PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Challenges of SPS barriers among trade conference topics

OAK BROOK, IL April 25, 2019: Next week’s Farm Foundation’s conference, Agricultural Trade in a Time of Uncertainty, will examine many of the diverse facets of today’s agriculture trade environments. The ways in which sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS) can protect a nation’s food and agriculture sector, but also prove to be a barrier to trade will be the focus of one such session.

The conference, hosted by Farm Foundation’s Food and Agricultural Trade Resource Center, is April 30 at the DoubleTree Hotel, Arlington, VA.

AgResource Company President Dan Basse, who authored a Trade Resource Center blog post on last week’s U.S.-China WTO ruling, will moderate the discussion on the complexities of establishing and enforcing SPS standards. Featured in this discussion will be:

- Bill Bryant of Bryant Christie Inc., a trade advisor to Democratic and Republican Administrations, who also worked on trade issues with the Northwest tree fruit industry.
- Karen Struck, former U.S. Codex Manager with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who lead the U.S. representation at the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which establishes international food standards.
- Daniella Taveau of Bold Text Strategies, a regulatory and global trade strategist and former international trade negotiator with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

“In global agricultural trade, sanitary and phytosanitary standards can be some of the largest impediments to trade,” says Megan Provost, Farm Foundation’s Vice President of Policy and Programs. “Even with sound underlying agreements, the interpretation, implementation and application of the agreed standards can be a major stumbling block to the flow of trade. It’s an important and timely topic for this conference.”

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, Ph.D., 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. Robert Thompson, Ph.D., professor emeritus at the University of Illinois, will chair this session.

Discussing the Administration’s approach to food and agricultural trade are Ted McKinney, USDA Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, and Ambassador 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. The registration fee is waived for the media, government employees and Embassy staff.

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.