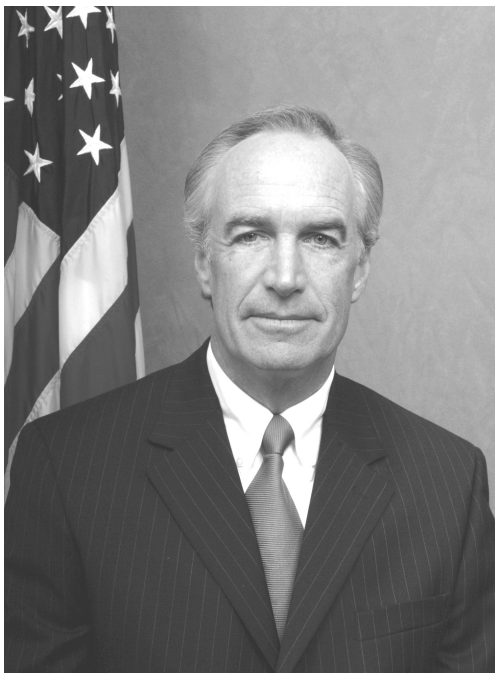


Monthly Briefing

A Summary of the Alliance's Recent and Upcoming Activities and Important Water News

Secretary Kempthorne Will Address Alliance



Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne

New Interior Chief Planning Video Speech For Conference

Dirk Kempthorne will be the first Secretary of the Interior to address the Family Farm Alliance when he speaks to the organization later this month. The Secretary, a former Idaho Governor and U.S. Senator, will use a videoconference link from Washington to speak to the Alliance's 19th Annual Meeting and Conference February 22 at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino in Las Vegas. The session continues February 23.

"All of us with the Family Farm Alliance are honored to have Secretary Kempthorne on the program and address the many crucial federal issues facing family farmers and water users throughout the West," said Dan Keppen (OREGON), the Alliance's Executive Director.

"**THE SECRETARY WILL BE USING** the same type of two-way video connection that was first utilized by the Alliance at our Annual Meeting a year ago," Keppen said. "That will make it possible for Mr. Kempthorne to interact for those attending the Conference."

"Farming Is National Security" will be the Annual Meeting's theme. Several presentations will focus on the decreasing numbers of family farmers and what that may mean to the nation and its food supply. (Schedule on Page 2)

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Global Warming

Hot Topic Will Be A Key Annual Meeting Issue

Four diverse Western experts are lined up to address the hot topic of climate change, how warming conditions will impact Western water supplies, and the tools available to help water users address the changing hydrology.

The panel discussion is set for 9:30 a.m. Thursday, February 22 at the Family Farm Alliance's 19th Annual Meeting and Conference at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino in Las Vegas.

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There's Still Time To Register For Conference

If you hurry, you can still register for the Family Farm Alliance's 19th Annual Meeting and Conference February 22-23 at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino in Las Vegas. Just visit our web site and follow the link to the registration forms:

www.familyfarmalliance.org



Farming Is National Security

2007 Annual Meeting And Conference

Thursday, February 22

- 7:30 a.m. **Registration Desk Open**
- 8:00 – 8:15 a.m. **Welcome – Opening Comments**
Patrick O'Toole, *President*
- 8:15 – 9:15 a.m. **Crossing the Great Divide: Home, Land and Security**
Dr. Richard L. Knight,
Dep't of Forest, Rangeland & Watershed Stewardship, Colorado State University
Introduction: Patrick O'Toole, *Family Farm Alliance*
- 9:30 – 11:25 a.m. **Climate Change and Secure Water Supplies: Assessing Impacts and Developing Tools to Assist Western Water Users**
Dr. Robert Balling, *Dep't of Geography, Arizona State University*
Mike Besson, *Wyoming Water Development Commission*
Dr. David Fischhoff, *Monsanto*
Brad Udall, *NOAA, Boulder, Colorado*
Moderator: Bill Scott, *Family Farm Alliance*
- 11:30 – 12:25 p.m. **Luncheon - Update on Alliance Initiatives**
Dan Keppen, *Executive Director*
- 12:30 – 1:00 p.m. **Keynote Address**
Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne
(via interactive videoconference from Washington)
Introduction: Mark Limbaugh, *Assistant Interior Secretary*
- 1:15 – 2:45 p.m. **Inside Washington – A Look at DC from The Hill**
Moderator: Joe Raeder, *The Ferguson Group*.
Panelists:
Mike Conner, *Majority Counsel, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee*.
Joshua Johnson, *Professional Staff Member, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee*.
Steve Lanich, *Staff Director, House Water and Power Subcommittee*.
Kiel Weaver, *Republican Staff Director, House Water & Power Subcommittee*.
(Via interactive videoconference)
- 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. **Homeland Security and American Agriculture: The Challenges Ahead**
Diane DiPietro, Esq., *Policy Analyst, USDA Homeland Security Office*
Introduction: Randy McFarland, *Family Farm Alliance*

- 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. **Coming to the Table: Securing Your Interests Through Collaboration**
Kirk Emerson, *Director, U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, Morris Udall Foundation, Tucson, Arizona*.

Introduction: Randy McFarland, *Family Farm Alliance*

- 5:00 – 5:15 p.m. **Alliance Annual Meeting**

- 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. **Reception**

Friday, February 23

- 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. **Achieving the Bureau of Reclamation's Core Mission in the 21st Century: "Managing for Excellence"**
Brenda Burman, *Deputy Commissioner of Reclamation*
Bruce Muller, *USBR Chief, Dam Safety Office*
Kirk Rodgers, *USBR Mid-Pacific Regional Director*
Introduction: Dan Keppen, *Family Farm Alliance*
- 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. **Reclamation Customers' Perspectives on "Managing for Excellence"**
Leslie James, *Colorado River Energy Distributors Association*
Bennett Raley, *Trout, Raley, Montano, Witwer & Freeman, P.C.*
Norm Semanko, *Executive Director, Idaho Water Users Ass'n, Inc.*
Introduction: Dan Keppen, *Family Farm Alliance*
- 10:25 – 12 p.m. **Reclamation Directors – Panel Discussion**
Regional Directors will join the Commissioner for discussion
Robert Johnson, *Commissioner of Reclamation*
Rick Gold, *Upper Colorado River Region*
Bill McDonald, *Pacific Northwest Region*
Kirk Rodgers, *Mid-Pacific Region*
Mike Ryan, *Great Plains Region*
Introduction: Patrick O'Toole, *Family Farm Alliance*
- 12 – 12:15 p.m. **Closing Comments and Adjournment**
Patrick O'Toole, *President*
- 1:00 p.m. **Depart on Tour Bus for Hoover Dam**
Monte Carlo Lobby
- 2:00 p.m. **Arrive at Hoover Dam – Begin Tour**
Beth Young, *Special Events Coordinator, Hoover Dam Visitor Services*
- 3:30 p.m. **End Tour – Depart for Monte Carlo**
- 4:30 p.m. **Arrive at Monte Carlo**

USDA's Homeland Security Effort Will Be Explained At Conference

Diane DiPietro, a policy analyst who works directly for Acting Director of Homeland Security for USDA Sheryl Maddux, will provide an overview of how the department is looking at homeland security for agriculture and food, and the security partnerships it has with state and industry officials.

"Agriculture and food are important to national security," said DiPietro. "In Las Vegas, I will describe the challenges we face to protect agriculture and food systems, and explain what those protection efforts entail."

Ms. DiPietro and her boss believe public-private partnerships are key to protecting these systems.

MS. DIPIETRO HAS HELD the position of Policy Analyst with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Homeland Security Office since 2003. In this role, she acts as liaison with external entities on policy matters and focuses upon food defense and agricultural security.

Prior to this, Ms. DiPietro was on a detail to the White House Homeland Security Council's Biodefense Directorate where she coordinated interagency food counter-terror efforts. She began her career at USDA as a legislative specialist with the Food Safety and Inspection Service. DiPietro is a graduate from the American University Washington College of Law, Washington DC. She is a member of the Maryland Bar.

Water Experts Will Present Views On Global Warming

(Continued from Page 1)

The relationship between climate change and Western water supplies is one that is seeing growing media interest. California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger just last month triggered an outcry from West Coast environmental activists when he proposed two new surface water storage facilities, citing climate change as justification for the new projects.

THE CLIMATE panel at the conference features four Western speakers with distinct expertise in meteorology, hydrology, climate change and agriculture. Alliance founding member Bill Scott (ARIZONA) – a close observer of Western hydrologic issues – will moderate the two-hour panel.

Dr. Robert Balling, Jr., a professor in the climatology program in the School of Geographical Sciences at Arizona State University, will address projected climate change impacts anticipated in the year 2050 for runoff from the Salt and Verde River systems in Arizona.

Over the past 20 years, Dr. Balling has been involved in a variety of interrelated climatological issues. He has published over 125 articles in the professional scientific literature and has served as a climate consultant to the United Nations Environment Program, the World Climate Program, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. His work on Arizona river systems has important implications for Southwest water users.

"THE OVERALL RESULTS from our work suggest that the runoff from the Salt and Verde will have approximately an 85% chance of being less in the future due largely to warming in the study area," says Dr. Balling.

Bradley Udall, director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Western Water Assessment program at the University of Colorado will discuss efforts underway to assist water-resource decision makers, such as Denver Water.

Udall's program – based at NOAA's Earth Science Research Laboratory in Boulder – uses multidisciplinary teams of experts in climate, water, law, and economics to provide information about natural climate variability and human-caused climate change. Designed to support decision-making, this information usually takes the form of climate forecasts and regional vulnerability assessments. Udall has conducted extensive research in the Colorado River watershed.

THE TWO other panelists will discuss on-the-ground (and in the air) efforts to address changing climate.

Mike Besson, Director of the Wyoming Water Development Commission, will address that state's

aggressive weather modification program.

The Wyoming program consists of two project regions that will use cloud seeding in an attempt to increase precipitation (snowpack) over targeted mountainous areas by up to 10 - 20% per year; amounts well within the range of natural variability between winter seasons and for individual storms.

The two proposed pilot cloud seeding regions are located in two diverse and widely separated areas, the Medicine Bow/Sierra Madre Mountains and the Wind River Range of Wyoming.

Monsanto Company's Dr. David Fischhoff will discuss Monsanto's work to develop crops with improved drought stress tolerance.

"OF THE INPUTS crucial to growing a healthy crop, water is among the most important," said Dr. Fischhoff. "Plants improved through today's biotechnology traits are already providing environmental stress mitigation benefits. Such biotech benefits – potentially available in corn, cotton and oilseeds – may boost yields under reduced moisture levels or allow increased performance with additional water application, helping to alleviate pressure on limited water supplies."

Conference attendees will be able to participate in a question and answer session following the four panel presentations.

DC Insiders Will Again Be Part Of Conference

For the second year in a row, key staffers from important Congressional water committees will participate via live interactive video conference with attendees at the Family Farm Alliance annual conference.

On February 22, Alliance representative Joe Raeder (D.C.) will moderate this annual conference tradition. Participants and the congressional members they work for are already weighing in with their perspectives.

“Our Western water and power infrastructure and the irrigated agriculture it serves remains important for Eastern Washington and all of America,” Water and Power Subcommittee Ranking Republican Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WASHINGTON) told the Family Farm Alliance. “I am proud to have grown up in an agricultural family and have the distinction of representing some of the most productive farmland in North America. I will use my new position in the Water and Power Subcommittee to help keep water flowing to those who have tended to their irrigated lands for generations and to continue the multiple use of our western dams and reservoirs.”

KIEL WEAVER is the Republican Staff Director who reports to Rep. McMorris. Weaver and three other committee staffers on Capitol Hill will participate in a 90- minute interactive discussion with audience members attending the

Alliance conference in Ball Rooms 1 & 2 at the Monte Carlo Resort in Las Vegas.

Joining Weaver in D.C. will be Mike Conner (Majority Counsel, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee), Joshua Johnson (Professional Staff Member, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee), and Steve Lanich (Staff Director, House Water and Power Subcommittee).

THIS YEAR’S PANEL discussion will be particularly timely, as Democratic control of the House and Senate will result in significant changes to the makeup and agendas of the committees that oversee Western water policy. Western water users want to know if the new Congress will focus on key water issues, or instead conduct aggressive oversight of Bush administration policies and actions.

The ranking Republican on the House Water & Power Subcommittee remains committed to the same priorities she espoused in the last Congress.

“At a time when our population is growing, increasing environmental regulations and other pressures are imposing more demands for water,” said Rep. McMorris. “We need to create more water supplies that will benefit humans and our environment. More water storage and better government accountability to ensure our dollars are spent wisely are some of the first steps towards meeting that goal.”

Annual Meeting Features Free Hoover Dam Tour

(Continued from Page 1)

Some of the Annual Meeting’s best moments will be last. A free tour of Hoover Dam, including transportation, is being offered through the cooperation of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Reservations must be made when registering for the Conference.

ATTENDING THE Las Vegas event and making the introduction of Secretary Kempthorne will be the Assistant Secretary for Water and Power, Mark A. Limbaugh.

“This Annual Meeting may be our best yet in addressing such a broad spectrum of vital issues from the viewpoint of respected leaders and policy makers in their fields,” said Keppen.

“As is the Alliance’s custom, all of our participants will answer questions from the audience and those attending will have plenty of opportunities to engage in informal conversations.”

SECRETARY KEMPTHORNE, who was confirmed by the Senate May 26 on a vote of 85-8, has brought an

ambitious agenda into the Interior Department. The secretary has publicly stated that during the next two years, he wants to settle litigation over management of Indian trust accounts, complete modernization of the Endangered Species Act, and advance plans for water conservation and developing alternative energy.

Prior to his confirmation as Secretary, Kempthorne served nearly two terms as Governor of Idaho, elected

first in 1998 and reelected in 2002. As Governor, Kempthorne worked to develop consensus on management of Idaho's and the West's natural resources. He worked with his colleagues in Oregon, Washington and Montana to develop an historic bipartisan agreement on a state-based solution for returning salmon runs in the region.

Kempthorne was also Mayor of Boise (1985-1992). He helped direct a renaissance in the state's capital city.

FAMILY FARM ALLIANCE

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