



Ag Transportation Summit: A Modern Infrastructure for Modern Agriculture July 30-31, 2013, Rosemont, IL

Hosted by: Soy Transportation Coalition (STC), National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA). Co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Goals/Objectives:

- To raise the awareness of the importance of transportation to the success and profitability of U.S. agriculture.
- To precipitate and motivate further action to promote a transportation infrastructure that better serves the interests of U.S. agriculture.
- To provide a venue for advocates of U.S. agriculture to network and develop collaborations for the purpose of promoting the transportation needs of U.S. agriculture.
- To build bridges between government and agricultural interests that will result in more effective promotion of agricultural transportation issues.

Target Audience:

The conference is targeting 200 persons from the following areas:

- Farmers - particularly leaders from commodity groups
- Agricultural media
- Staff members of associations representing agriculture
- Industry executives and managers (elevators, processors, mills, etc.)
- Government officials
- Transportation providers (railroads, barge companies, truck companies, etc.)
- Land grant universities

Agenda:

Tuesday, July 30 - 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

- 6:30 am – 5:00 pm: Conference Registration Open
- 7:00 am – 8:00 am: Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 am - 8:30 am: Welcome & Announcements: Mike Steenhoek (Executive Director, Soy Transportation Coalition), Randy Gordon (President, National Grain & Feed Association)
- 8:30 am - 9:15 am: Keynote Address: Rodney Davis (Congressman, 13th District of Illinois)

Introduction:

- Tom Coyle (General Manager, Nidera U.S. LLC)

9:15 am - 10:30 am: Panel on Surface Transportation Issues

Moderator:

- Pat Knouff (Chairman, Soy Transportation Coalition)

Presenters:

- David Ellis (Professor, Texas A&M University)
 - How is our nation's surface transportation system funded, what are the current inadequacies of the system, and what are the proposals for addressing it?
- John Runyan (Executive Director, Coalition for Transportation Productivity)
 - How would the expansion of semi weight limits impact: 1.) Motorist safety; 2.) Infrastructure wear and tear; and 3.) The cost and efficiency of transporting agricultural products?
- Peter Vanderzee (CEO, Lifespan Technologies, Inc.)
 - How can federal, state, and local governments employ technology to manage rural bridges in order to enhance the movement of agricultural products while promoting better stewardship of scarce taxpayer dollars?

10:30 am - 10:45 am: Break

10:45 am – 12:15 pm: Panel on Maritime Issues

Moderator: Paul Bertels (Vice President of Production and Utilization, National Corn Growers Association)

Presenters:

- Steve Stockton (Director of Civil Works, Army Corps of Engineers)
 - What is the current condition of the nation's lock and dam system? Are the funding mechanisms in place well positioned to address our funding needs in the future?
- Rick Calhoun (President, Cargill Marine and Terminal)
 - The importance of the inland waterways system to agriculture. What is the nation's barge industry and leading maritime shippers proposing to address our inland waterway challenges?
- Mike Steenhoek (Executive Director, Soy Transportation Coalition)
 - What approaches are the Soy Transportation Coalition promoting to ensure a well-maintained lock and dam system?
- Gary Nelson (Executive Director, Port of Grays Harbor)
 - The importance of ports to U.S. agriculture. What are the challenges preventing the U.S. from sufficiently maintaining our ports? What efforts are underway to ensure proper funding and maintenance of the port regions essential to agricultural exports?

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm: Lunch

1:15 pm – 1:45 pm Update on Issues before the Surface Transportation Board

Introduction:

- Sharon Clark (Vice President of Transportation, Perdue Agribusiness)

Presenter:

- Daniel Elliott (Chairman, Surface Transportation Board)

1:45 pm – 3:00 pm Panel on Rail Issues

Moderator: Will Stafford (Assistant Dir. of Government Affairs, National Association of Wheat Growers)

Presenters:

- Paul Hammes (Vice President and General Manager – Ag Products, Union Pacific Railroad)
 - What is the importance of agriculture to the rail industry? What is the forecast of rail movements of agricultural products in the future?
- Dan Mack (Vice President – Rail Transportation, CHS, Inc.)
 - How do rail shippers currently view rail service? How is the rail industry meeting the needs of agricultural shippers and what is the forecast for that service in the future?
- Kendell Keith (President, TRC Consulting)
 - What are agriculture’s future needs for rail service? Is the rail industry positioned to meet that demand? How can our nation stimulate further rail investment in rural America?

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm Break

3:15 pm – 4:00 pm Status of Transportation Infrastructure Investment in Brazil. What are the challenges and future opportunities for the transport of agricultural products in Brazil?

Introduction:

- Scott Gauslow (Vice Chairman, Soy Transportation Coalition)

Presenter:

- Marcelo Monteiro (Executive Director, Aprosoja)

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Panel of State Department of Transportation directors. What are the opportunities for state based solutions to transportation challenges? Are states better positioned to provide certain transportation services than other levels of government?

Moderator:

- Ryan Pellett (President & CEO, J.D. Heiskell & Co.)

Presenters:

- Paul Trombino (Director, Iowa Department of Transportation), Mark Gottlieb (Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Transportation), Ann Schneider (Secretary, Illinois Department of Transportation)

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm: Reception

Dinner on own

Wednesday, July 31 - 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

7:30 am – 8:30 am: Breakfast

8:30 am - 9:15 am: Keynote Address: Michael Scuse (Acting Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture)

Introduction:

- Arthur Neal (Deputy Administrator, Transportation & Marketing Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture)

9:15 am - 10:30 am: Panel on Containerized Shipping

Moderator: Blake Hurst (President, Missouri Farm Bureau)

Presenters:

- Bo DeLong (DeLong Company)
 - A grain handler perspective on the current and future potential of containerized shipping of agricultural products – challenges and opportunities.
- Pat Kinne (General Director – International Marketing, BNSF Railway)
 - A rail industry perspective on the current and future potential of containerized shipping of agricultural products – challenges and opportunities.
- GianCarlo Morgera (Senior Vice President, Mediterranean Shipping Company)
 - An ocean vessel company perspective on the current and future potential of containerized shipping of agricultural products – challenges and opportunities.

10:30 am - 10:45 am: Break

10:45 am - 12:00 pm: Status of the Panama Canal Expansion.

Introduction:

- Gerry Hayden (Secretary-Treasurer, Soy Transportation Coalition)

Presenter:

- Maria Eugenia Sanchez (senior trade specialist at the office of executive vice presidency for planning and business development, Panama Canal Authority)

Conference concludes; lunch on own