



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

## ***Soil Renaissance topic for Farm Foundation® Forum***

OAK BROOK, IL July 2, 2014: Healthy soils are earth's most valuable resource. Yet soil health has too often been taken for granted.

Healthy soil is key to a vibrant agriculture, clean water and air, and provides a home to microorganisms that play a fundamental role in all ecosystems. Regardless of where you live in the world, the crops produced, the farming systems employed or the size and scale of the operations, healthy soils are critical to sustainable and economically viable agriculture and food production.

The July 16 Forum will examine the Soil Renaissance, an initiative lead by Farm Foundation, NFP and the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation to make improving soil health the cornerstone of land use management decisions. Soil Renaissance work is planned in economics, measurement, research and education.

William Buckner, President and CEO of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, will moderate the Forum. Panelists will include:

- Wayne Honeycutt, Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service,
- Jimmy Kinder, Oklahoma farmer,
- John Larson, Executive Director, National Association of Conservation Districts, and
- Klaas Martens, New York state farmer, *invited*.

Panelists will each have about 10 minutes to present, after which the floor will be open for discussion.

The Forum will be 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. EDT at the National Press Club, 529 14th St. NW, Washington D.C. There is no charge to participate but registration is requested.

***To attend the event***, register online at the Farm Foundation, [www.farmfoundation.org](http://www.farmfoundation.org). For those people unable to attend the event in person, a live audiocast of this Forum is being provided. It will include speaker PowerPoints as available, and the opportunity for the audiocast audience to submit questions. To register for the audiocast, go to: [www.visualwebcaster.com/FarmFoundationForumSoilRenaissance](http://www.visualwebcaster.com/FarmFoundationForumSoilRenaissance). The audiocast is made possible by a grant from Farm Credit.

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[www.farmfoundation.org](http://www.farmfoundation.org) [www.facebook.com/thefarmfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/thefarmfoundation) [www.agchallenge2050.org](http://www.agchallenge2050.org)

***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, academics and members of the media.

***The Forum:*** Farm Foundation, NFP 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 proposals, and give voice to new proposals.

***Audio from the session*** will be posted on the Farm Foundation website, [www.farmfoundation.org](http://www.farmfoundation.org). Presentations and audio files from past Forum sessions are also available at the website.

***For more information, contact***  
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