

FOOD NOT FEED SUMMIT

Summit Co-Host Quotes

Alianza Nacional de Campesinas

Amy Tamayo, National Policy & Advocacy Coordinator

Farmworkers - especially women - have for far too long suffered the worst of our food system, whether it's systemic or structural racism and sexism, or being subjected to gender-based violence and receiving poverty level wages. For these reasons, many of us are working on becoming farmers and growing food for ourselves and our communities. The 'Food Not Feed Summit' is helping us accomplish these objectives as our members get further acquainted with USDA programs, and also network with other producers so that we can share knowledge and empower our communities.

American Friends Service Committee

Peniel Ibe, Policy Engagement Coordinator - Just Economies

No one should be forced to go without healthy, nutritious food. As the third largest producer of agricultural commodities and a significant importer, it is unacceptable that millions of people, including children, go hungry daily in our country. Our current food system is also vulnerable to climate change and is a leading contributor to the climate crisis. With the next Farm Bill, Congress can work to shift our agricultural system to one that benefits people and the planet, not the profits of big corporations. AFSC is calling on Congress to ensure that our food and agriculture system, economy, and environment work for all people for generations to come.

American Grassfed Association

Carrie Balkcom, Executive Director

The current subsidy programs funded by the USDA rewards multinational corporations and penalizes independent American farmers. These farmers support their families, rural economies, and grow food not feed. More support is needed for these farmers, so we don't continue to be an import economy. We must be able to grow food to feed ourselves.

ASPCA (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)

Kara Shannon, Director of Farm Animal Welfare Policy

The groups behind the Food Not Feed Summit align around a central point: the food system needs to nourish our neighbors, not endlessly grow the profits of industrial agriculture at the expense of animals, farmers, farm workers and communities. The ASPCA is proud to sponsor this powerful event that brings diverse voices together to ensure our next Farm Bill invests in a more humane, sustainable and functional food system.

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Environmental Working Group

Scott Faber, Senior Vice President for Government Affairs

Our farm programs are out of balance. We spend too much to support farmers who produce feed for farm animals and too little to support farmers who produce the food for humans.

Farm Action

Joe Maxwell, President and Co-Founder

Since 1935, we've lost 4.8 million farms. Our current agricultural policies aren't designed to set our family farmers or their local communities up for success. We need a Farm Bill that better supports farmers in growing and raising food to feed Americans, not one that pushes them to grow feed for industrial livestock.

Farm Bill Law Enterprise

Emma Scott, Coordinator

We are excited to get out of the classroom and join advocates in calling for a farm bill that reflects the long-term needs of society, not the short-term profits of the few.

Food Integrity Campaign

Amanda Hitt, Director

Corporate special interests are fattening their pockets by taking food off our plates. We need a farm bill for all. We should be subsidizing food not feed.

Hand, Heart, and Soul Project

Wande Okunoren-Meadows, Executive Director

We must constantly hold individuals and institutions accountable and ensure that stories from communities are elevated. The USDA makes worthwhile investments in nutrition programs which support a "healthy diet" for children yet by the day food becomes unaffordable. As a country we must value the soil and BIPOC farmers who produce sustainably grown food. This means ensuring that communities, especially those that are under-resourced, have a just food system.

Harvard Law School, Food Law and Policy Clinic

Emily Broad Leib, Director

The farm bill is the most important piece of legislation governing our food system and we hope this summit will help lawmakers and people across the country see that everyone has a stake in the outcome.

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Health Care Without Harm

Emma Sirois, National Director, Healthy Food in Health Care

Health Care Without Harm seeks to transform health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability, and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice. We are proud to join Food Not Feed to share our vision of food systems that conserve and renew natural resources, advance social justice and animal welfare, build community wealth, and meet the nutrition and health needs of all eaters now and into the future. Food Not Feed highlights the urgent need to shift from industrial livestock production that harms workers, animals, and the environment, and move our food system toward ecologically-responsible and health-promoting alternatives that will be required to achieve our vision.

Interfaith Power & Light

Susan Hendershot, President

As people of faith and conscience, we are called to promote the dignity and worth of all people. The Farm Bill presents a unique opportunity to create solutions that better protect our planet, and support farmers as they grow and harvest healthy food for all. For too long, powerful corporations have influenced what farmers grow, often pushing them to grow feed for livestock worldwide instead of feeding their own communities. These harmful practices not only hurt our Sacred Earth, but leave many without access to nutritional foods. It is imperative that we shift our agricultural policies to better support farmers in creating a more sustainable and just future for everyone.

Kansas Black Farmers Association

JohnElla Holmes, PhD, Executive Director/President

Providing our small and specialty crop BIPOC farmers with equitable access to subsidies and programming will help our farmers feed their families and communities.

#fromsurvivingtothriving

Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine

Anna Herby, DHSc, RD, CDCES, Nutrition Education Program Manager

The Physicians Committee is dramatically changing the way doctors treat chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and cancer. Our groundbreaking research on plant-based diets brings together a solution for improved health outcomes for people, the planet, and animals too. That's why we're calling on Congress to ensure the next Farm Bill prioritizes providing nutritious fruits, vegetables, grains, and legumes instead of subsidizing unhealthy foods like meat, eggs, and dairy.

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Plant Based Foods Institute

Rachel Dreskin, CEO

The U.S. plant-based foods industry is growing fast—and a goal at PBFI is to ensure that the American farmers and rural communities at the core of our food system are reaping the benefits. The Farm Bill represents a powerful opportunity for policymakers to bolster infrastructure and support for farmers to enable them to get in on the ground floor of the growing plant-based market, diversify the farm economy and agricultural landscape in favor of growing nutritious foods for direct human consumption, and drive the food system transformation needed for a sustainable future for U.S. agriculture.

Re:wild

Wes Sechrest, CEO

The U.S. currently uses 46% of its land surface (in the lower 48 states) for animal food production, including pasture and feed crops, much of which was formerly forest, prairie, and other important ecosystems. In addition, the country also imports meat and animal feed from countries such as Brazil, part of the reason that animal agriculture causes over 80% of deforestation in the Amazon. It's time for a better food system. We have a chance to revise the Farm Bill to include a nature-, climate-, and human-friendly approach to food production that ensures sustainable and resilient food systems.

Sierra Club

Cheryl Ruble, MD, volunteer leader with the Sierra Club's Food & Agriculture Team

The Sierra Club supports smaller independent farmers who grow and raise a wide array of nutritious foods in harmony with nature. There is an urgent need to shift Farm Bill funding away from industrial agriculture, such as factory farms and feed crops, to resilient, local food systems. Food, not feed—choice, not control—public and planetary health, not harm—justice, not injustice—need, not greed.

Slow Food USA

Brian Solem, Communications Director

Our national network of growers, makers and eaters knows that we need to slow down and localize our foodways — or risk losing our connections to our food, our cultures and our land. Together, we can take back our foodways by building a radically transformative Farm Bill that prioritizes local and regional farmers and ranchers, BIPOC producers, and growers in both urban and rural locations.

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Socially Responsible Agriculture Project

Sherri Dugger, Executive Director

It's time we stop talking about scaling agriculture to feed the world, and instead work to build and maintain regenerative and resilient food systems capable of feeding our communities. The U.S. continues to lose independent family farms every day because our agriculture system prioritizes profits of multinational corporations over the health and well-being of its people, local economies, and environment. Socially Responsible Agriculture Project sees the impacts of this in its work with rural communities daily. A wholly transformed Farm Bill that incentivizes production of real food, rather than feed for livestock, must be the only path forward.

The Transformation Project

Tyler Whitley, Director

Prioritizing production of healthy fruits & vegetables, nuts & legumes, instead of factory farming and animal feed crops is the best way our government can support healthy communities, resilient economics, and reduce the exploitation of people, land, and animals.

Union of Concerned Scientists

Omanjana Goswami, Interdisciplinary Scientist

Under our current corporate-controlled agriculture system, vast amounts of US farmland are used to grow animal feed. Just one company, Tyson Foods, demands an expanse of farmland estimated to be twice the size of New Jersey to feed the billions of animals it processes and sells every year. Too often, the largest industrial agriculture operations growing this feed use practices that pollute our air and water and make our food supply more vulnerable to extreme weather. But a new five-year food and farm bill can protect midsize farmers and safeguard our food supply by reining in huge monopolies like Tyson that have too much power. It's a chance to take back control of our food system so it works for all of us.

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Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

Pablo Dejesús, Executive Director

A Farm Bill that is climate-smart, centers nutritional security, and meets the needs of family farms is a matter of commitment to our faith principles. As Unitarian Universalists, we believe in “respect for the interdependent web of all existence,” the “right of conscience and the use of the democratic process,” as well as “justice, equity and compassion in human relations.” Together, these call our membership to act. We urge Congress to frame a proposal that is sustainable, resilient, and regenerative; to craft policies that restore health-focused food systems; to center support of family farms and small growers as the true backbone of American agriculture. Our nation is capable of great bounty, and this Farm Bill should reflect a harvest of compassion plus a yield of common sense. Congress must achieve a proposal that reflects the full complexity of our agricultural circumstance.

Center for Agriculture and Food Systems at Vermont Law and Graduate School

Laurie J. Beyranevand, Director

With the next farm bill, policymakers have an opportunity to shape a more sustainable and just food system. Prioritizing food over feed will help build climate resilience, protect farmer livelihoods, and ensure that our communities are nutritiously and adequately fed.