



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Trade Resource Center launches blog ahead of first trade conference

OAK BROOK, IL April 17, 2019: To generate additional opportunities to discuss challenges and opportunities in agricultural trade, the Farm Foundation Food and Agricultural Trade Resource Center has launched a blog.

“The U.S. agricultural sector can’t afford to take its eyes off trade,” says Darci Vetter, General Manager for Public Affairs at Edelman, former Chief Agricultural Negotiator with the U.S. Trade Representative and a member of the Farm Foundation Board of Directors.



“Understanding the reasoning behind, the meaning of, and the potential impacts of these trade policy decisions is critical to the future success of the U.S. food and agricultural sector,” Ambassador Vetter continues. “Farm Foundation’s new *Food and Agricultural Trade Resource Center*, which is designed to bring clarity to trade discussions and enable productive debate and dialogue on these trade policy issues, strives to do just that.”

Vetter is the author of the latest post on the [Trade Resource Center Blog](#), and a member of the Resource Center’s [Advisory Committee](#).

In addition to the blog, the Trade Resource Center is hosting its first trade conference, *Agricultural Trade in a Time of Uncertainty*, April 30, 2019, at the DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City, Arlington, VA. Registration is open for the conference and can be completed online [using this link](#). The \$75 registration fee is waived for the media and government employees.

“We are pleased to have opening remarks by Roberto Azevêdo, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and a luncheon keynote address by Asia Times columnist David Goldman, Ph.D.,” says Megan Provost, Farm Foundation’s Vice President of Policy and Programs. “We also have a stellar lineup of experts for the discussions focused on the WTO, free trade agreements, trade wars and the challenges of sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS).”

Ambassador Alan Wolff, Deputy Director-General of the WTO, will be part of a panel discussing U.S. agriculture and the WTO, including the role of developing countries and its long-term future given the current proliferation of bilateral and regional trade agreements.

Joining Wolff on the panel will be Chad Bown of the Peterson Institute of International Economics, and Evan Rogerson of Nanyang Technological University. Joe Glauber, Ph.D., a senior fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute, will moderate the discussion.

Ambassador Richard Crowder will moderate a panel of international trade experts discussing free trade agreements and U.S. agriculture. Panelists are John Weekes of Bennett Jones, LLC, in Canada; Nick von Westenholz of the United Kingdom's National Farmers Union; and Bruce Hirsh of Tailwind Global Strategies.

The overall health of the U.S. agricultural economy and the impact of trade wars and retaliatory trade measures will be the topic for panelists Pete Kappelman of Land O'Lakes; Dan Kowalski of CoBank and New York state dairy farmer Joanna Lidback, a representative of the Global Farmer Network. Taking on the topic of SPS challenges are Bill Bryant of Bryant Christie; Consultant Karen Stuck, a former manager of the U.S. Codex Office; and Daniella Taveau, Bold Text Strategies.

Discussing the Administration's approach to food and agricultural trade are Ted McKinney, USDA Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, and Gregg Doud, Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

The complete conference agenda is available on the [Trade Resource Center website](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Mary Thompson, Vice President Communications, Farm Foundation
Office: (630) 601-4152
Cell: (630)-319-8917

Farm Foundation is an agricultural policy institute cultivating dynamic non-partisan collaboration to meet society's needs for food, fiber, feed and energy. Since 1933, we have connected leaders in farming, business, academia, organizations and government through proactive, rigorous debate and objective issue analysis.