



2023 FAMILY FARM ALLIANCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
***“A Wake-Up Call for America:
Why Farms, Water and Food Matter”***
FINAL SCHEDULE

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Family Farm Alliance Board of Directors and
Advisory Committee Internal Meetings – *Silver Legacy
Conference Rooms.***

Thursday, February 23, 2023

7:00 a.m. **Registration Desk Open – *Grand Exposition Hall, Silver
Legacy***

8:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. **Welcome / Opening Comments - President Patrick O’Toole**

8:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. **Keynote Address:** Tanya Trujillo, Interior Department
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science.

8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. **Solving Nutrients Challenges with Bushels of Nature:
The Nutrient Work Group.** Creative conservation,
technology, finance and policy experts are working together
to put coordinated action, analytics, and rapid funding for
outcomes to work on behalf of river basins across the West.
This panel includes Jim Gebhardt (Director of U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency’s Water Infrastructure and
Resiliency Finance Center), Eric Letsinger (Founder and
CEO, Quantified Ventures), Tim Male (Executive Director,
Environmental Policy Information Center), and Tim
Wigington (Vice President Finance & Policy, The Freshwater
Trust).

Thursday, February 23, 2023 - Continued

Solving Nutrients Challenges with Bushels of Nature: The Nutrient Work Group (Continued). Panelists will discuss efforts to employ proven solutions from technology, finance, and policy to tackle the most critical water quality and quantity problems. Moderated by Joe Whitworth (President and CEO, The Freshwater Trust).

9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

“Kiss the Ground” with Forestry and Ag Solutions – Are government policies and bureaucracy the REAL fire starters in America? Are answers to a major climate crisis staring us in the face? Can forest managers, farmers and ranchers play a role in restoring our Western forests and capture carbon while also turning water and other inputs into food, feed, fiber and fuel? Discover what brought us to this point and the innovative solutions that Western producers are bringing to the table.

Panelists include Jim Lauria (Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Mazzei Injector Company, LLC), Dale MacDougall (California Deer Association), Patrick O’Toole and Ali Duvall (Headwaters of the Colorado River Project). Moderated by Nadine Bailey (Executive Director, Family Water Alliance).

11:15 a.m. to noon

SCOTUS and Western Water: *The Highest Court in the Land Gets Busy in Your Backyard.* Family Farm Alliance General Counsel Norm Semanko (Parsons Behle & Latimer, Boise, ID) moderates a panel of Western water attorneys engaged in recent U.S. Supreme Court cases with important ramifications for Western farmers and ranchers, including the *Sackett* “Waters of the U.S.” case awaiting decision, the *Navajo Nation v Department of Interior* case on *cert* petition from the 9th Circuit, and the ongoing SCOTUS saga of *Texas v New Mexico*. Panelists include Samantha Barncastle Salopek (Barncastle Law Firm, New Mexico), Patrick Sigl (Salt River Project, Arizona) and Paul Simmons (Somach, Simmons & Dunn, California).

Thursday, February 23, 2023 – Continued

- Noon to 1:15 p.m. **Luncheon featuring Keynote Speaker** – Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-OREGON), Chairman of House Committee on Natural Resources Committee, Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Subcommittee. Introduction by Dan Keppen (Family Farm Alliance Executive Director).
- 1:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ***A Look at D.C. from the Hill*** – What’s in store for Western water in the 118th Congress? Get the inside scoop here from staff leaders on key Congressional water committees! Panelists include Josh Maxwell (House Committee on Agriculture), Matt Muirragui (House Natural Resources Committee), John Tanner (Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee), Melanie Thornton (Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee), Kyle Varner (Senate Committee on Agriculture), Kiel Weaver (House Natural Resources Committee). Moderated by Mark Limbaugh (The Ferguson Group).
- 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. **Generation “NEXT”: Re-framing Western Agriculture** – a college student raised on a Wyoming ranch shares stories from working in the office of the Interior Secretary, where she witnessed firsthand how decisions in Washington, D.C. impact farmers and ranchers working thousands of miles away. Further West in Nevada, the next generation farmers are looking into regenerative farming, soil sciences, dairy production, while combining traditional and new practices with the help of fresh eyes bridging the ag-to-urban gaps for end products. From soil science to production, feeding, marketing, and policy, these young panelists cover the spectrum in supporting agriculture.
- Moderated by Therese Ure Stix (Schroeder Law Offices, P.C. Reno, NV), this panel discussion will consider the challenges facing the next generation, how traditional agriculture is embracing and fostering its youth, and how the next generation is thinking outside the box. Panelists include Ted Christoph (Liberty Jersey Dairy, NV), Joe Frey (Rambling River Ranch, NV), Emily Fulstone (Fulstone Ranch, NV), Siobhan Lally (Ladder Ranch, WY), and Adrienne Snow (Western States Hemp, NV).
- 3:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Break**

Thursday, February 23, 2023 - Continued

- 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. **Reclamation Roundtable** — *featuring the Commissioner of Reclamation and 5 regional directors* – Commissioner Camille Touton, David Palumbo (Deputy Commissioner), Jennifer Carrington (Columbia Basin-Pacific Northwest Region), Ernest Conant (California Great Basin Region), Brent Esplin (Missouri Basin – Arkansas – Rio Grande – Texas – Gulf Region), Jacklynn Gould (Lower Colorado Basin Region), and Nick Williams (Acting Assistant Regional Director, Upper Colorado Basin Region). Moderated by Dan Keppen (Family Farm Alliance Executive Director).
- 4:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Exhibitors' Presentations** (5 minutes each)
- 5:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. **2023 Annual Meeting**
- 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Evening Reception** – *Novi – a private night club located on the Mezzanine level of the Eldorado Resort, adjacent to the Silver Legacy. Drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.*

Friday, February 24, 2023

- 7:00 a.m. **Registration Desk Open** – *Grand Exposition Hall, Silver Legacy*
- 8:00 a.m.– 9:10 a.m. **The P.L.- 566 Small Watershed Program – A Report from the Field.** Panelists include Craig Horrell (Central Oregon Irrigation District), Andy Mueller (Colorado River District – COLORADO), Ben Shawcroft (Truckee-Carson Irrigation District – NEVADA), Craig Simpson (East Columbia Basin Irrigation District). Moderated by Raija Bushnell (Farmers Conservation Alliance).
- 9:10 a.m. to 9:25 a.m. **Break**

Friday, February 24, 2023 - Continued

- 9:25 a.m. to 10:35 a.m. **A Conversation with Biden Administration Water Leaders on Opportunities to Best Implement the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program.** Panelists include Gloria Montañó Greene (USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation); Tanya Trujillo (Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of the Interior); and Ron Alvarado (NRCS Oregon State Conservationist). Moderated by Julie O’Shea (Farmers Conservation Alliance).
- 10:35 a.m. to 11:35 a.m. **Ag in the Crosshairs: Colorado River Agricultural Water Management and Policy Challenges** –What are the policy implications and unintended consequences of looking to agriculture as the “default reservoir” to meet competing demands along the Colorado River? Hear water managers from the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basin discuss innovative approaches being employed to stretch dwindling agricultural water supplies. Panelists include Richard Morrison (Esq. Adjunct Professor, Arizona State University Law School); Greg Peterson (Executive Director, Colorado Ag Water Alliance); and Tina Shields, (Water Department Manager, Imperial Irrigation District). Moderated by Lane Dickson (The Ferguson Group).
- 11:35 a.m. to 11:55 a.m. **Closing Keynote Speaker** – Tom Birmingham (Retired General Manager, Westlands Water District, Fresno, CA)
- 11:55 a.m. **Award Presentation and Closing Comments** – Alliance President Patrick O’Toole.
- Noon **Adjourn General Session**
- 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. **Farm (Bill) to Fork Luncheon** - Bus departs from the Silver Legacy valet at 12:30 p.m. for a working lunch at Mari Chuy’s Restaurant (764 So. Virginia Street). Leaders of the Western Agriculture and Conservation Coalition will guide an informal discussion on the 2023 Farm Bill. Participants will be picked up at Mari Chuy’s and returned to the Silver Legacy by 3:00 p.m.