



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Challenges of human capital to be examined at Farm Foundation Forum

OAK BROOK, IL April 11, 2019: Whether you have a herd of dairy cows that need to be milked multiple times a day, a research project that needs qualified scientists, or an orchard of apples that require seasonal picking, the availability of skilled labor is a critical element in the success of any operation 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, as well as further steps needed to enhance agriculture’s labor pool.

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. It 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.

Members of the panel for this Forum 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);
- Drew Ratterman, Commercial Effectiveness and Development Leader, Corteva AgriSciences;
- Lou Kozma, President of Hirzel Farms, Luckey, OH; and
- Robert Foster, President of Foster Brothers Farms, Middlebury, VT.

“The sector faces a diversity of challenges in addressing human capital needs—from field workers to Ph.D. researchers,” says Farm Foundation President Constance Cullman, who will moderate the discussion.

“While the need for unskilled labor remains, the demand for skilled employees capable of maximizing the utilization of new technologies is exploding,” Cullman continues. “Add in the issues of education, rural lifestyles, irregular work hour demands and immigration laws, and the investment in human capital to grow a business—as well as the industry overall—becomes even more complex.”

1301 W. 22nd Street, Suite 906 • Oak Brook, IL 60523 • Tel (630) 571-9393 • Fax (630) 571-9580

farmfoundation.org facebook.com/thefarmfoundation youtube.com/thefarmfoundation twitter.com/farmfoundation

This Forum will precede the spring meeting of the Ohio Agricultural Council (OAC), which will be 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the same location. 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.

- [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](#) to access the webcast. Advanced registration is not required for the webcast. 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:

[Mary Thompson](#)

Vice President Communications

Farm Foundation

O – 630-601-4152

C – 630-319-8917