



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Forum to examine the task of rebuilding rural infrastructure

OAK BROOK, IL Sept. 25, 2017: The task of rebuilding rural infrastructure will be examined at the Farm Foundation® Forum on Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017.

There is an ongoing conversation about the need to improve, expand or replace many elements of the nation's infrastructure. "This Forum will focus the conversation on specific infrastructure needs of rural America," says Constance Cullman, President of The Farm Foundation.



"We all recognize that the need for infrastructure improvements exists—everything from roads and bridges to electrical and water supply systems and broadband service," Cullman says. "To make effective and efficient infrastructure investments, we need to understand the economic, public safety, national security and financing factors that must be considered."

The Forum 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 critical role of the broadband superhighway, rural transportation needs, financing options and how infrastructure impacts rural businesses and communities. Presenting perspectives will be:

- Mark Burton, Director of Transportation Economics at the University of Tennessee's Center for Transportation Research.
- Robbie Boone, Vice President of Government Affairs at the Farm Credit Council, one of the member organizations of Rebuild Rural.
- Nick Tindall, Director of Government Affairs with the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, which recently completed a member task force report on infrastructure.
- Jannine Miller, Senior Advisor for Rural Infrastructure, Office of the Secretary, USDA.

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

There is no charge to participate in the Sept. 19 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:

[Mary Thompson](#), VP Communications, Farm Foundation

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.