



AgLeadership

THE CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Legislative and Agency Representatives Tour California Agriculture

SACRAMENTO, July 27, 2009 – A group of 22 legislative and agency representatives from Washington, D.C. and California will participate in a week-long tour of California agriculture in early August.

The Washington, D.C./California Educational Fellowship Program educates participants about important issues facing the industry. It also fosters communication and builds relationships between the agriculture industry and federal and state decision makers. Hosted by the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation, the fellowship program has educated more than 400 government officials since it began in 1982.

This year's tour, set for Aug. 1-8, will take participants through the San Joaquin Valley and San Luis Obispo County. Topics will focus on water, food safety, rural crime and labor. Participants will take part in a variety of issues-based activities and hands-on agricultural experiences, including one-on-one talks, small group discussions, expert panels and site visits. They will also get a personal view of production agriculture by staying with three different farm families.

2009 Fellows

- Norman Bennett, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service
- Ben Chan, Office of Management and Budget
- Victor Francovich, California State Assembly Committee on Agriculture
- Angel Figueroa, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Sharon Hestvik, USDA Risk Management Agency
- Don Hinman, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
- Rick Keigwin, US EPA
- Chris Leggett, Canadian Embassy
- Jennifer Lemly, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- John Matuszak, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science
- Tamara McCandless, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Erin Morris, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
- Susan O'Toole, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Michael Rubio, Kern County Board of Supervisors
- Meredith Rutherford, U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Commission
- Abbey Shaffer, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Kimberly Svec, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service
- Laura Walter, Supervisor, USDA Food and Nutrition Service
- Michael Watson, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Tommy Williams, Office of Management and Budget
- Irving Williamson, U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Commission
- Hallie Zimmers, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

For more information about the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation, visit www.agleaders.org or call 916-928-2202.