PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Perspectives, analysis of trade actions focus of trade conference

OAK BROOK, IL April 23, 2019: Actions on the agricultural trade front continue to generate questions about long-term implications for trade flows and trade agreements, as well as the economic health of the food and agriculture sector. Perspectives from U.S. and international experts on how those actions have evolved and how they may influence trade flows going forward will be center-stage at the Farm Foundation trade conference, Agricultural Trade in a Time of Uncertainty.

The conference, the first hosted by Farm Foundation’s Food and Agricultural Trade Resource Center, is April 30 at the DoubleTree Hotel, Arlington, VA. Registration is open for the conference and can be completed online using this link. The registration fee is waived for the media and government employees.

“In recent days we have seen ruling from a World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement panel on China’s administration of tariff rate quotes, as well as the release of an assessment of the new United States Mexico Canada Agreement by the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC),” says Megan Provost, Farm Foundation’s Vice President of Policy and Programs. (For one perspective on the ITC report, see Trade Resource Center Blog.)

“These actions are in addition to continuing trade issues between the United States and China,” Provost continues. “The conference on April 30 is a timely opportunity to gain the perspectives of a wide array of international trade experts.”

Keynoting the conference opening will be Roberto Azevêdo, Director-General of the WTO, with a video message. It will be immediately followed by a panel discussing U.S. agriculture and the WTO, as well as the long-term future of the WTO given the current proliferation of bilateral and regional trade agreements. Discussing that topic will be Ambassador Alan Wolff, Deputy Director-General of the WTO, Chad Bown of the Peterson Institute of International Economics, and Evan Rogerson of Nanyang Technological University. Joe Glauber, Ph.D., of 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.
Asia Times columnist David Goldman, Ph.D., will provide perspectives on the current geopolitical landscape as part of his keynote luncheon address.

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 and registration information 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.