Conference Agenda
Ramada Plaza and Suites
Fargo, North Dakota
December 8-9, 2014

Monday, December 8

7:00 a.m. Check-In / Registration and Continental Breakfast (*hall between Crystal Ballroom I & II*)

8:00 a.m. Opening Remarks (*Crystal Ballroom I*)

Won W. Koo, Director, Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies, North Dakota State University

8:05 a.m. Welcoming Remarks

Dean Bresciani, President, North Dakota State University

Introduced by William Nganje, Chair, Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics, North Dakota State University

8:10 a.m. Opening Addresses

Moderator: Dean Bresciani, President, North Dakota State University

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp, U.S. Senator
The Honorable John Hoeven, U.S. Senator

9:00 a.m. General Session I: Transporting Agricultural Products: Issues and Alternatives

Moderator: The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp, U.S. Senator

Daniel Elliott, chairperson, Surface Transportation Board, United States Department of Transportation (USDOT)
Edward Avalos, Under-Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

10:00 a.m. Break (*Crystal Ballroom I*)
10:30 a.m. General Session II: Perspectives from the Railroad Industry

Moderator: Jim Broten, North Dakota Agricultural Business Rail Council

John Miller, Group Vice President Agricultural Products, BNSF Railway
Representative, Canadian Pacific Railway (invited)
Dan Zink, Director of Administration, Red River Valley and Western Railroad

12:00 p.m. Lunch (Crystal Ballroom II)

Luncheon Speaker: Kevin Kaufman, TTMSGroup

Introduced by Won W. Koo, Director, Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies, NDSU

1:30 p.m. General Session III: Transporting and Handling Grains and Minor Crops

Moderator: Tom Lilja, Executive Director, N.D. Dakota Corn Growers Association

Bruce Blanton, Director, Agricultural Transportation Service, USDA
William Wilson, University Distinguished Professor, Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics, NDSU
Robert Sinner, President, SB&B Food, Inc.
Eric Bartsch, General Manager, AGT Foods

3:15 p.m. Break (Crystal Ballroom I)

3:45 p.m. General Session IV: Implications of Agricultural Transportation on Farm Income

Moderator: Mike Appert, Board Member, North Dakota Soybean Council

Frayne Olson, Assist. Professor and Crops Economist/Marketing Specialist, Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics, NDSU
Edward Usset, Grain Marketing Specialist, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota
Dan DeRouche, Board Member, North Dakota Grain Dealers Association
Eric Broten, Board Member, North Dakota Soybean Growers Association

5:45 p.m. Adjourn for Banquet

5:45 p.m. Cash Bar
6:30 p.m.  Banquet (*Crystal Ballroom II*)

Speaker: *Roger Johnson*, President, National Farmers Union *(invited)*

Introduced by *Dean Bresciani*, President, North Dakota State University

**Tuesday, December 9**

7:30 a.m.  Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m.  General Session V: Crude Oil, Ethanol and Coal Shipments: What Are Emerging Issues?

Moderator: *David Ripplinger*, Bioproduct/Bioenergy Specialist, Agribusiness and Applied Economics, North Dakota State University

*Ron Ness*, North Dakota Petroleum Council  
*Representative*, Ethanol Industry  
*Tom Canter*, Executive Director, National Coal Transportation Association

10:00 a.m.  Break

10:30 a.m.  General Session VI: How to Improve the Transportation System

Moderator: *Bob Wisness*, President, North Dakota Grain Growers Association

*Julie Fedorcheck*, North Dakota Public Service Commissioner  
*Greg Guthrie*, Director Customer Service for Agricultural Products, BNSF  
*Neal Fisher*, Director, North Dakota Wheat Commission  
*Dane Braun*, Agricultural Strategist, North Dakota Farmers Union  
*Pete Hanebutt*, Director of Public Policy, North Dakota Farm Bureau  
*Dan Mack*, Vice President Rail Transportation, CHS

12:20 p.m.  Concluding Comments

*Won W. Koo*, Director, Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies, NDSU

12:30 p.m.  Adjourn