

Welcome to Catalyst, Farm Foundation's quarterly update on the conversations, people, and ideas shaping the future of food and agriculture.

This edition highlights recent gatherings, introduces new leaders joining our board and staff, and showcases how Farm Foundation continues to bring a widerange of voices together to accelerate practical solutions for agriculture.

Upcoming Events



Ag 101 Boot Camp - September 10&11, 2025 Farm Foundation Innovation and Education Campus | Libertyville, Illinois

Farm Foundation's Ag 101 Bootcamps offer an immersive, on-farm experience designed to deepen understanding of the complex challenges in today's food and agriculture sectors.

Through hands-on learning and expert-led discussions, participants gain valuable insights into the evolving agricultural landscape, positioning them to make informed decisions and drive innovation in their fields.

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your leadership skills and expand your professional network with Farm Foundation.

[Learn More and Reserve Your Spot](#)

Farm Foundation Forum: Automation for a Resilient Future for Agriculture



Thursday, Sept 18, 2025
From 9-11 am CDT



Livestream via Zoom



Join us virtually, Thursday, September 18, for the Farm Foundation Forum: "Automation for a Resilient Future for Agriculture." The two-hour event includes a live Q&A. Free to attend, but registration is required. [Register Today](#)

Round Table: Continuing the Conversation

This quarter, Farm Foundation hosted its 49th bi-annual Round Table in Spokane, Washington. Leaders from across the agricultural value chain gathered for open, nonpartisan dialogue on the future of farm management, labor and technology. Topics included automation, resilience, and the real-world challenges shaping agriculture today.



The Round Table is a key component of Farm Foundation's model to accelerate people, ideas, and practical solutions. While participation is limited to Round Table Fellows and guests, these conversations often spark collaborations, new programs, and fresh ideas that benefit the entire food and agriculture sector.

[Learn more about the Round Table](#)

Toward a Resilient Food and Agriculture Future

This spring, Farm Foundation convened leaders from across the agriculture sector, including two U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture, at our new [Innovation and Education Campus \(IEC\)](#) in Libertyville, Illinois.



The Summit defined what resilience in food and agriculture truly means:

A resilient food and agriculture system has the ability to produce food, even in the midst of changes and shocks, that sustains the planet and all people through access to safe, affordable, nutritious, and culturally relevant food.

From this shared vision came three key areas for continued collaboration:

1. **Creating a policy innovation sandbox** to explore new approaches to food and agriculture policy at the local, state, national, and global levels.
2. **Advancing rural communities** that are vibrant, thriving, and connected to opportunity.
3. **Evolving the agricultural extension network** to better serve today's diverse, technology-driven, and rapidly changing sector.

[Read the Executive Summary](#)

Welcoming New Leadership to the Board



In July, Farm Foundation celebrated the leadership of outgoing Board Chair, Dan Basse, President of AgResource, and welcomed its new Chair, Cheri De Jong, Owner of AgriVision Farm Management. The Board of Directors voted David Gilmore, Independent Advisor, as Vice Chair.

We're also excited to announce the newest members of the Farm Foundation Board of Directors, whose expertise and leadership will help guide our mission:



(pictured from left to right)

- Kellie Adesina, Director, Global Government Affairs at The Kraft Heinz Company
- Karen Carr, Partner, Food & Drug Practice Lead and AgTech Industry Lead at ArentFox Schiff
- Jayson Lusk, Vice President and Dean of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Oklahoma State University, Regents Professor in Agricultural Economics
- Matt Moreland, Partner at Moreland Farms

Their diverse perspectives spanning policy, law, academic research, and production agriculture strengthen Farm Foundation's leadership for the future.

Meet Our Board of Directors

Expanding Our Team



Join us in welcoming three new team members to Farm Foundation:

Karl Binns, Director of External Affairs, will deepen our engagement with stakeholders and broaden our reach across the food and agriculture value chain.

Chrissie Edgewater, Program Manager, will engage the next generation of agricultural leaders and support programs that build a stronger, more resilient future for food and ag.

Jordyn Landberg, Director of Marketing and Communications, will share Farm Foundation's story and amplify the impact of our programs and partnerships.

[Learn More About Our Team](#)

Thank you for being part of the Farm Foundation community. Together, we're creating space for honest conversations and actionable solutions that shape the future of agriculture.

Know Someone Passionate About Agriculture?

Share this newsletter with them and encourage **them to join our mailing list.**

Farm Foundation is an accelerator of practical solutions for agriculture. Our mission is to build trust and understanding at the intersections of agriculture and society. Our vision is to build a future for farmers, our communities, and our world.

farmfoundation.org



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