

Agricultural Outlook Forum 2000



February 24-25, 2000
Arlington, VA
(minutes from downtown Washington)

Program

Thursday, February 24

GENERAL SESSIONS

Opening Plenary

Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture

Guest speakers to be announced

9:30 a.m.

Farm and Trade Prospects for 2000

Keith Collins, USDA Chief Economist

Gus Schumacher, USDA Under Secretary

10:30 a.m.

Panel: The Future of Bio-Engineered Farm Products

Addressing the controversies over safety, acceptance, and trade

12 noon

Panel: Farming in the New Millennium

Crop and livestock producers discuss changes and challenges

1:00 p.m.

Food Price Briefing

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2:15 p.m. concurrent sessions

Farm Income and Finance Outlook

Outlook by farm type and region; financial impacts of structural changes; rural credit markets

Long-Term Commodity Prospects

The latest long-term projections from USDA and private forecasters

Pros and Cons of Production and Marketing Contracts

What farmers expect, the lessons learned, and future trends

Rural America in the New Millennium

The current situation in rural America and the implications for public policy

4:00 p.m. concurrent sessions

Outlook for WTO Negotiations

Post-Seattle outlook and U.S. goals for the new World Trade Organization round

Biotechnology Issues for U.S. Agriculture

The latest on the approval process for bioengineered crop varieties; the concerns of agronomists, growers, and grain handlers

Farming Strategies for Weathering Tough Times

Methods that prove effective in boosting farmers' returns

Concentration and Structural Change in Agriculture

Evolving organization of farms and agribusiness; antitrust issues; policy response

FORUM DINNER - 6:30 p.m.

With featured speaker; preceded by cash bar at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, February 25

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

8:00 a.m. concurrent sessions

Outlook Sessions: Grains and Oilseeds; Cotton and Fibers; Dairy

The Trade Potential of Sub-Saharan Africa

U.S. Market and investment initiatives; regional views of market development and private investment

Outlook for Labor-Intensive Agriculture

Labor developments affecting farm workers and employers, rural communities, and meat packers

10:00 a.m. concurrent sessions

Outlook Sessions: Livestock and Poultry; Sugar and Sweeteners

New Markets for Bio-Based Energy and Industrial Feedstocks

Demand prospects for bio-based feedstocks for fuel, electricity, and industry

Marketing Information in the Internet Age

How will the Internet change produce price discovery and markets? How does the Agricultural Marketing Service fit in?

The Global Food Market in the 21st Century

Consolidation trends in the U.S. food export industry; international perspective on global food processing, distribution, and retailing

NOON LUNCHEONS

Grains and Oilseeds; Livestock and Poultry; Cotton; Sweeteners; Fruit and Vegetables

Preceded by cash bar, 11:30 a.m.; featured speaker at each luncheon

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:45 p.m. concurrent sessions

Potential Impact of E-Commerce

How electronic commerce could alter the business landscape for agriculture, the farm community, and consumers

Balancing Livestock Production with Environmental Quality

Outlook for Federal, state, and local environmental initiatives regarding nutrient management practices of livestock operations

The Changing Market for Organic Foods

What consumers want; changes in organic retailing; venture capital considerations

Animal and Plant Health Issues in Farm Trade

The impact on U.S. exports and on international trade; case studies of opening markets; setting science-based standards for trade

U.S. and International Tobacco Outlook

Trade prospects; follow-up on the tobacco settlement; alternative marketing proposals

For details on attending the Forum or obtaining speeches afterward:

www.usda.gov/oce ● (202) 720-3050 ● agforum@oce.usda.gov