2012 Farm Bill: Issues and Challenges

Program
November 7-8, 2011
Holiday Inn
Fargo, North Dakota

Organized by:
U.S. Senator Kent Conrad
and
Dr. Won W. Koo, Director, Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies, NDSU
November 7, 2011

Dear Friends,

As co-Chairs of “2012 Farm Bill: Issues and Challenges,” welcome to Fargo for this national forum on American agricultural policy.

U.S. agricultural producers continue to confront many challenges. Every day our farmers and ranchers face great uncertainty due to: volatile commodity prices and input costs, uncontrollable weather, potential budget cuts to federal programs, and an ever-changing globalized trade environment.

We need agriculture policy that supports farm families during periods of economic uncertainty and enhances our competitiveness in the global marketplace.

In an effort to achieve this goal, we have brought leaders from across the Nation to North Dakota to discuss the key issues that will influence the next Farm Bill.

We are very pleased that several elected leaders involved in developing and implementing the Farm Bill, and nationally renowned experts on agricultural policy will join us to discuss the following topics:

(1) Political environment for U.S. agricultural policy, 
(2) Fundamentals of the new farm bill, 
(3) Emerging issues in U.S. agriculture, 
(4) An appropriate policy framework for production agriculture and agricultural competitiveness, and; 
(5) Risk management under increasing uncertainty.

This event will be a forum to engage experts in new farm policy ideas, and learn about the environment under which the next Farm Bill will be written.

Working together, we can help chart an effective new farm policy course for North Dakota and the Nation.

Enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,

Kent Conrad
United State Senator

Won W. Koo
Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Professor and Director
NDSU’s Center for Agricultural Policy Trade Studies
This conference is organized by U.S. Senator Kent Conrad and Dr. Won W. Koo, Professor and Director of the Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies, NDSU. The conference organizers would like to thank the following sponsors:

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North Dakota Corn Growers Association

Dave Berg, President and CEO
American Crystal Sugar Company

Robert Carlson, President
North Dakota Farmers Union

D.C. Coston, Interim President, Dickinson State University; formerly Vice President for Agriculture and University Extension, North Dakota State University

Doug Goehring
North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner

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

Aaron Krauter, Executive Director
North Dakota Farm Service Agency, USDA

Jim Miller, Senior Policy Advisor
U.S. Senate Budget Committee

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Office of U.S. Senator Kent Conrad

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Natural Resource Conservation Service

Dan Wogsland, Executive Director
North Dakota Grain Growers
2012 Farm Bill: Issues and Challenges

Conference Agenda
Holiday Inn
Fargo, North Dakota
November 7-8, 2011

Check-In / Registration—Atrium
Continental Breakfasts and Breaks—Great Hall
Program—Great Hall
Lunch and Banquet—Harvest Hall

Sunday, NOVEMBER 6
3:00—
7:00 PM Check-In / Registration (Atrium)

Monday, NOVEMBER 7
7:00 AM Check-In / Registration (Atrium) and Continental Breakfast (Great Hall)
8:00 Opening Remarks (Great Hall)
Ken Grafton, Interim Vice President for Agriculture and University Extension and Director of North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, North Dakota State University

8:05 Welcoming Remarks
Dean Bresciani, President, North Dakota State University

Introduced by Ken Grafton, Interim Vice President for Agriculture and University Extension and Director, North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, North Dakota State University

8:15 Opening Address—Budget Implications for U.S. Agricultural Policy
The Honorable Kent Conrad, United States Senate
Introduced by Dean Bresciani, President, North Dakota State University

8:45 Panel Discussion—Political Environment for Farm Policy
Moderator: Robert Carlson, President, North Dakota Farmers Union
Panel:
The Honorable Kent Conrad, United States Senator
The Honorable John Hoeven, United States Senator
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar, United States Senator
The Honorable Rick Berg, United States Congressman
10:45  General Session—**Fundamentals of the New Farm Bill: Views from the Agricultural Community**

Moderator: **Aaron Krauter**, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency
Panel:
**Wayne Hurst**, President, National Association of Wheat Growers
**Roger Johnson**, President, National Farmers Union
**Mark Lange**, President and CEO, National Cotton Council
**Garry Niemeyer**, President, Corn Board, National Corn Growers Association
**Richard Ostlie**, Past President and Member, Farm Bill Task Force, American Soybean Association

12:30 PM  Luncheon (**Harvest Hall**)  

1:30  General Session—**Emerging Issues in U.S. Agriculture** (**Great Hall**)  

Moderator: **Kevin Skunes**, Chairman, North Dakota Corn Utilization Council
Panel:
**Tom Buis**, President and CEO, Growth Energy
**Dennis Nuxoll**, Managing Director, America Farmland Trust

2:30  General Session—**Emerging Issues in the U.S. Sugar Industry**  

Moderator: **Scott Stofferahn**, Director, Eastern North Dakota Office of U.S. Senator Kent Conrad
Panel:
**Tom Earley**, Executive Vice President, Promar International
**Kevin Price**, Director, Government Affairs, American Crystal Sugar Company

3:30  Break (**Great Hall**)  

3:45  General Session—**Designing an Appropriate Policy Framework for Production Agriculture**  

Moderator: **Terry Weckerly**, North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Panel:
**Joe Outlaw**, Professor, Texas A&M University
**Daryll Ray**, Professor, University of Tennessee
**David Schweikhardt**, Professor, Michigan State University

5:15  General Session—**Trade and Globalization: Can the U.S. Compete?**  

Moderator: **Monte Peterson**, Chairman, North Dakota Soybean Council
Panel:
**Suzanne Heinen**, Acting Administrator, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service
**Terry Roe**, Professor, University of Minnesota
**Pat Westhoff**, Professor, University of Missouri

6:30  Adjourn for Banquet
6:45  Banquet (*Harvest Hall*)

   Master of Ceremonies—*The Honorable Kent Conrad*, U.S. Senator

   **Biting the Hand that Feeds You—Media Influence on Ag Policy**

   Speaker:
   **Jerry Hagstrom, The Hagstrom Report**

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**Tuesday, NOVEMBER 8, 2011**

7:30 AM  Continental Breakfast (*Great Hall*)

8:00  **Keynote Address:** **USDA’s Role and Priorities in the New Farm Bill**

   **Michael Scuse**, Acting Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Service

   Introduced by: **The Honorable Kent Conrad**, United States Senator

8:45  **General Session—Is Crop Insurance the Answer?**

   Moderator: **Doug Goehring**, North Dakota Commissioner of Agriculture

   Panel:
   **Mike Day**, President, Rural Communities Insurance Services
   **Bill Murphy**, Administrator, Risk Management Agency

10:00  Break (*Great Hall*)

10:15  **General Session—Formulating the 2012 Farm Bill: Issues and Challenges**

   Moderator: **Jasper Schneider**, North Dakota State Director, USDA Rural Development

   Panel:
   **Darin Anderson**, President, North Dakota Corn Growers Association
   **Woody Barth**, Vice President, North Dakota Farmers Union
   **Doug Goehring**, North Dakota Commissioner of Agriculture
   **LeAnn Harner**, President, N.D. Association of Soil Conservation Districts
   **Kevin Paap**, President, Minnesota Farm Bureau
   **Brad Thykeson**, North Dakota Grain Growers Association

12:00 PM  Concluding Comments

   **Dr. Won Koo**, Professor, North Dakota State University
   **The Honorable Kent Conrad**, United States Senator

12:30  Adjourn
The Honorable Kent Conrad, U.S. Senator  
State of North Dakota  

Senator Kent Conrad has dedicated his life to serving the people of North Dakota, starting with his six years as North Dakota's Tax Commissioner before his successful 1986 bid for the U.S. Senate. North Dakotans have sent Senator Conrad to represent them in Washington, D.C. in five successive elections.

His public service to North Dakota and the nation has won him acclaim for his effectiveness and budget acumen. *Time* magazine featured Senator Conrad as one of "America's Ten Best Senators," *The American* magazine ranked him as one of "10 Most Economically Literate Members of Congress," and the Bismarck Tribune called Senator Conrad "the most influential senator North Dakota has ever produced."

During his 20-plus years as an advocate for North Dakota in Washington, D.C. Senator Conrad helped write the 2002 and 2008 Farm Bills, wrote health care policy that ensured continued access to hospitals in rural areas, and fought unfair trade practices that hurt North Dakota's economy. He has introduced comprehensive energy legislation that would make the United States more energy independent. And his landmark economic development initiative, Marketplace for Entrepreneurs, is North Dakota's signature effort to boost the state's economy.

Dr. Won W. Koo, Professor and Director  
Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies  

Won Koo is a Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Professor of Agribusiness and Applied Economics, North Dakota State University. He received his Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Iowa State University in 1974. He was a faculty member at Montana State University for the 1975-1981 period before moving to North Dakota State University in 1981. He has been teaching international trade and econometrics for both graduate and undergraduate students. His research interests include international competitiveness, agricultural and trade policies, and international market development.

Koo received an outstanding research award (Quality of Research Discovery) from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (formerly American Agricultural Economics Association) in 1981 and an outstanding published research award from the Western Agricultural Economics Association in 1983. He was presented with the Eugene Dahl Excellence in Research Award from North Dakota State University in 2000 and 2008. He is a recipient of the 45th Faculty Lectureship Award from the university in 2003. More recently, he received the Fred Waldron Award for Outstanding Research from the university in 2009.

He has published five books related to international trade, over 125 refereed academic journal articles, and over 280 technical reports. He has given approximately 320 invited presentations in more than 30 developing and developed countries.
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar, U.S. Senator
State of Minnesota
Since her election to the United States Senate in 2006, Senator Klobuchar has been a leader in supporting and strengthening Minnesota’s farms and rural communities. Senator Klobuchar serves on the Senate Agriculture Committee where she has fought for a strong and fair safety net for American farmers, the development of homegrown, farm-based energy, permanent disaster relief, and the opening of foreign markets for our agricultural products. Senator Klobuchar also worked with House Agriculture Chairman Collin Peterson to pass the 2008 Farm Bill. She authored key sections of the bill focused on energy and played a critical role in advocating for sensible reform measures as well as pushing for adequate funding. In addition to the Agriculture Committee, Senator Klobuchar is the first Minnesotan since 1945 to serve on the powerful Commerce Committee. She is also a member of the Judiciary and Joint Economic Committees.

Senator Klobuchar’s work has gained national recognition. Working Mother Magazine named Klobuchar as 2008 “Best in Congress” and The American Prospect named her a “woman to watch.” The Star Tribune has called her “a fast-moving legislator,” while the Washington Post has described her as “a rising star.” Amy and her husband, John, have a sixteen-year-old daughter, Abigail, who started her junior year of high school this fall.

The Honorable Rick Berg, U.S. Congressman
State of North Dakota
Congressman Rick Berg brings more than twenty-five years of committed public service and private business experience to Washington, D.C. In 2010, he was elected North Dakota’s sole member in the U.S. House of Representatives. Born and raised in North Dakota, Rep. Berg was first elected to the North Dakota House of Representatives in 1984. While in the Legislature, he served as both Majority Leader and Speaker of the House. Rep. Berg is also a well-respected business leader in North Dakota and in 2009, was awarded the Greater North Dakota Award, the highest honor given by the North Dakota Chamber of Commerce, and the Petroleum Council’s Legislator of the Year award for his work with North Dakota’s growing oil industry. He graduated from North Dakota State University with a degree in Agriculture Economics.

The Honorable John Hoeven, U.S. Senator
State of North Dakota
On January 5, 2011, John Hoeven was sworn in as North Dakota’s 22nd U.S. Senator, after serving 10 years as Governor for the state of North Dakota. Through his positions on the Senate Appropriations and Senate Energy Committees, Hoeven is working to implement the same kinds of policies on a national level that have helped to grow and diversify North Dakota’s economy and to create jobs on the state level. This means creating a business climate that fosters job growth, developing a national energy policy that encourages development of both traditional and renewable resources and reducing our budget deficits and national debt. Hoeven believes that with a common sense approach that fosters free enterprise and empowers people, we can build our economy and create jobs for our country.

John Hoeven was born in Bismarck. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth College in 1979 and a master’s degree in business administration from Northwestern University in 1981. He served as executive vice president of First Western Bank in Minot from 1986 to 1993 and established a strong position of service in many civic, community and economic development activities prior to elective office. From 1993-2000 he served as president and CEO of Bank of North Dakota (BND).

Speakers
Darin Anderson. President
North Dakota Corn Growers Association
Darin Anderson is a fifth-generation farmer from Valley City, ND. Along with his father, and another farming business partner, he farms 5000 acres of corn, soybeans, and spring wheat. He graduated from NDSU in the fall of 1999 with a degree in Agricultural Economics with an emphasis in Ag Business and Farm Management, and also received a minor in Plant Sciences. After college, he has held positions in various agricultural-related organizations. He is the past president of the Barnes County Marketing Club and past president of the Barnes County Ag Improvement Association. He has served on the North Dakota Corn Growers Association since 2006 and has served as the President of that organization since 2010. He resides on the family farm with his wife, Julia, and three children, Jake, Tessa, and Cooper.

Woody Barth. Vice President
North Dakota Farmers Union
Elwood "Woody" Barth was elected North Dakota Farmers Union vice president in December of 2008. He was first elected to the State Board of Directors in December of 2003 as the District V Director and has served two terms as State Secretary. He is a member of NDFU's legislative team. Barth represents NDFU on the Board of Directors for North Dakota Natural Beef. He was also appointed to the USDA Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Animals and Animal Products in 2011. He is an active community volunteer and board member of the Flasher Community Credit Union. Barth and his wife Carmell farm south of Mandan where they raise beef cattle and grow corn.

Dean Bresciani. President
North Dakota State University
Dean L. Bresciani was named North Dakota State University's 14th president on May 24, 2010. Bresciani is well known for his dedication to students and regarded for his thoughtfulness, energy and integrity. He brings to campus the knowledge and experience of a nearly 30-year higher education career and has developed a broad leadership base in the academic, administrative and political aspects of higher education.

Bresciani is a native of Napa Valley, Calif. Before coming to NDSU, he was vice president for student affairs at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, from 2004 to 2008, where he was also a professor of educational administration. He held similar administrative and faculty roles at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1998 to 2004, and a faculty appointment at North Carolina State University. Bresciani has served in administrative and faculty positions at seven other universities around the nation, as well as serving as a research analyst for a state university system.

Through his career, Bresciani has gained an extensive background in strategic planning, enrollment management, facilities design and financing, auxiliary enterprises operation and implementation of business operation efficiencies and revenue enhancement measures. A focus of his work is enhancing the accessibility and quality of campus programs while improving the sense of welcome, support and achievement for all members of the university and surrounding communities.

Bresciani earned his bachelor's degree in sociology from Humboldt State University, Arcata, Calif.; master's degree in college student personnel from Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio; and doctorate in higher education finance, with a doctoral minor in economics, from the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ.

Tom Buis. President and CEO
Growth Energy
Tom Buis joined Growth Energy in March 2009 as the CEO of the organization. Prior to joining Growth Energy, Buis was elected National Farmers Union’s 13th president. Buis had been with the organization since March 1998, previously serving as vice president of government relations. Buis served for nearly five years as senior agriculture policy advisor to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D. In addition, Buis worked for U.S. Rep. Jim Jontz, D-Ind., for nearly five years as legislative assistant and legislative director. He was also special assistant for agriculture to U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind. before moving to Washington, D.C. in 1987, Buis was a full-time grain and livestock farmer in Putnam and Morgan Counties in West Central Indiana, with brothers Mike and Jeff, who continue to operate the family farm.

Tom and his wife Peggy reside in Maryland and have two sons, Nicholas and Andrew.
**Robert Carlson**, President  
North Dakota Farmers Union

Robert Carlson was elected president of North Dakota Farmers Union in January of 1997. He serves as president of Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Company and Farmers Union Service Association. Prior to his election as president, Carlson served as vice president of NDFU for 10 years. In the national arena, Carlson represents North Dakota as a board member for National Farmers Union and Farmers Union Enterprises. He has participated in World Trade Organization talks in Japan, Switzerland and Mexico. Additionally, he has represented family farm interests at world food summits and the International Federation of Ag Producers’ gatherings in Rome, Japan and France. He has participated in trade missions to Cuba, China, and Brazil. Carlson earned a master's degree in history from the University of North Dakota and has co-authored several works, including The Legacy of North Dakota's Country Schools. He holds a bachelor's degree in education from Minot State University and is a Vietnam veteran. He and his wife Sue reside in Jamestown.

**Mike Day**, President  
Rural Communities Insurance Services

Mike Day is president of Rural Community Insurance Services (RCIS). He is responsible for the overall direction and strategic planning for the company and plays a key role in developing and maintaining business partnerships and relationships with RCIS business partners. He is based in Anoka, Minn., a suburb of Minneapolis.

Mike has worked in the crop insurance industry for 26 years. In 1983, he began his career as a contract loss adjuster for Crop Hail Management (CHM) in central California and later became their Regional Manager for both California and Arizona. From 1992-1994 Mike held the position of CHM President. He joined the RCIS team in 1995, when he accepted a position with the company as their Western Regional Manager. He was promoted to Sioux Falls Sales and Service Office Manager and served RCIS in this capacity from 1998-2006. In 2006, Mike was promoted to National Sales Manager. In July 2009, he accepted the position of RCIS Insurance Operations Manager until his promotion to RCIS President in November of 2009.

Mike attended Fresno State University.

**Tom Earley**, Executive Vice President  
Promar International

Tom is responsible for the ongoing analysis of grain, oilseed and sweetener markets, agricultural and trade policy, biofuel developments, and commodity and food ingredient processing industries. He is the economist for the Sweetener Users Association, has served as a member of USDA’s Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee on sweeteners, and provides clients with regular reports on sweetener markets. Tom has experience with policy developments in many different parts of the agricultural sector, and handles assignments in Asia and Latin America in addition to those in the United States and Canada. As an expert on commodity and food processing industries, he has worked closely with a broad spectrum of multinational firms throughout the world. Tom was previously a principal in Abel, Daft & Earley and a senior staff economist for the President’s Council of Economic Advisers. He received his BA in Political Science and Economics from Yale University, and an MS in Economics from the London School of Economics.

**Doug Goehring**, Agriculture Commissioner  
North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Doug Goehring has been North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner since April 2009 and was elected to a full, four-year term in November 2010. Commissioner Goehring is the former president and chairman of the board of Nodak Mutual Insurance Company and a director of American Agricultural Insurance Company. Commissioner Goehring has served as vice president of the North Dakota Farm Bureau and is a member of the North Dakota Stockmen’s Association, the North Dakota Grain Growers, the North Dakota Soybean Association, the North Dakota Corn Growers Association and the National Association of Corporate Directors. He is a former director of the United Soybean Board and North Dakota Soybean Council, a former secretary/treasurer of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association and a member of USDA’s Area 4 Research Farm Steering Committee. He chairs the Biotechnology Task Force of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, and is vice president of the Midwest Association of State Departments of Agriculture.
**Ken Grafton**
Interim Vice President for Agriculture and University Extension  
Dean, College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources  
Director, North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station  
North Dakota State University

Dr. Grafton provides vision and leadership for agricultural education and research at North Dakota State University. Develop and manage budget of approximately $40 million annually for research purposes, including faculty and staff salaries. Promote the values and needs of the College, the ND Agricultural Experiment Station, and the University to stakeholders in the state and the region. Develop positive relationships and strong interaction with stakeholders, and articulate needs and goals to state and Federal decision-makers. Identify opportunities for synergistic partnership with other agencies and industry.

**LeAnn Harner**, President  
North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts

LeAnn Harner is President of the ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts. She and her husband Stuart have a small farm in Oliver County with dairy goats, guinea hens and bees. They manage for soil health and self-sufficiency, using crop rotation, grazing management and cover crop cocktails to provide for their livestock.

**Jerry Hagstrom**, Reporter  
The Hagstrom Report

Jerry Hagstrom is a prize-winning agricultural journalist, book author and commentator. Mr. Hagstrom appears frequently on C-SPAN to discuss farm issues, and has appeared on National Public Radio and the British Broadcasting Corporation program Farming Today. He has lectured before major trade groups and at universities including Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Institute d'Etudes Politiques de Paris and Ecole Nationale d'Administration.

A native of North Dakota, Mr. Hagstrom grew up on the Hagstrom family farm in Wilton and Bismarck, N.D. A graduate of the University of Denver, he has been a Loeb Fellow at Harvard University and a research fellow at the Freedom Forum Media Studies Center at Columbia University.

**Wayne Hurst**, President  
National Association of Wheat Growers

Wayne Hurst lives in Burley, Idaho, where he has operated a diversified, irrigated row crop farm since 1980. Wayne has held a number of leadership positions in agricultural organizations. He is a graduate of the Wheat Industry Leaders of Tomorrow (WiLOT) program and the Leadership Idaho Agriculture Program, and has served as an officer for the Idaho Grain Producers Association and on the NAWG Board. Wayne has also served on the NAWG Budget Committee and chaired the NAWG/U.S. Wheat Associates/WETEC consolidation committee in 2006. Wayne attended Brigham Young University and Idaho State University. Fluent in Spanish, Wayne served two years on a church mission in Concepcion, Chile.

**Roger Johnson**, President  
National Farmers Union

Roger Johnson was elected National Farmers Union’s 14th president in 2009. Prior to leading the family farm organization, Johnson, a third-generation family farmer from Turtle Lake, N.D., served as North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner. While Agriculture Commissioner, Johnson served on the State Industrial Commission, the North Dakota Trade Office Advisory Board, and the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education, among many other boards and commissions. Johnson graduated from North Dakota State University with a degree in agricultural economics.
Aaron Krauter, State Executive Director
Farm Service Agency

Aaron Krauter accepted the position of North Dakota Farm Service Agency State Executive Director on August 10, 2009. He taught music at Cooperstown High School from 1978 to 1979 and worked in LaBelle’s Catalog Showroom in Bismarck in 1979 (purchased by Best Products, Inc.) and from 1985 to 1987, served as Corporate Operations Manager for Best Products, in Richmond, VA. In 1987, he returned home to Regent, ND, to operate the 3,000 acre family farm. Aaron served in the North Dakota State Senate for 20 years. He sat on the Senate Appropriations Committee and from 2000-2003 served as Senate Minority Leader. Aaron has been active in many organizations such as the North Dakota Farmers Union, NDSU Extension Advisory Council, NDSU Agronomy Seed Farm, Dakota Pride Cooperative and Hettinger County Crop Improvement and Livestock Improvement Association. Mr. Krauter graduated from the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND, earning degrees in music education and business.

Mark Lange, President and CEO
National Cotton Council of America

Dr. Mark Lange assumed the position of president and chief executive officer of the National Cotton Council in February 2003. From 2001-2003, he served as the Council’s vice president of policy analysis and program coordination. Mark joined the Council in 1990, and served as director of the Economic Services and Information Services departments until 2001. Prior to joining the Council, he was an associate professor of agricultural economics at Louisiana State University. Mark holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in economics from Indiana State University and a Ph.D. in economics from Iowa State University.

Bill Murphy, Administrator
Risk Management Agency, USDA

William J. Murphy is Administrator of the Risk Management Agency (RMA), U.S.D.A., which provides economic protection and risk management tools to America’s farmers and ranchers primarily through federally sponsored crop insurance delivered and serviced by private insurance companies. In this capacity, he is also Manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), and a non-voting member of the FCIC Board of Directors.

Murphy has spent over 30 years in the Federal crop insurance community and he brings hands-on expertise and executive management to RMA’s lead position. A native of Pennsylvania, Mr. Murphy holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Pennsylvania State University with an emphasis in Agronomy and Farm Management.

Garry Niemeyer, President, Corn Board
National Corn Growers Association

Garry Niemeyer, a farmer in Auburn, Ill., serves as president of the Corn Board of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA). He has been a farmer for 41 years and has been a member of NCGA since 1995. Niemeyer serves on NCGA’s Allied Industry Council Executive Committee, represents NCGA in the Ethanol Alliance, serves as a delegate to the U.S. Grains Council and National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Advisory board. He has served on the Finance Committee, the Ethanol Committee and Production and Stewardship Action Team and as the Corn Board liaison to NCGA’s Joint Trade Policy A-Team. He has also served as the organization’s liaison to the Food and Agricultural Exporters Alliance. Niemeyer served as president of the Illinois Corn Growers Association in 2002 and as vice president in 2001. In 2000, he chaired the Illinois Corn Growers Association Legislative Team. Niemeyer received a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural economics from the University of Illinois.

Dennis Nuxoll, Managing Director, Federal Policy
American Farmland Trust

Dennis Nuxoll joined American Farmland Trust in 2005 to work on federal policy development and government relations, focusing on issues from commodity programs to conservation, renewable energy, Clean Water Act, climate change, appropriations and nutrition. He advises on political strategies and contributes to media efforts that support American Farmland Trust positions. Nuxoll helped lead our successful 2008 Farm Bill campaign and received the 2009 New Leaders Council Award for Progressive Leadership. Nuxoll holds a B.A. in political science from Duke University and a J.D. from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He is a member of the DC Bar’s International Trade Planning Committee and co-author of articles on trade issues.
**Joe Outlaw**, Professor  
Texas A&M University

Dr. Joe Outlaw is a Professor and Extension Economist in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University. He also serves as the Co-Director of the Agricultural and Food Policy Center (AFPC) at Texas A&M University. In this role, Dr. Outlaw frequently interacts with members of Congress and key agricultural committee staff to provide feedback on the likely consequences of agricultural policy changes.

Dr. Outlaw has received numerous awards in excellence for his agricultural policy education efforts from the American Agricultural Economics Association, the Southern Agricultural Economics Association, the National Public Policy Education Committee, USDA-FSA, and the Vice Chancellor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University. Dr. Outlaw is originally from Devine, Texas. He received his B.S (1987), M.S. (1988), and Ph.D. (1992) degrees from Texas A&M University, all in agricultural economics.

**Kevin Paap**, President  
Minnesota Farm Bureau

Kevin and Julie Paap own and operate a fourth-generation family farm in Blue Earth County. Paap is currently serving his second term as elected president of the Minnesota Farm Bureau and affiliated companies. He served as vice president from 1997-2005. He is a past board member of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids National Board of Directors. Paap is an active member of the corn and soybean growers organizations, past state president of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association, a graduate of the first Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program and a policy fellow through Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs, 2002. He serves on the Alumni Board of the University of Minnesota - Waseca, where he earned a degree in crop production.

**Monte Peterson**, Chairman  
North Dakota Soybean Council

Monte Peterson, a Valley City soybean producer, is the chairman of the North Dakota Soybean Council. Monte represents soybean farmers in District 4—Barnes, Steele and Griggs Counties, and has been on the North Dakota Soybean Council over five years. Monte is also the current chairman of the North Dakota Soybean Council’s Research Committee and also sits on the North Central Soybean Research Program board on behalf of the Council. He farms soybeans and wheat on a 5,500 acre farm along with his wife Penny. For the past 30 years Monte has raised soybeans. He has also been Township Supervisor along with past chairman of the Barnes County Marketing Club. Monte and Penny have two daughters, Sarah and Hailee.

**Kevin Price**, Director, Government Affairs  
American Crystal Sugar Company

Since 1996 Kevin Price has been the Director of Government Affairs for American Crystal Sugar Company. Prior to joining American Crystal Kevin advised several Members of Congress on agriculture, conservation and international trade issues. Kevin holds a degree in political science from North Dakota State University. A native of Stephen, Minnesota, Kevin is headquartered in Washington, DC and lives in Arlington, Virginia.
**Daryll Ray**, Professor  
**University of Tennessee**

Dr. Ray is the Director and Founder of the Agricultural Policy Analysis Center (APAC). Raised on a livestock-crop farm in Central Iowa, Dr. Ray received his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Iowa State University. After 20 years at Oklahoma State University, he joined University of Tennessee in 1991 and established the Agricultural Policy Analysis Center in the Department of Agricultural Economics. Through his research in the area of Agricultural Policy, Dr. Ray has developed two well-known national models for evaluating the impact of agricultural and environmental policy changes on agriculture. An important portion of his work focuses on the nature of agricultural markets, including non-economic as well as economic and political forces that influence those markets. He received the Distinguished Policy Contribution Award from the American Agricultural Economics Association. Dr. Ray has made over 300 professional and industry presentations and has testified numerous times before Congress on agricultural policy issues.

**Terry Roe**, Professor  
**University of Minnesota**

Professor Roe specializes in the area of economic growth, development and foreign trade with a special emphasis on agriculture. Current research includes the effects of natural resource exhaustion on economic growth and trade, the macroeconomics of water policy, why countries with relatively abundant natural resources tend to grow more slowly, the nature of macroeconomic imbalances in the world economy, and the effects of the real value of the U.S. currency on U.S. agricultural competitiveness. He has been the Major Adviser to over 50 Ph.D. students and numerous MS students. He has consulted for the World Bank and the International Food Policy Research Institute. He has worked in more than 25 countries, published 80 plus refereed journal articles and five co-authored books.

**Jasper Schneider**, North Dakota State Director  
**USDA Rural Development**

As a successful entrepreneur, small business owner and public servant, Jasper Schneider is committed to growing future opportunity in North Dakota. For those reasons, the President appointed Jasper to serve as North Dakota’s State Director for USDA Rural Development in 2009. Prior to joining USDA, Jasper represented North Dakota’s Legislative District 21 in the state House of Representatives, had a successful law practice, worked for Cisco Systems and was an entrepreneur, starting a widely-recognized information technology company. Jasper is a graduate of Jamestown College and Hamline University School of Law. He and his wife Kim have four children and make their home in Bismarck.

**David Schweikhardt**, Professor  
**Michigan State University**

David Schweikhardt is a Professor specializing in agricultural policy, trade policy and law in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics at Michigan State University. A native of Indiana, he received a B.S. degree with Highest Distinction in agricultural economics from Purdue University in 1980, a M.S. in agricultural economics from Michigan State University in 1983, and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Michigan State in 1989. He received a law degree from Michigan State in 2004 and is a member of the State Bar of Michigan. From 1988 to 1992, he was an Assistant Professor of agricultural economics at Mississippi State University. His teaching responsibilities included courses in agricultural policy and international trade policy. His research and extension work has focused on agricultural and trade policy, including the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and all U.S. farm bills since 1990.

**Michael Scuse**, Acting Under Secretary  
**Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, USDA**

Prior to this position, Scuse served as Deputy Under Secretary for the FFAS mission area from 2009 to 2011 with primary responsibility over our domestic programs (Farm Services Agency and Risk Management Agency). Before joining USDA, Scuse was Secretary of Agriculture for Delaware from May 2001 until September 2008, when Governor Ruth Ann Minner (D) named him as her chief of staff. From 1996 to 2001, Scuse served as chairman of the Kent County (Delaware) Regional Planning Commission and chairman of USDA’s FSA State Committee. Before that, he was Kent County Recorder of Deeds. In addition to serving as NASDA vice president while agriculture secretary, Scuse was also president of the Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture. He lives in Smyrna, Delaware, with his wife Patrice.
Kevin Skunes, President
North Dakota Corn Utilization Council
Kevin Skunes is currently serving his second term as the Chairman of the North Dakota Corn Utilization Council (NDCUC). He joined the NDCUC board in 2007. Prior to his election as Chairman in 2010, Kevin served as Vice Chair of the organization. Kevin represents the NDCUC at the national level by serving as a member on the National Corn Growers Association’s Ethanol Committee. Kevin has also served as Chairman of his church’s council and as the President of the Lions Club. He has held various Farm Bureau positions.
Kevin and his wife, Betty, are the parents of three adult children. They live and farm near Arthur, ND. Two of his sons are in the farming operation with Kevin.

Scott Stofferahn, Eastern State Director
U.S. Senator Kent Conrad, State of North Dakota
Scott Stofferahn is originally from Cogswell, ND in Sargent County where he farmed and ranched until 1998. Scott was elected to serve in the North Dakota House of Representatives from District 26 and continued until 1992. In 1993, Scott Stofferahn was appointed by Agricultural Secretary Mike Espy to become the State Executive Director of USDA’s Farm Service Agency, a position he held until February 2001. In 2001 Scott joined Senator Conrad’s staff where he assisted the Senator in the negotiation of the 2002 and 2008 farm bills. Scott is currently the Eastern State Director for Senator Conrad. Scott has a degree in Soil Science from North Dakota State University.

Brad Thykeson, First Vice President, Board of Directors
North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Brad Thykeson has operated his grandfathers farm in Steele County for 28 years and owns a small trucking business. Mr. Thykeson was a member of the NDFB Young Farmer and Rancher Program (1987-1993) and received their Young Farmer and Rancher Achievement Award in 1989. He served on the AFBF wheat advisory committee (1993-1996), Portland Farmers Elevator Board (1987-1992), Bang Lutheran Church and Portland Lutheran Parish council chairman, and Mayville Airport Authority liaison. Brad coached high school basketball at May-PortCG High for 14 years and served as a substitute teacher. He earned a B.S. degree in business education and math from Mayville State University.

Pat Westhoff, Professor
University of Missouri
Patrick Westhoff is the director of the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) at the University of Missouri–Columbia and a professor in the MU department of agricultural and applied economics. He joined FAPRI at the University of Missouri in 1996, and has worked on a range of projects in the United States, Europe, Africa, and Latin America. He is a native of Manchester, Iowa, where he grew up on the family dairy farm. He has a B.A. in political science from the University of Iowa, an M.A. in Latin American studies from the University of Texas, and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Iowa State University.

Terry Weckerly, President
North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Terry Weckerly serves as President of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. From Hurdsfield, North Dakota, Mr. Weckerly currently farms with his father and two sons and is involved in several family businesses including Hurdsfield Grain, Inc., Farm and Family Center, and Freight Solutions. Mr. Weckerly also serves as Director of the National Bank of Harvey. His community involvement includes the Hurdsfield Community Café, Hurdsfield Community Club, Hurdsfield Community Center Board, Goodrich United Methodist Church, and the Goodrich Rural Fire Department. Mr. Weckerly is a member of the North Dakota Farm Bureau and numerous other farm organizations.
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