



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Public-private conservation work topic for Farm Foundation Forum

OAK BROOK, IL Oct. 13, 2017: Many forces drive soil and water conservation work on farms and ranches today, including individual owner interests, federal and state program incentives and private initiatives. The Farm Foundation® Forum on Wednesday, Nov. 1, will explore whether collaboration of those forces might achieve more comprehensive conservation goals, while potentially improving individual farm performance.



“Conservation work is not lacking in rural America today,” says Farm Foundation President Constance Cullman. “Farmers and landowners use conservation practices to protect soil and water, which they consider high-value operational assets. Federal and state programs exist to help finance some of that conservation work. We also have private ventures seeking to initiate conservation or protect farm and ranch land from development for non-agricultural uses.”

Whether a collaboration of these public and private efforts would help to yield greater progress toward common conservation goals is the question to be explored at the Nov. 1 Forum. “We want to identify the challenges and opportunities of public-private collaboration. Who benefits? What hurdles exist? What goals could be met? What are the policy challenges?” Cullman says. “As Congress begins work on the next Farm Bill, it is a great time to examine this issue.”

The Forum, *A New Paradigm for Conservation Work?*, begins at 9 a.m. EDT in the Holeman Lounge at the National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, D.C. A free live audiocast will also be available.

Forum panelists will provide perspectives on the policies of conservation, as well as options for public-private collaborations. Presenting perspectives will be:

- Jonathan Coppers, Director of the Gardner Agricultural Policy Program at the University of Illinois;
- John Piotti, President and CEO, American Farmland Trust;
- Josette Lewis, Associate Vice President of Ecosystems/Sustainable Agriculture, Environmental Defense Fund; and
- Laura Peterson, Manager of Federal Government Relations at Syngenta.

Cullman will moderate the discussion. After comments by the panelists, the floor will be opened for questions and discussion.

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There is no charge to participate in the Nov. 1 Forum, but registration is requested.

- Register [HERE](#) if you plan to attend the Forum in person at the National Press Club.
- Register [HERE](#) to participate in the live audiocast. Audiocasting is made possible by a grant from Farm Credit.

Who should participate in the Forum: People with an interest in agricultural, food and rural policy, including members of Congress, congressional staff, executive branch officials, industry representatives, NGO representatives, Embassy representatives, academics and members of the media.

The Forum: Farm Foundation organizes these public forums to engage all stakeholders in informed dialogue on food, agricultural and rural policies. Participants examine current policies, explore and analyze alternative policy options, and give voice to new proposals.

Audio from the session will be posted on the Farm Foundation [website](#). Presentations and audio files from past Forum sessions are also available at the website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Farm Foundation is an agricultural policy institute cultivating dynamic non-partisan collaboration to meet society's needs for food, fiber, feed and energy. Since 1933, we have connected leaders in farming, business, academia, organizations and government through proactive, rigorous debate and objective issue analysis.