



**PRESS RELEASE**  
*For immediate release*

***Farm Foundation Forum explores gene editing—what it is, how it might be used***

**OAK BROOK, IL July 10, 2018:** Breakthroughs in the understanding of genomes and the ability to conduct precise edits have the potential to create new treatments for disease in humans and animals, as well as to enhance the performance of plants. What gene editing is, and the opportunities this tool presents for human health, agriculture and the environmental sciences, will be discussed at the Farm Foundation® Forum on Tuesday, July 17.

“New technologies are being rapidly introduced across the landscape of agriculture and food production today,” notes Farm Foundation President Constance Cullman. “As science evolves, it is vital that conversations take place to help translate the science into practical applications. That’s the focus of this Forum: to offer a primer on what gene editing actually is—and what it is not—and what potential this new tool may offer to benefit multiple aspects of society.”

The Forum will be 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. EDT at the National Press Club, 529 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, D.C.

The panel discussing gene editing will include:

- Mitch Abrahamsen, Ph.D., Executive Vice President/Chief Commercial & Scientific Officer at Recombinetics;
- Karen Carr, Partner at the Washington, D.C., office of Arent Fox, LLP;
- Kevin Diehl, Leader of the Global Regulatory Seed Platform of Corteva, the Agriculture Division of DowDuPont;
- Randy Spronk, a Minnesota swine producer and President of Spronk Brothers III Holdings LLC.

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 Forum, but registration is requested.

- Register [HERE](#) if you plan to attend the Forum in person at the National Press Club.
- For the free live audiocast, register [HERE](#). 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.