



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Human capital challenges focus of April 23 Farm Foundation Forum

OAK BROOK, IL March 27, 2019: Finding, training and retaining quality human capital is a critical challenge for businesses of all types and sizes in the nation's food and agriculture sector.

At the Farm Foundation Forum on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, a panel of educators and industry leaders will discuss the innovative approaches they are taking to meeting the sector's human capital needs. The Forum, *Human Capital Challenges in the Food and Agriculture Sector*, will be 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. EDT.

For the first time in the 10+year history of these discussion sessions, the Forum will be going on the road. The Forum will originate from the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive, Columbus, Ohio. A free live webcast will also be available.

"The food and agriculture sector has diverse human capital needs that are rapidly evolving as technological advancements reform the workplace," says Farm Foundation President Constance Cullman. "While unskilled labor is needed, the demand for skilled employees capable of maximizing the management of new technologies is also a critical element for any business. Add in the issues of education, rural lifestyles, irregular work hour demands and immigration laws, and the investment in human capital becomes even more complex."

Members of the panel for this Forum will include Cathann Kress, Ph.D., Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Dean of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University (OSU); Ohio agribusiness leader Lou Kozma, President of Hirzel Farms; and Vermont dairy farmer Robert Foster, President of Foster Brothers Farms, Middlebury, VT.

This Forum will precede the spring meeting of the Ohio Agricultural Council (OAC), which will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the same location, and conclude at 1:30 p.m. The OAC meeting will include an Ohio-focused discussion of human capital challenges, as well as an update from Rustin Moore, Dean of the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine. Anyone interested in Ohio agriculture is encouraged to participate in the OAC meeting.

There is no charge to participate in the Farm Foundation Forum, but registration is requested.

The OAC meeting, which includes lunch, requires registration and a fee of \$32.

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- [CLICK HERE](#) to register to attend the Farm Foundation Forum at the 4-H Center and/or the Ohio Agricultural Council gathering. (Parking information will be sent to registrants before the event.)
- To participate in the Farm Foundation Forum via the live webcast, use this [LINK](#). The webcast is made possible by a grant from Farm Credit.

Who should participate in the Forum: People with an interest in agricultural, food and rural policy, including members of Congress, congressional staff, executive branch officials, industry representatives, NGO representatives, Embassy representatives, academics and members of the media.

The Forum: Farm Foundation organizes these public forums to engage all stakeholders in informed dialogue on food, agricultural and rural policies. Participants examine current policies, explore and analyze alternative policy options, and give voice to new proposals.

Audio from the session will be posted on the Farm Foundation [website](#). Presentations and audio files from past Forum sessions are also available at the website.

For more information:

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