

# **PUTTING IN THE GROUNDWORK: ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF U.S. FOOD AND AG POLICY**

**Round Table Meeting January 2026**



# **WELCOME ADDRESS AND FARM FOUNDATION UPDATES**





# **Tim Brennan**

**Vice President Programs and Strategic Impact  
Farm Foundation**



# 2026: International Year of the Woman Farmer

In 2022, the United States had **1.2 million** female producers

**36%** of the country's  
3.4 million producers

More than half of all farms  
(**58%**) had a female producer.

Farms with one or more female  
producers accounted for **41%**  
of U.S. agriculture sales and  
**46%** of U.S. farmland.



**Shari Rogge-Fidler**  
**President and CEO**  
**Farm Foundation**



**Cheri DeJong**  
**Board Chair**  
**Farm Foundation**



# Farm Foundation Round Table Fellows and Honorary Life Fellows a community built on trust, committed to progress



# **January 2026 Round Table Planning Committee**

**Keith Coble, Chair  
Samantha Ayoub  
Craig Gundersen  
Ryan Locke  
Trent McKnight  
Matt Moreland  
Xochitl Torres Small**



# Meet the Farm Foundation Team



**Shari Rogge-Fidler**  
President and CEO



**Tim Brennan**  
Vice President  
Programs and  
Strategic Impact



**Todd Price**  
Vice President  
Operations



**Morgan Craven**  
Director of Programs  
and Events



**Chrissie Edgeworth**  
Next Gen Program  
Manager



**Jordyn Landberg**  
Director of Marketing  
and Communications



**Katie Merkle**  
Programs and Events  
Manager



**Ellen Prather**  
Marketing and  
Design Manager



**Jen Rosenthal**  
Farm Programs  
Manager



**Liz Wilkin**  
Administrative  
Associate

**Welcome Guests!**



# Strategic Partner Sponsors



**JOHN DEERE**

# Farm Foundation Grounded in Impact



We're not just a think tank, and we don't **leave** great ideas on the table, we turn them into actual, tangible solutions.

**500** Guests

**23** Virtual and  
in-person events

**3,000** people  
from **28** countries

# Farm Family Wellness Alliance

**2020** – Founded in Iowa, providing mental health and wellness services to farm families

**2021** – Expanded services to Illinois

**2024** – Launched national services

**2025** - Nationwide Impact

- Grew the Alliance to **16** partner organizations
- Active in all **50** states
- **16,000+** user interactions on the platform

**2026** – Joining the expanded Farm State of Mind initiative, led by the American Farm Bureau Federation.



# GLOBAL FORUM FOR FOOD POLICY AND INNOVATION (GFFPI)



The Global Forum for Farm Policy and Innovation leverages evidence and dialogue leading to increased understanding, substantive action, and enhanced outcomes for more sustainable agriculture around the world.



**Finding common ground  
in a divided world**

October 2025



# FARM FOUNDATION NEXT GEN PROGRAMS

## 342 Next Gen Program Participants since 2013

Farm Foundation Next Gen programs represent the full ag value chain:  
Producers • Agribusiness • Finance • Policy • Food • Conservation • Technology

Farm Foundation NextGen connects leaders across every stage of a career:  
Early Career → Mid-Career → Senior Leaders → Industry Elders

# Farm Foundation Next Gen Summit 2025



# FARMPATH

## Building the Next Generation of American Farmers

FarmPath focuses on expanding access to farming and agricultural careers, reducing barriers, and providing practical exposure to the systems that shape food and agriculture.

This year, we will begin recruiting, welcoming **300** people to the program from across the country.



# Save the Date

## Farm Foundation AG 101 Bootcamps, Ag Labs, and Food Labs

### Choose your experience

#### Ag Labs

One day

One topic | Deep dive

#### Ag 101 Bootcamps

Two days

Full system view

#### Food Labs

One day

Focused exploration

### Upcoming Sessions

Additional dates and custom sessions available

#### Ag Labs:

March 12, 2026

May 21, 2026

#### Ag 101 Bootcamps:

Washington D.C.

March 18 - 19, 2026

Libertyville, IL

August 5-6, 2026

August 19-20, 2026

#### Food Lab:

October 7, 2026



# **Save the Date    June 2026 Round Table Meeting**

**St. Louis, Missouri**

**June 16-18, 2026**

**Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch**





# **ROUND TABLE FOLLOWS CHATHAM HOUSE RULE**



# SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

- Go to app 
- Social Media Tab

*To submit your questions  
on the meeting app*

- **Go to app** 
- **Go to Your Agenda**
- **Find The Session**
- **Q&A Tab**

*To view the full agenda,  
view speaker bios,  
and connect with other guests*

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- **Select Attendees**
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or set up a meeting**

**Any difficulty using the app, please stop by the  
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**SESSION ONE:  
FROM DUST BOWL TO DATA FARMS  
THE STORY OF U.S. AG POLICY**

**Round Table Meeting January 2026**





## **Moderator Keith Coble**

**Vice President, Division of Agriculture,  
Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine  
Mississippi State University**



# SESSION ONE SPEAKERS



**Steve Halbrook**

Professor Emeritus  
Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness  
University of Arkansas



**Stephanie Mercier**

Principal  
Agricultural Perspectives  
Senior Policy and Advocacy Adviser  
Farm Journal Foundation

# QUESTION AND ANSWER

*Please submit your questions on the meeting app or use one of the microphones.*



**Keith Coble**  
Mississippi State  
University



**Steve Halbrook**  
University of Arkansas



**Stephanie Mercier**  
Farm Journal Foundation

**1) Go to App 2) Go to Your Agenda 3) Find the Session 4) Q&A Tab**

