

For more information contact:

Lesly Weber McNitt
Director of Government Relations and Program Development
Telephone: (202) 266-0441
E-mail: lwmcnitt@farmjournal.com

For Immediate Release

15th Farm Journal Forum a Resounding Success

Philadelphia (December 19, 2013)—The Farm Journal Foundation recently held its 15th policy forum in Washington, D.C. Focused on the theme of “Feeding Agricultural Innovation,” this year’s Farm Journal Forum explored how advances in information and technology are enabling farmers in the U.S. and abroad to increase productivity to feed another 2 billion people by 2050 while conserving resources. The Forum’s characteristically diverse participation, including policymakers, farmers, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, enriched the discussion during the event.

The policy dialogue kicked off with Newsmaker Breakfast speaker, Congressman Mike Conaway (R-Texas), who shared his views on the farm bill progress. Keynote speaker, Dr. Robert Fraley, Chief Technology Officer at Monsanto Company and 2013 World Food Prize Laureate, offered compelling insights into how biotechnology and innovations in plant breeding are accelerating, bringing unprecedented global access to the technology. Highlights of the day included Bruce Scherr, CEO of Informa Economics, sharing his projections for the sustained economic growth of the American agricultural sector. At lunch, Indiana farmer Kip Tom shared views on the future of global agricultural innovation, drawing on his own farm operations in the U.S. and South America and his travels around the world. Capstone speaker Tjada McKenna, Deputy Coordinator of Development for USAID’s Feed the Future initiative, reminded the audience of our shared responsibility to ensure that the benefits of agricultural innovations are accessible and scalable.

The Farm Journal Forum program introduced a couple of exciting new formats this year: a live production of “AgriTalk” radio that interviewed two senior Obama administration policy advisers on regulatory issues, and an Agri-Pulse debate on the current and future landscape of food and farm policy featuring leaders from two prominent farmer organizations. Morning and afternoon panel discussions addressed the next frontier of agriculture production and changes in the global food system.

“Our goal for the Forum was to break down traditional policy silos and convene dynamic discussion relative to critical food and farming issues,” said Charlene Finck, President of the Farm Journal Foundation. “A unique aspect of the Forum and a source of pride for Farm Journal Foundation is the incredible level of expertise and influence found in our roster of speakers and our ability to bring farmers to the table to make their voices heard.”

The Forum, which is widely recognized as one of the premier food and agriculture policy conferences in the nation’s capital, is known for convening a diverse audience of farmers, policymakers, industry leaders, academics, non-profit representatives and other stakeholders. Hosted in partnership with Informa Economics, the event was made possible by support from premier sponsor Monsanto and supporting sponsors: AdFarm, Charleston|Orwig, CropLife America, DuPont and SFP, in association with Farmers Feeding the World.

About the Farm Journal Foundation

The Farm Journal Foundation is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to sustaining agriculture’s ability to meet the vital needs of a growing population through education and empowerment. The Foundation houses the Farmers Feeding the World platform to rally the agricultural community around the fight against world hunger. For more information, please visit www.FarmersFeedingTheWorld.org