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Mr. Fields is dean and senior associate vice president-academics for the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences and Division of Agriculture at the University of Arkansas. He has been in that role since May 2018.

His research focuses on quantifying the impact of agribusinesses on state, regional and national economies. Prior to joining the University of Arkansas, Mr. Fields was on the faculty of Auburn University and was professor and chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Society from 2013 to 2018.

JAMES HENEGHAN, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, GRO INTELLIGENCE

Mr. Heneghan is a senior vice president at Gro Intelligence. He also owns and manages a farmland business in upstate New York.

Before joining Gro Intelligence, Mr. Heneghan had management positions at Freepoint Commodities and BTG Pactual, both in Stamford, Connecticut. He began his career and worked for 15 years at the multinational agriculture company Louis Dreyfus.

A.G. KAWAMURA, OWNER/PARTNER, ORANGE COUNTY PRODUCE

Mr. Kawamura is a third generation produce grower and shipper from Orange County, California. He is founding co-chair of Solutions from the Land, a nonprofit that is developing climate smart collaborations for 21st century agriculture.

From 2003 to 2010, Mr. Kawamura was secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. He currently serves on a number of boards and advisory committees related to food and agriculture.

ALISON KREBS, DIRECTOR, DAIRY AND TRADE POLICY, LEPRINO FOODS

Ms. Krebs is director of dairy and trade policy for Leprino Foods, a Denver-based buyer of milk, producer of mozzarella cheese and a manufacturer of dairy nutrition products. She joined Leprino Foods in 2020, where she leads advocacy efforts across a range of issues and manages Leprino's presence across industry associations.

She has also held market research and international marketing roles for Elanco Animal Health and was a consultant at the agribusiness consulting firm Adayana. Ms. Krebs also held roles at CoBank and with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

JEFF LAKNER, CEO, LAKNER FARMS LLC

Mr. Lakner is a fourth-generation owner-operator of Lakner Farms LLC, a grain and livestock enterprise in South Dakota. The operation comprises around 5,000 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat and forage crops along with pasture, and a 400 head cow-calf business.

Mr. Lakner is a former Farm Credit System lender in Iowa and Nebraska as well as a commercial bank director in South Dakota. He has had a long career with board service in the ag cooperative world, including with Land O Lakes and the Agtegra Cooperative in South Dakota.

VERONICA NIGH, SENIOR ECONOMIST, AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Ms. Nigh is a senior economist for the American Farm Bureau Federation. She is responsible for conducting research and policy analysis on international trade, taxes, labor and food safety.

Ms. Nigh is a native of Savannah, Missouri where she grew up on a small, diversified livestock operation. She holds degrees in agricultural economics and economics.

TONN OSTERGARD, CEO AND CHAIRMAN, CRETE CARRIER CORP.

Mr. Ostergard is CEO and chairman of Crete Carrier Corp., a privately-owned transportation and logistics company based in Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. Ostergard joined Crete in 1986 as CFO and became CEO in 1992.

Mr. Ostergard began his career in public accounting and worked for five years for KPMG before joining Crete. He has leadership roles in the American Trucking Association and has served the Lincoln, Nebraska, and Nebraska Chambers of Commerce.

JULIE ANNA POTTS, PRESIDENT AND CEO, NORTH AMERICAN MEAT INSTITUTE

Ms. Potts is president and CEO of the North American Meat Institute. In January 2021, she was appointed to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Policy Advisory Committee.

Ms. Potts is a trustee of The Pennsylvania State University and a member of the boards of Agriculture Future of America, the International Stockmen's Educational Foundation, the International Meat Secretariat and the Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co. Ms. Potts previously was executive vice president and treasurer of the American Farm Bureau Federation and chief counsel of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

TIMOTHY J. RICHARDS, MORRISON CHAIR OF AGRIBUSINESS, W.P. CAREY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Mr. Richards is the Morrison Chair of Agribusiness in the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. His recent research concerns food waste, contracting relationships in vertical supply chains, agricultural labor shortages, and various issues in pricing consumer packaged goods in retail distribution channels.

Mr. Richardson is co-editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics and the European Review of Agricultural Economics and is on the editorial boards of four other journals. He grew up as part of the fifth generation of a now seven-generation dairy farm in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada.

SHARI ROGGE-FIDLER, PRESIDENT AND CEO, FARM FOUNDATION

Ms. Rogge-Fidler is president and CEO of Farm Foundation and has more than 25 years of global leadership and executive experience. She is a fifth-generation farm owner and operator, an entrepreneur in the organic branded food industry, founder of an agribusiness consulting firm and CEO of a group of companies serving 1,000 farmers.

Mr. Rogge-Fidler is a trustee for The Nature Conservancy, and advisory boards, including Lewis & Clark Agrifood fund. She has served on several corporate boards, including Farm Credit Mid-America and Coastal Pet.