



# 2017 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit

January 6-8, 2017 in Baton Rouge, LA

## Friday, January 6, 2017

**6:00 pm**                    **Opening reception:** Welcome, Massachusetts Representative Steve Kulik  
**Riverview A**                *Welcome from Louisiana Agriculture Commissioner, Dr. Mike Strain*

**7:00 pm**                    **Four Regional Dinners:** based on The Council of State Government regions. Each dinner will have regional agriculture economist in them to moderate a post dinner discussion on the economic status of agriculture and rural in each region.

**Midwest- Governor Room:** *Hosted by Senator David Johnson, moderated by Dr. John Lawrence, Iowa State*  
*Staff: Ben Husch*

**West – Capitol Room:** *Hosted by Representative Brad Witt, moderated by Dr. Mickey Paggi, Fresno State*  
*Staff: Mindy Bridges*

**East – King Room:** *Hosted by Representative Kevin Ryan, moderated by Dr. James Dunn, Penn State*  
*Staff: Tara Sad*

**South- Louisiana Room:** *Hosted by Senator Brian Munzlinger, moderated by Dr. Scott Brown, University of Missouri*  
*Staff: Anne Roberts*

9:00 – 10:00 pm        Canadian Delegate Meeting  
*University Room*

9:00 -9:45                Kansas City Planning meeting  
*Boardroom*                *Missouri and Kansas attendees please join this short meeting on the 2018 logistics*

**9:00 – 11:30 pm**        **Hospitality Suite**  
**Riverview A**

## Saturday January 7, 2017

**6:30 – 7:45 am**        **Buffet Breakfast**  
**Heidelberg (top floor)**

**8:00 am**                    **Welcome- Representative Steve Kulik**  
**Riverview**                **Consumer focus group and discussion panel**

How can rural/agriculture best influence the conversation. How can rural advocates turn/keep the conversation about our issues positive? *Moderated by Adrian Percy.*

### **Plenary Discussion:**

*Janice Tranberg, SaskCanola*

*Matthew Bailey, Foundation for Biomedical Research*

*Dawn Caldwell, Finding Our Common Ground*

9:30 am                    Coffee and pastries in foyer as you head to Breakouts.  
Breakout rooms are limited on space, we have to do our best!

## **Saturday January 7, 2017 continued**

9:45 am Breakout Session I:

### **Governor Room A. Promoting resiliency in rural communities and responding to natural disasters.**

It has been a stressful year for many rural communities, the flood in Baton Rouge, hurricane Matthew on the U.S. coast and fire in Alberta and eastern Tennessee are just a few of the extreme events that tremendously impacted rural communities. Rural communities face special challenges related to emergency preparedness and response, including resource limitations, remoteness, separation, low population density and communication issues. This session will focus on successful rural responses to floods, fires, droughts and other natural disasters. *Iowa Senator David Johnson, moderating, staffed by Anne Brody.*

*Dr. Adam Whelchel, Director of Science, The Nature Conservancy*

*Oneil Carlier, Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Forestry*

*William Rachal, Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness*

### **Louisiana Room B. Integrating an “All of the Above Energy” policy into rural economic development.**

Rural communities are in the driver’s seat for all energy, regardless of source, how do we maximize the return to the community and what issues are we facing? *Iowa Senator Tim Kapucian, moderating, staffed by Karen Marshall.*

*Larry Sherwood, President, Interstate Renewable Energy Council*

*Rich Walsh, Senior Vice President, Valero*

### **King Room C. How can we bring broadband home?**

We all know that good, reasonable priced broadband is a requirement for a viable community, how do we get that? This session will focus on the technology, the financing and the methods to bring broadband to your district. *Indiana Senator Jean Leising moderating, staffed by Tara Sad.*

*Bill Coleman, Community Technology Advisors*

*Don Williams, Senior Program Specialist, Broadband USA*

### **Capitol Room D. Transportation**

The quality of our transportation infrastructure is paramount to getting products into and out of rural communities. Are there answers to funding of infrastructure projects? How will the growing number of electric and hybrid vehicles impact our infrastructure funding? *Oregon Representative Brad Witt, moderating, staffed by Bob Haefner.*

*Kevin Pula, Transportation Research Analyst, NCSL*

*Mr. Mike Steenhoek, Executive Director, Soy Transportation Coalition*

*Senator Stuart Adams, Utah State Senate*

### **Paramount E. Mini-meeting - Right to Repair Discussion**

The mini-meetings are legislator led (no speakers) open discussions on a topic of interest. **North Carolina Senator Brent Jackson** will lead a discussion on whether tractor owners should have the right to access all diagnostic equipment and repair information.

11:15 am

### **Buffet Networking Lunch**

**Riverview**

We need to empty the lunch room by 12:30 so they can turn it for plenary

1:00 – 2:15 pm

### **Concurrent Plenary on Water**

**Riverview**

**I. Water Quality.** *Representative Larry Rhoden, moderating.*

*Christopher Henney, President, Ohio Agribusiness Association*

*Mike Naig, Deputy Director, Iowa Department of Agriculture*

*Ann Swanson, Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission*

**Heidelberg**

**II. Water Quantity.** *Kansas Senator Carolyn McGinn, moderating.*

*Burke Griggs, Washburn University School of Law*

*Danny Merkley, Director, Water Resources, California Farm Bureau Federation*

*Clive Strong, Idaho Deputy Attorney General*

## **Saturday January 7, 2017 continued**

**2:30- 3:45pm Breakout Session II:**

### **Capitol Room F. Does the bioeconomy offer economic growth for rural communities?**

The bioeconomy comprises the use renewable biological resources from land and sea – such as crops, forests, fish, animals and micro-organisms – to produce food, materials and energy. A new report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows that in 2014, the biobased products industry contributed \$393 billion and 4.2 million jobs to America's recovering economy. The report also indicates that the sector grew from 2013 to 2014, creating or supporting an additional 220,000 jobs and \$24 billion over that period. This session will focus on developing markets and competitiveness in bioeconomy sectors. *South Dakota Senator Jason Frerichs, moderating, staffed by Bob Haefner.*

*Joe Hrdlicka Executive Director, Iowa Biotechnology Association*

*Dr. Murray McLaughlin, Executive Director, Bioindustrial Innovation Canada*

### **Governor Room G. States must decide how to respond to Food Safety Modernization Act**

Now that the Food Safety Modernization Act is law and the FDA has released the regulations for it, states have to make the decision, to harmonize all, some or none of the FSMA rules into state regulations for food and feed. The answer will determine the funds the state receives from the FDA and how their companies work in the marketplace. On top of all of this is the implementation of the Veterinary Feed Directive Act. *Illinois Representative Norine Hammond, moderating, staffed by Tara Sad.*

*Joe Reardon, Consumer Protection Assistant Commissioner, North Carolina Dept Agriculture*

*Angela Mills, Manager, Regulatory Compliance, Southern States Cooperative*

*Marcie Campion, Ph.D. Vice President of Technical Services, Pro-Pet*

### **Louisiana Room H. The future of forestry and agritourism**

Rural economies have often depended on natural resource industries, from agriculture to forestry. But today, we need to find ways to overcome challenges and expand the players, do new opportunities in forestry, increased young farmers and activities like agritourism offer ways to grow these industries? How can states be involved? *Vermont Representative Carolyn Partridge, moderating, staffed by Mindy Bridges.*

*Seth Barnes, Oregon Forest & Industries Council*

*Lindsey Shute, Executive Director, National Young Farmers Coalition*

### **King Room I. Does aquaculture offer economic opportunities?**

Aquaculture is different in different parts of the country, but in Louisiana it is an economic driver, with fish and shellfish consumption increasing, how can we help it grow economies in other parts of the country? *Michigan Representative Triston Cole, moderating, staffed by Karen Marshall.*

*Mr. Sebastian Belle, Executive Director, Maine Aquaculture Association*

*Leo Ray, Owner Fish Breeders of Idaho*

*Dr. Jimmy Avery, Extension Professor, Mississippi State University*

### **Paramount J. Mini-meeting – Discussion on Agriculture and Climate Change**

The mini-meetings are legislator led (no speakers) open discussions on a topic of interest. **Saskatchewan Minister Scott Moe** will lead a mini-meeting on the impact of and adjusting to climate change in food production.

## **Saturday January 7, 2017 continued**

**4:00-5:15 pm Breakout Session III:**

### **Capitol Room K. Creating jobs in rural communities.**

To sustain rural communities, their schools, hospitals and public services, it will require job re-growth, thinking outside the box, fiscal capital and strong leadership. This session will focus on how to get it done. *Senator Judy Schwank, moderating, staffed by Tara Sad.*

*Tony Troups, Advantage Capital Partners  
Tammy Hornbeck, Communities Unlimited*

### **Louisiana Room L. How can trade support rural communities?**

Trade is a focus of this year's presidential campaign, but in reality, what is the role of trade for agriculture and rural communities and how can we maximize any federal decisions for our industries? *Manitoba Minister Ralph Eichler, moderating, staffed by Mindy Bridges.*

*David Rinneard, Agriculture Business Banking, BMO Harris Bank  
Rory McAlpine, Senior Vice President, Maple Leaf Foods*

### **King Room M. How are states responding to endangered and invasive species?**

While the feds may make the rules, the states have to deal with the impacts of endangered species regulations, and states are also facing growing invasive species challenges, what are our options? *Idaho's Doug Jones, moderating, staffed by Karen Marshall.*

*Scott Cameron, Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition  
James L Noles, Partner, Balch & Bingham*

### **Governor Room N. Growing animal agriculture**

Strong animal agriculture is important for meeting growing food demands and serve as a great value added market for grain and forage producers and byproduct utilization. But ballot initiatives and zoning limitations by some communities are challenging growth. How can we be good neighbors and face the challenges? *Georgia Senator Bill Heath, moderating, Staffed by Bob Haefner.*

*Diane Sullivan, Massachusetts  
Brad Mitchell, Deputy Executive Director, Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation  
Dr. Steve Davis, Colorado Quality Research  
Senator John Kuehn, Nebraska*

### **6:00 pm Reception and Dinner; Vision Networking Roundtables**

#### **Riverview**

Each table will have a topic on it. We suggest you select your dinner table by topic and join your peers and our conference speakers to delve deeper into complex topics

*Senator Brian Munzlinger, Moderating  
Canadian Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay  
Introduction by Manitoba Minister Ralph Eichler*

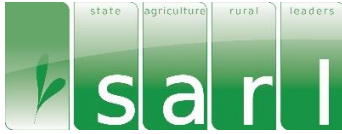
### **9:00 – 11:30 pm Hospitality Suite**

#### **Heidelberg**

**Sunday, January 8 All sessions will be in Riverview**

- 8:30 am\*\***      **Buffet Breakfast**  
**Riverview**      Annual Meeting, elections and resolutions. Representative Steve Kulik and Senator Eddie Fields
- 9:15 am**      **Future of Technology and Agriculture**  
*Val Giddings, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation*
- 10:00 am**      **What to Expect with the New Administration**  
Senator Brian Munzlinger, moderating  
  
*Anne Hazlett, Senate Agriculture Committee Counsel*  
*Marge Kilkelly, Agriculture Analyst, Senator Angus King*  
*Gary Baise, OFW Law*
- 11:00 am**      **A Look at Recent State Agriculture/Rural Laws and Rising Issues**  
*Harrison Pittman, Director of the National Ag Law Center*
- 11:30 am**      **Lunch and Closing**

\*\* AG America would like to invite Republican Legislators for coffee before breakfast in the Governor Room.



## 2017 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit

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### Site Visits 1 and 4: Grain Terminal and Monsanto agriculture chemical production

ADM Ama is the grain division's highest volume export facility with concrete silo storage of 5 million bushels. Annual volume ranges between 330 million to 400 million bushels with over twenty types of grain and processed products shipped to over 90 countries. The Monsanto plant is in the middle of an expansion to add Dicamba production to the crop chemicals already produced there. This site visit will take approximately 6 hours because of a 90 minute bus ride to the facility, you will be seeing a good portion of south Louisiana. Jeans recommended, closed toe, slip resistant shoes, no jewelry. Pick up your box lunch. It will be offered twice;

**Site Visit 1:**            **Thursday, January 5:** Leave at 12:30 pm, return by 6:00 pm

**Site Visit 4:**            **Friday, January 6:** Leave at 1:00 pm, return by 6:00 pm

Hosted by;

Chris Riley, Greg Webb, Susanna Zimmerman with ADM and Rachel Hurley, Leslea Snyder and Jeff Williams with Monsanto.

### Site Visit 2: Catfish and Crawfish

You will be visiting Guidry's catfish processing facility, Cajun family owned and operated since 1976, located in the heart of south Louisiana, it is the largest catfish processing facility in the state and one of the largest producers of U.S. farm raised catfish in the United States. Guidry's caters to both the foodservice industry and the retail customer, offering over 70 different catfish items, as well as their blend of fish fry and hushpuppies. Crawfish production is a double cropping system with rice. Depending on how the flooding impacted them and the weather in December you may be part of a harvesting crew! Lunch served before return.

**Friday, January 6, 2017:** Leave Baton Rouge at 7:30 am - Return to Baton Rouge by 1:00 pm

Tour Guidry's catfish processing then Crawfish/rice farm, lunch at Crawfishtown USA. Jeans recommended, closed toe, slip resistant shoes, no jewelry.

### Site Visit 3: Angola Prison

When many states have ended their use of farms for prisoners, the largest maximum security prison in the United States with 6,300 prisoners still produces much of what they consume. They grow, process and freeze produce, the beef operation provides work experience and uses much of the ground around the prison. Essentially every prisoner has a job or is taking classes in this program, they have a crafts unit, auto mechanic shop, farm equipment and leather repair and hold two rodeos a year, all run by the inmates and open to the public. It's not what you expect from a prison. Lunch at the prison, by the inmates.

**Friday, January 6, 2017:** Leave Baton Rouge at 8:00 am - Return to Baton Rouge by 3:30 pm

Dress is casual with no light blue or gray shirts, cell phones, purses, bags must be left on bus, take medication, ID in pocket.

### Site Visit 5: Alligator and Gator Boats

Walls Alligator Farm and Gator Trax Boats. See over 10,000 alligators produced for their hide and meat and Gator Trax's shallow water boats that you can maneuver with ease through whatever water you want to take on. Eat before you get on bus.

**Friday, January 6, 2017:** Leave hotel at 1:00 pm for Walls Alligator Farm and Gator Trax Boats. Return to hotel by 5:00 pm

Jeans recommended, closed toe, slip resistant shoes.