



NCSL LEGISLATIVE
SUMMIT
AUG. 3-6, 2015, SEATTLE



Agriculture Task Force Agenda

Co-Chairs

Senator Rita Hart – Iowa

Representative Justin Cronin – South Dakota

All meetings will take place at the Washington State Convention Center unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, August 2 – Tour of Skagit Valley	
<p>7:30 a.m.</p> <p><i>Sheraton Hotel 1400 6th Ave Seattle, WA 98101</i></p>	<p>Meet & Greet and Breakfast to Go</p> <p>Tour attendees will meet in the lobby of the Sheraton for a boxed breakfast before the tour departs.</p>
<p>8:00 a.m.</p> <p><i>Sheraton Hotel 1400 6th Ave Seattle, WA 98101</i></p>	<p>Depart Sheraton Seattle</p> <p>Bus will leave promptly at 8:00 a.m. from the lobby. Breakfast can be taken on the bus.</p>
<p>9:30 – 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><i>18839 Cedardale Road Mount Vernon, WA 98274</i></p>	<p>Tour of Skagit Valley’s Best Potatoes</p> <p>We will tour Morrison Farms, founded in 1889 and get a first-hand view of over 450 acres of potatoes with Darrin Morrison, Washington State Potato Commissioner.</p>
<p>10:45 a.m. - Noon.</p> <p><i>16650 State Route 536, Mount Vernon, WA 98273</i></p>	<p>Tour of the WSU Mount Vernon Research & Extension Center</p> <p>Enjoy a private tour of the Washington State University (WSU) Research Center in Mount Vernon, Wash. that serves the agricultural, horticultural and natural resource science interests of the state through research and extension activities.</p>
<p>12:15 – 1:30 p.m.</p> <p><i>15978 Best Rd, Mt Vernon, WA 98273</i></p>	<p>Lunch at La Connor Flats</p> <p>Lunch will be provided on a 233-acre Centennial Farm where they produce a variety of fruits and vegetables.</p>
<p>1:45 – 3:30 p.m.</p> <p><i>17400 Cook Rd Burlington, WA 98233</i></p>	<p>Tour Sakuma Brothers Farms</p> <p>From the heart of Skagit Valley in Burlington, Wash., the Sakuma Brothers are 100% vertically integrated in the small fruit industry and grow both conventional and organic strawberries, blueberries, blackberries and apples.</p>
<p>4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Arrive Back at Sheraton Seattle Hotel</p>

Monday, August 3

7:30 – 8:00 a.m.

WC 617

Breakfast

Enjoy a hot, hearty start to the day featuring eggs, potatoes, bacon and coffee

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

WC 617

Federal Update

We will be joined by U.S. Representative Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) and Representatives from both the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide updates on the latest congressional and administrative pressing state-federal issues in the agriculture world.

Speakers:

- U.S. Representative Dan Newhouse, Washington
- Ron Carleton, Counselor to the Administrator for Agricultural Policy, EPA
- Judy Olson, Washington State Farm Services Agency, USDA
- Mario Villanueva, Rural Development, USDA

9:15 – 10:15

WC 617

Communicating Agriculture Policy in the 21st Century

With so many new ways to reach and communicate with the public, who so often can be unfamiliar with the agriculture industry, how can today's agriculture sector educate the public on important issues?

Speaker:

- Dr. Alison L. Van Eenennaam, Dept. of Animal Sciences, University of California, Davis

10:30 a.m. – Noon

WC615-616

Water, Agriculture and Environmental Health

From EPA's recent approval of a new clean water rule, to last year's algae bloom on Lake Erie that shut off water supplies to Toledo, how can the agriculture industry and clean water advocates work together. Our panel will discuss efforts to maximize water resources, how states are addressing agricultural runoff in water, and other efforts to maintain healthy water resources.

Speakers:

- Senator Rita Hart, Iowa (moderator)
- Dr. Gretchen Onstad, University of Washington, NIEHS Center
- Representative Gary Scherer, Ohio
- Assemblymember Adam Gray, California
- Ann Aquillo, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

WC 617

Legislator Roundtable Lunch

Engage in a legislator discussion of both trending agriculture policy topics happening in the states and potential topics for future Agriculture Task Force meetings. We will also review those policy resolutions before the NRI committee impacting agriculture.

NCSL Legislative Summit Begins

<p>1:30 – 5 p.m. <i>Offsite (Agriculture Task Force Members Only)</i></p>	<p>Seattle Port Tour and Briefing</p> <p>Open exclusively to Agriculture Task Force attendees, we will stretch our legs outside of the convention center as we disembark from the port of Seattle for an interactive experience and exploration of intermodal trade, crude-oil shipment issues, agriculture grain shipments and more! <u>If you plan to attend, you must RSVP with Melanie Condon (202-624-3597).</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Sponsored by BNSF Railway</i></p>
<p>Tuesday, August 4</p>	
<p>7:15 – 8:30 a.m. <i>WC 609</i></p>	<p>Fly-Over: An Examination and Discussion of Unmanned Aircraft Systems</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Breakfast will be provided</i></p> <p>In partnership with NCSL's Foundation for State Legislatures Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Steering Committee, join a wide-ranging discussion of the many uses for UAS and how to create a regulatory framework that addresses privacy, safety and other concerns. Enjoy a hot breakfast.</p>
<p>Wednesday, August 5</p>	
<p>7:15– 8:30 a.m. <i>WC 606 - 607</i></p>	<p>Food & Farm Breakfast: The Agricultural Age Conundrum</p> <p>The agriculture industry is facing an "over-the-hill" battle – farmers are retiring without a strong next generation behind them. Hear from experts on what the industry, states and the federal government can do to engage the next crop of farmers.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lilia MacFarland, New and Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program Coordinator, USDA <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Breakfast sponsored by ADM</i></p>

The next Agriculture Task Force Meeting will be in Washington, D.C. on December 8 as part of NCSL's 2015 Capital Forum.

NCSL gratefully acknowledges the following companies & organizations for supporting the

NCSL Agriculture Task Force



NCSL Staff Contacts

Ben Husch
Committee Director,
Natural Resources &
Infrastructure Committee
Washington, DC
Ben.husch@ncsl.org
Cell:609-947-0964

Melanie Condon
Policy Specialist,
Natural Resources &
Infrastructure Committee
Washington DC
Melanie.condon@ncsl.org
Cell: 202-549-7688

Mindy Bridges
Policy Associate
Environment, Energy, and
Transportation Program
Denver, CO
mindy.bridges@ncsl.org
Cell:720-412-9535