



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Water quality policies topic for Farm Foundation® Forum

OAK BROOK, IL Sept. 9, 2014: How to maintain and enhance the quality of the nation's water resources has been at the top of the news for several months.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced proposed regulations—"Water 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.

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. The perspective of the regulator will be presented by Tracy Mehan, with Gene Schmidt providing perspectives of farmers/landowners. Farm Foundation Trustee J.B. Penn of Deere and Company, will moderate the discussion.

Mehan is currently the National Source Water Protection Coordinator for the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities. He is also an adjunct professor at George Mason University School of Law, a member of the Environmental Law Institute and a former assistant administrator for water at the EPA.

Schmidt is an Indiana grain farmer and past president of the National Association of Conservation Districts. In addition to his work at the national level, Schmidt is a member of the Board of the LaPorte County Soil and Water Conservation District, and has served in numerous leadership position in the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Mehan and Schmidt will each have 10 to 15 minutes to present their perspectives, 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 at the Farm Foundation website, www.farmfoundation.org.

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www.farmfoundation.org www.facebook.com/thefarmfoundation www.agchallenge2050.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 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. Presentations and audio files from past Forum sessions are also available at the website.

For more information, contact:

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