

CRITICAL ISSUES SUMMIT

Advancing Agriculture →



DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2026



TIME: 9:45 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Networking begins at 9 a.m.



LOCATION: Hendricks County Fairgrounds, Danville, Indiana

AGENDA

9 a.m. - Noon

Registration

9 - 10:30 a.m.

Continental breakfast and coffee

9:45 a.m.

Welcome comments and pledge

9:50 - 10:55 a.m.

Key Issues Shaping the Future of Agriculture

Zippy Duvall, President, American Farm Bureau Federation

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall will provide an update on key issues affecting agriculture, including the farm economy, legislative priorities, discussions surrounding the Make America Healthy Again movement, and Farm Bureau's advocacy efforts.

11 - 11:55 a.m.

PFAS and Agriculture: Pathways, Impacts, and Management

Laura Campbell, Michigan Farm Bureau

Learn what PFAS chemicals are, how they make their way onto farms, the uncertainties around health impacts, regulations, and lawsuits, real life examples of impacts to farms around the country, and thoughts to consider for how farmers and farming organizations can protect themselves.

Noon

Invocation for lunch

Governor Mike Braun

1 p.m.

Panel: Global Market Forces and the Farmer's Bottom Line

Panelists: **Dr. John Newton, American Farm Bureau Federation and Jaqui Fatka, CoBank**

Moderated by: **Dr. Todd Davis, Indiana Farm Bureau**

2 p.m.

All of the Above Energy Strategy - This President Means It

Chris Skates, Nuclear Regulatory Commission

For over a decade, policy makers have talked about an "all of the above" energy strategy for America. But what did this mean in reality? This talk will explore that question and also explain why President Trump's energy strategy is the first that has truly been based on an "all of the above" approach and how that makes his policy the most effective our nation has undertaken.

3 p.m.

Local Government Finance Reform

Rep. Jeff Thompson (Dist. 28), Rep. Craig Snow (Dist. 22)

4 p.m.

Closing Comments and Adjourn

Tentative and subject to change. All times are Eastern Time.

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Speaker Bios



Zippy Duvall
President – American Farm Bureau Federation

As president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, Zippy Duvall is the leading voice in Washington for more than five million members. He is a third-generation farmer from Georgia. He and his son operate a beef cow herd, raise broiler chickens, and continue to restore the farmland

that has been in the family for more than 90 years. During his decade of leadership, Duvall's influence has helped to improve everyday life for farmers and ranchers across the country. From meetings in the Oval Office to the Capitol, he has built a foundation of trust to achieve historic updates to farm programs and secure critical aid for those hit hard by natural and economic disasters. He played a key role in defeating misguided regulations and securing a fair tax code for farmers. He is a champion for trade and finding new market opportunities at home and abroad. Duvall was honored by the National 4-H Council as a founding luminary and named one of the most influential people in Washington. Prior to being elected AFBF president, he was president of the Georgia Farm Bureau and served on the AFBF board of directors. He began his leadership journey as chair of the Young Farmer & Rancher Committee. Duvall and his wife, Jennifer, enjoy spending time on their farm. They have six children and nine grandchildren.



Laura Campbell
Senior Conservation and Regulatory Relations Specialist – Michigan Farm Bureau

Laura Campbell assists farmers, agencies, universities, and legislators with developing and improving environmental practices, industry relations, and understanding regulatory impacts

important to agriculture. Laura co-chairs the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) Advisory Council, the state's premier on-farm environmental stewardship program, and co-chairs Michigan's Water Use Advisory Council, which recommends research and improvements to the state's water withdrawal regulations. She earned a Bachelor of Science from Michigan State University in Environmental Policy specializing in Sustainable Agriculture, and a Master of Science from Johns Hopkins University in Environmental Science and Policy. Laura, her husband Ben, and their son live near East Lansing, Michigan.



John Newton, Ph.D.
Vice President & Chief Economist – American Farm Bureau Federation

Dr. Newton is Vice President of Public Policy and Economic Analysis and Chief Economist at the American Farm Bureau Federation, where he leads government relations, advocacy and economics. He previously led Terrain, supporting Farm Credit Associations with

agricultural and macroeconomic research, and served from 2021–2024 as Republican Chief Economist for the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, advising Senator John Boozman. Earlier, he held multiple roles at Farm Bureau, including Chief Economist (2018–2021). His 20+ year career includes positions at USDA and the University of Illinois. A Kentucky native, he holds two master's degrees and a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University and received its Distinguished Alumni Award in 2021. He lives on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., with his family.



Jacqui Fatka
Lead Economist – CoBank

Jacqui Fatka is the lead economist for farm supply and biofuels in CoBank's knowledge exchange research division. Over the past 20 years, she's honed her expertise in ag policy, biofuels, trade, regulations, ag labor, climate-smart agriculture and farm management. Prior to joining CoBank, Ms. Fatka wrote thousands of articles

as an agriculture journalist and staff editor at Feedstuffs, Farm Futures and most recently at Agri-Pulse. She cultivated her love of ag policy during a college internship with the Iowa Pork Producers Association, working in Sen. Chuck Grassley's Capitol Hill press office. Ms. Fatka has also served as a consultant for Iowa Industries of the Future, an effort to bring together major players in the biorenewables industry. Ms. Fatka earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and mass communications and a minor in agriculture education from Iowa State University. She grew up on a diversified grain and livestock farm in southwest Iowa and now lives on a small acreage in central Ohio.

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Speaker Bios



Todd Davis, Ph.D.
*Chief Economist –
Indiana Farm Bureau*

Dr. Todd Davis joined Indiana Farm Bureau in January 2023 and serves as the organization's chief economist. This is a new position for INFB, and Davis' job is to help INFB members and staff understand the impacts of policy issues and how they intersect with economics. He also works with the

public policy team with farm bill discussions to ensure that INFB is advocating for the best policy on behalf of members, and he helps county Farm Bureaus understand economic policy issues at a local level. Prior to joining INFB, Davis was a senior economist at the American Farm Bureau Federation. He also worked as an Extension economist and state specialist for both Clemson University and the University of Kentucky. He has a bachelor's degree in agricultural business from Iowa State University and master's and doctorate degrees in agricultural economics from Purdue University. Davis grew up on a farm in Iowa that raised corn, soybeans and farrow-to-finish hogs. He remains involved with the farm and serves as a general partner with his brothers. He and his wife, Tamara, currently live in Plainfield, Indiana.



Rep. Jeff Thompson
*Indiana State
Representative (Dist. 28)*

State Representative Jeff Thompson has had the opportunity to serve his community and state in many areas while residing in west central Indiana. He was first elected in 1998. Representative Thompson lives in Lizton, Indiana and is a North Salem High School alumnus. He graduated from Purdue University in

1978 with a Bachelor of Science in physics. Thompson's career experience includes more than 30 years in education, teaching chemistry, physics and math at Danville Community High School. He has also been involved in agriculture, co-managing and operating a several hundred-acre livestock and crop farm for 20 years, and continuing with a small hay and straw business since 2000. Since 2000, he has served as an advisory director and board director at North Salem State Bank, where he currently serves as vice chair of the board. Representative Thompson also serves on the House Education Committee and as K-12 Subcommittee chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means. He is also a member of the Indiana State Fair Board, Indiana State Fair Commission, Hendricks County Extension Board, and Indiana Farm Bureau.



Chris Skates
*Senior Advisor to the
Executive Director of
the Nuclear Regulatory
Commission*

Chris Skates spent 30 years in both nuclear, coal and natural gas fueled power generation facilities. He began his career at Georgia Power Company in 1986 working at their nuclear power plants. At his last plant stop, Chris oversaw the Environmental/Chemistry

program at Electric Energy, Inc which supplied energy to the Paducah Uranium Enrichment Facility. In 2016 Chris was appointed Speechwriter and Energy Advisor to Governor Matt Bevin of Kentucky. In 2020, Chris was appointed Senior Energy Advisor for Fossil Energy in the Trump Administration before moving back to Paducah in 2021 as Public Relations Specialist for Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership, the primary remediation contractor for the former Uranium Enrichment Site at Paducah. Chris was appointed by the President to the NRC in July of this year as Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Chris is also a published author of 5 books, and dozens of op-eds and energy related articles in a variety of outlets.



Rep. Craig Snow
*Indiana State
Representative (Dist. 22)*

Representative Craig Snow is a member of the Indiana House of Representatives, representing District 22. He assumed office on November 9, 2022. Representative Snow lives in Warsaw, Indiana and graduated from Warsaw Community High School. He earned a B.S. in business administration from Grace

College. Snow's career experience includes working as the CEO of Cedar Holdings and the board chair of Silveus Insurance Group. He has served with the Global Leadership Summit. Representative Snow was assigned as vice chair to the Ways and Means Committee of the Indiana House in 2025.

**Thank you to our
speakers and partners.**