



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Farm Foundation[®] Forum to examine water quality policies

OAK BROOK, IL Sept. 15, 2014: How the nation should approach water quality policies will be the subject of the Farm Foundation[®] Forum on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at the National Press Club, Washington, D.C.

A live audiocast will be available for those unable to attend in person. There is no charge to participate but registration is requested. Register online at the Farm Foundation website, www.farmfoundation.org. *If you have already registered, it is not necessary to do so again.*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced proposed regulations—"Waters of the United States"—to clarify Clean Water Act protection for water resources. The proposal, which is open for public comment through Oct. 20, focuses on streams and wetlands that feed into navigable lakes, rivers and estuaries.

Critics contend that as proposed, the regulation would expand EPA and Corps authority, and impede land-use decisions and farming practices near the waters in question.

While the rhetoric over WOTUS has been strong, the larger issue is what policy approach this nation will take to preserve and enhance water quality. Events of the summer, including the Lake Erie algae bloom that closed the Toledo water system, brought particular attention to agriculture's role in water quality.

Two speakers have been invited to discuss how regulators, farmers, ranchers and landowners view issues surrounding public policy and water quality. The presenters are Tracy Mehan, an adjunct law professor at George Mason University and a former EPA staff member, and Indiana grain farmer Gene Schmidt, a past president of the National Association of Conservation Districts. Moderating the discussion is Farm Foundation Trustee J.B. Penn of Deere and Company.

Mr. Mehan and Mr. Schmidt will each present perspectives and then have a conversation with Dr. Penn, before opening the discussion for question from the audience. Participants in the room or on the live audiocast can offer questions.

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.

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www.farmfoundation.org www.facebook.com/thefarmfoundation www.agchallenge2050.org

To attend the event, register online at the Farm Foundation website, 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 participate by audio cast, go to: <https://www.webcaster4.com/Webcast/Page/219/5715>.

Audiocasting is made possible by a grant from Farm Credit. After the event, an audio file is posted to the website for those unable to be part of the live event.

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 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. Presentations and audio files from past Forum sessions are also available at the website.

For more information:

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