

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Honorarium or Expense Reimbursement Report (RSA 14-C)
For Legislators and Legislative Employees



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JAN 30 2018

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Type or Print all Information Clearly:

Name: Suzanne J Smith Work Phone No.: 603-715-0086

Work Address: Legislative Office Bldg, Concord NH

Office/Appointment/Employment held: State Representative

List the full name, post office address, occupation, and principal place of business, if any, of the source of any reportable honorarium, expense reimbursement, ticket or free admission to a political, charitable, or ceremonial event, or meals or beverages consumed at a meeting or event, the purpose of which is to discuss official business, with a value greater than \$50.

Source of Honorarium, Expense Reimbursement, Ticket or Free Admission, or Meals and/or Beverages:

Name of Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Place of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

If the source is a Corporation or other Entity:

Name of Corporation or Entity: State Agriculture + Rural Leaders / NH General Court
Name of Person Representing the Corporation/Entity: Carolyn Orr / Speaker Gene Chandler
Work Address of Person Representing the Corporation/Entity: 6181 State Rd 28 West Lebanon NH 47991 / Concord NH

I am reporting:

- A ticket or free admission received pursuant to RSA 14-C:4, I with value over \$50.00.
Meals and/or beverages consumed pursuant to RSA 14-C:4, II with value over \$50.00.
An Honorarium with value over \$50.00.

Value of Honorarium: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ If exact value is unknown, provide an estimate of the value of the gift or honorarium and identify the value as an estimate. Exact Estimate

An Expense Reimbursement with value over \$50.00.

Value of Expense Reimbursement: (SARL) 460.38 393.96 (NH) Date Received: 1-7-18 (SARL) 1-26-18 (NH) If exact value is unknown, provide an estimate of the value of the gift or honorarium and identify the value as an estimate. X Exact Estimate

For a report relating to an honorarium or expense reimbursement, you are required to attach a copy of the agenda or an equivalent document which addresses the subjects addressed and the time schedule of all activities at the event. Indicate below the names of the sponsors of activities in cases where they are not indicated on the agenda or equivalent document.

agenda attached

TURN OVER TO CONTINUE

Provide a brief description of the service or event that gave rise to this Honorarium, Expense Reimbursement, ticket or free admission to a political, charitable, or celebratory event, or meals or beverages:

Three day legislative conference with focus on rural policy and agriculture issues.

"I have read RSA 14-C and hereby swear or affirm that the foregoing information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief."

*Erinne Smith*  
SIGNATURE OF FILER

1-30-18  
DATE FILED

**RSA 14-C:7 Penalty.** Any person who knowingly fails to comply with the provisions of this chapter or knowingly files a false report shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

**Return to:** Secretary of State's Office, State House Room 204, Concord, NH 03301

[REDACTED]

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## Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

Our Saturday sessions are developed by the attendees of the last Summit. After the topics are fleshed out, we find the nation's leading experts on the topics and ask them each to prepare about 15 minutes of material, and then depend on you, the attendees, to share your experience, insights and questions; your involvement is what makes or breaks every session. If you have legislation you would like to share with the group, please let Carolyn know to add it to the resource page!

**6:30 am – 7:50 am**      **Breakfast Buffet - Salon 1**

**8:00 am**            **Welcome and Opening Plenary, Salon 2 & 3.**

*Moderator, Representative Steve Kulik, Massachusetts*

**8:15 am -8:50 am**    **Millennial Focus Group:** Listen to Middle America consumers respond to questions put together by SARL members on food, agriculture and technology. Please respect their opinions and refrain from responding to them directly. Questions will be collected on notecards.

*Allyson Perry, The Center for Food Integrity*

**8:50 – 9:45 am**    **How to sell the agriculture/rural story.** One of the nation's most influential political campaign communicator will talk to us about how to sell the rural story to today's consumer. As an audience we can discuss the focus group after they have left.

*Steve Jarding, Harvard Kennedy School*

**10:00 am -11:15 am**    **Breakout I**

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A.    **Local Food Systems and State's and Provinces' Efforts to Support Entrepreneurship, Ballroom Pre-function Area.**  
Do you wonder what the real role of local food systems in the state economy is? How you can put together a state wide local food system? Join the expert on what consumers buy what they buy, what that means to the local food movement and what the local food movement means to the economy and the man responsible for putting plans for a statewide sustainable food system into action in a discussion on the local food movement. Bring your ideas and questions.

*Winton Pitcoff, Executive Director, Massachusetts Food System Collaborative*

*Dawn Thilmany, Professor, Colorado State University*

*Moderator, Senator Carolyn McGinn, Kansas*

*Staff, Bob Haefner*

B.    **Affordable Rural Housing and Its Impact on the Rural Workforce, Pavilion 6.**

Affordable workforce housing is imperative to the ability of employers to keep the workers they need. Surveys in multiple states have shown that large portions of rural America do not have enough affordable, livable housing. Ensuring that rural residents can live in the communities where they work is important for the viability of those rural communities, there isn't anyone in the nation with a broader background in rural housing than the speaker in this session. Come talk about possible solutions and options at the federal, state and non-profit levels.

*David Lipsetz, Executive Director, Housing Assistance Council*

*Moderator, Annette Sweeney*

*Staff, Sarah Thorn*

C.    **State Legislation impacting Pets, Pavilion 2.**

Whether it is activists or advocates, there are an ever increasing number of laws introduced seeking to regulate pet ownership. There is an increasing issue of animal importations to meet adoption demands and a movement to change the definition of ownership. Patti Strand has spent her life tracking legislation affecting animal owners and Elizabeth Choate works for the veterinarians in one of the largest livestock states in the nation. If together they can't bring you up to date on animal legislation, no one can. What is happening in your state?

*Patti Strand, National Director, National Animal Interest Alliance*

*Elizabeth Choate, Texas Veterinary Medical Association*

*Moderator, Representative Kevin Ryan, Connecticut*

*Staff, Tara Sad*



**D. The States/Provinces; Marijuana Regulation, Successes and Failures, Pavilion 3.**

When you ask the Senate President in the state that leads the nation in marijuana firsts, who he calls with questions on marijuana policy, and he says Kristi Kelly, then that's who you get to tell other state legislators what is going on. Let's not focus on whether you think it is wrong or right, but on how states are doing it and what has worked and what doesn't work.

*Kristi Lee Kelly, Executive Director, Marijuana Industry Group*  
*Moderator, Representative Norine Hammond, Illinois*  
*Staff, Anne Roberts Brody*

**E. The Future of the Renewable Fuel Industry and the Impact of Natural Gas, Pavilion 1.**

One topic we have never discussed is natural gas, which may be the elephant in the room. Its availability not only impacts the price of every other carbon based fuel, it impacts fertilizer prices dramatically. What is the future of natural gas in North America and how does this impact the future of renewable fuels? Renewable fuels drive much of the agriculture market so where are we headed with changes in federal and state policy?

*Geoff Cooper, Executive Vice President, Renewable Fuels Association*  
*John Harpoole, President, Mercato Energy*  
*Moderator, Senator Eddie Fields, Oklahoma*  
*Staff, Ben Husch, NCSL*

**11:30am -12:30 pm Lunch, Salon 1.**

*Moderator, Representative Brad Witt, Oregon*  
*John Cruickshank, Canadian Consul General, Chicago*

**12:45 – 1:30 pm Plenary 2 Trade: The Role of and Reward for States and Provinces. Salon 2 & 3**

What is the value of trade to state and provincial coffers? How do state and provincial trade efforts really work for those companies that are wanting to export?

*Peter Hall, Vice-President and Chief Economist, Export Development Canada*  
*Norm Krug, CEO, Preferred Popcorn*  
*Moderator, Representative Senator John Kuehn, Nebraska*

**1:45 – 3:00 pm Breakout II**

**A. Cyber Security, Pavilion 6.**

Cybersecurity is not just a big-city problem. In America's Heartland we are producing a valuable product that adversaries want. It is why they are and will continue targeting us. This isn't even thinking about the target you are in the statehouse! As a result of the proliferation of technology we face a changing world order in which lone hackers, organized crime syndicates and nation states are all increasingly able to harm our shared networks and our livelihoods. Few of us are prepared. Can you imagine if our rural electric, bank or health care system was compromised? Join this session to hear what Homeland Security is doing, what states and what you can do to help protect our data.

*Geoffrey F Jenista, Cyber Security Adviser, Homeland Security*  
*Moderator, Dana Brooks, Land O Lakes*

**B. Market Driven Sustainability Efforts. Pavilion 1**

You may not like the word sustainability, the term may have been co-opted, but consumers and the industry buying our products are demanding it. Dr. Rice, world renown for his work in soil health can explain how soil is crucial to protecting water quality and every aspect of environmental stewardship and sustainability. Hear about the research and farmers that are fostering a transformation in agriculture through improved soil health, bioenergy and carbon sequestration. Combine that with the woman that led Lisa Ling through Cargill and is now Vice President of the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef in addition to her role as OSI's senior vice president of the company's McDonald's global business unit, they will convince you that sustainability in agriculture is essential, environmentally sound, socially responsible and most important economically viable.

*Charles Rice, Professor, Kansas State University*  
*Nicole Hoffman Johnson, Senior Vice President, OSI Group*  
*Moderator, Doug Jones, Idaho*  
*Staff, Anne Roberts Brody, CSG*



**C. State/Provincial Water and Environmental Efforts, Pavilion 3.**

*Between lawsuits, budget battles, hogs and corn, Iowa has all the makings of the state to lead the way in water quality issues, and it doesn't disappoint. But our speaker can talk beyond Iowa's borders about ways that states can address water quality, carrots, sticks and more. And if there is one area impacting water more than crop fertilizer, it is manure, there is no one in North America better suited to talk to you about how to store it to keep it out of the water than our NCRS presenter. So come to this session to talk with people about how to improve your state's water.*

*Mike Naig, Deputy Director, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship*

*Jeff Porter, Animal Manure Management Team Leader, USDA - NRCS*

*Moderator, Assembly member Didi Barrett, New York*

*Staff, Tara Sad*

**D. New Ideas for Rural Education, Pavilion 2.**

Rural education has to do more than urban education, with less. Beginning with the nation's expert on issues impacting rural school districts and continuing with a discussion on how to involve community college students in active apprenticeships, join this session to learn ways to revitalize your rural schools.

*Shonda Atwater, Metropolitan Community College*

*Allen Pratt, Executive Director, National Rural Education Association*

*Moderator, Representative John Patterson, Ohio*

*Staff, Bob Haefner*

**E. Challenges Facing Growing the Livestock Industry, Ballroom Pre-function Area.**

Join the nation's top odor expert, one of the best in the nation at helping corporate America address activists and changing consumer demands and a national expert in building bridges between livestock producers and consumers to learn how policy makers can help address the issues that challenge the livestock industry. We all know that odor, neighbor's perceptions and water quality are three of the key issues limiting the expansion of the livestock industry, how can these be addressed in policy and practice?

*Steve Hoff, Professor, Iowa State University*

*Sara Lilygren, Independent Consultant*

*Ashley McCarty, Executive Director, Missouri Farmers Care*

*Moderator, Senator Bill Heath, Georgia*

*Staff, Tara Sad*

3:15- 4:30 pm Breakout III

**A. The Changing Face of Rural Health Care, Ballroom Prefunction Area.**

Rural residents face a variety of access barriers to critical health care, whether it is medical, dental or mental. Ideally, residents should be able to conveniently and confidently access services such as primary care, dental care, behavioral health, emergency care, and public health services. Come think outside of the box with the man who knows what is going on in rural health care across the country and a school superintendent/legislator who took the lack of health care in his school into his own hands.

*Alan Morgan, Executive Director, National Rural Health Association*

*Moderator, Representative Terry Goodin, Indiana*

*Staff, Sarah Thorn*

**B. Growing the Dairy Industry, A Working Session. Pavilion 6.**

If you are passionate about the dairy industry, come to this session and develop a plan to help the dairy industry. This is a working session. Two of the top dairy economists in the nation will tell you what they think the short/long term future of the industry is, but then you are expected to help Commissioner Harsdorf develop a list of things states/provinces can do to help the dairy industry, a keystone industry for many of our states.

*Scott Brown, Missouri State University*

*Mark Stephenson, University of Wisconsin*

*Moderator, Commissioner Sheila Harsdorf, Wisconsin*

*Staff Karen Marshall*





# Homeland Security Biography

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## **Geoffrey F. Jenista**

Cyber Security Advisor, Region VII (MO, KS, IA, NE)  
Office of Cybersecurity & Communication  
Stakeholder Engagement and Cyber Infrastructure Resilience



Mr. Jenista serves as Cyber Security Advisor, Region VII, for the Stakeholder Engagement and Cyber Infrastructure Resilience Division of the Office of Cybersecurity and Communications (CS&C), National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD). He supports the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) mission of strengthening the security and resilience of the nation's critical infrastructure.

His program coordinates cyber preparedness, risk mitigation and incident response, and provides cyber security resources, including assessments, to the nation's sixteen critical infrastructure sectors and state, local, tribal, and territorial government entities.

Prior to joining the Department of Homeland Security he worked for the U.S. Army as an Army Enterprise Systems Branch Chief and Information Systems Security Manager with responsibility for all aspects of Technical support, Service Delivery, Risk Management, Project Management, Enterprise Architecture and Information Security. Prior to joining the U.S. Army he served in the U.S. Navy as a Senior Chief Petty Officer, holding duties as an Executive Officer, Weapons Officer and AEGIS Maintenance Supervisor from 1983 to 2005.

Mr. Jenista holds a MBA and a MA in Information Technology Management from Webster University. He has a BS in Computer Information Systems from Park University and he holds the Certified Information System Security Professional (CISSP) certification.



## STATE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LEADERS January 7, 2018 Annual Meeting Agenda

- I. Representative Steve Kulik and Senator Eddie Fields  
Announcements  
Election  
Resolutions
- II. Announcement of 202 Co-Chairs
- III. Presentation of 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes – Ralph Eichler

### January 2017 – Annual Meeting Minutes

- I. Representative Steve Kulik welcomed attendees, brought meeting to order
- II. MLA Ralph Eichler presented the Minutes of 2016 Meeting, which were approved as submitted.
- III. 2016 Treasurers Report was presented by Annette Sweeney and approved as submitted
- IV. Report on 2017 Election of Board and Officers  
Steve Kulik was reelected President. His term ends in 2019, when he is term limited  
Brian Munzlinger was reelected Vice President. His term ends in 2019, when he is term limited  
Eddie Fields was reelected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. His term ends in 2019, when he is term limited  
Norine Hammond was reelected to the Board, her term ends in 2019, when she is term limited  
Carolyn McGinn was reelected to the Board, her term ends in 2019, when she is term limited  
Eddie Fields was reelected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. His term ends in 2019, when he is term limited  
John Patterson was newly elected to the board. His first term ends in 2019  
Marla Calico was newly elected to the board. Her first term ends in 2019
- VI. Representative Kulik reminded people to save the Jan 5-7 for the 2018 Summit in Kansas City
- VII. Meeting was adjourned.

III. Presentation of 2017 Treasurers Report - Annette Sweeney

VII. Adjournment



## SARL 2017 Treasurers Report

		2017	2016	\$ 2,015.00
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>January 1</b>	<b>\$185,875</b>	\$ 186,840.99	\$ 175,427.35
Income	Public Support	<b>\$323,818.00</b>	\$ 277,335.63	\$ 229,813.28
	Program Income	<b>\$1,100.00</b>	\$ 1,097.96	\$ 2,566.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<b><u>\$324,918.00</u></b>	<u>\$ 278,433.59</u>	<u>\$ 232,379.28</u>
 Expenses				
	Exchange and Wire Transfer Fees	<b>\$138.00</b>	\$128	\$50
	Condolences	<b>\$478.00</b>		
	State Registration Fees	<b>\$36.00</b>	\$36	\$121
	Event Insurance	<b>\$126.00</b>	\$126	\$126
	Contract Labor	<b>\$41,280.00</b>	\$37,644	\$22,500
	Duplicating, Printing	<b>\$570.00</b>	\$3,518	\$3,211
	website, software	<b>\$1,535.00</b>	\$386	\$505
	Postage & Shipping	<b>\$1,176.00</b>	\$4,068	\$1,871
	bags, gifts, mouse pads	<b>\$4,860.00</b>	\$13,847	\$7,731
	Hotel, Site Visits, Summit Expenses	<b>\$162,211.00</b>	\$135,208	\$116,693
	offsite meals, travel		\$16,006	\$7,211
	conference calling	<b>\$128.00</b>	\$162	\$691
	supplies	<b>\$2,528.00</b>	\$1,730	\$1,531
	Legislator Travel	<b>\$26,247.00</b>	\$36,882	\$39,991
	Speaker Travel/fees	<b>\$19,744.00</b>	\$21,050	\$12,843
	Staff Travel, hotel inspection visits	<b><u>\$5,347.00</u></b>	<u>\$8,608</u>	<u>\$5,890</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$266,266.00</b>	\$279,399	\$220,966
 <b>Ending Balance</b>	 <b>December 31</b>	 <b>\$244,526.00</b>	 \$185,875	 \$186,841



In collaboration with the Midwestern Legislative Conference, SARL maintains Ag Clips, a website of agriculture and rural news and releases a weekly roundup of these clips. Below is a summary of some news items that were included over the last several months that are related to state and provincial legislature and topics in this summit.

To subscribe go to <http://sarl.us/subscribe-agclips>

#### **Minnesota passes first-of-its-kind beginning farmer tax credit**

<https://www.agdaily.com/news/minnesota-beginning-farmer-tax-credit/>

Through the bill, landowners receive a state income tax credit when they sell or rent land or agricultural assets to a beginning farmer. The credit equals five percent of the sale price or ten percent of the cash rent, or fifteen percent for a cash share agreement. In turn, the beginning farmer must take a farm management course to qualify for the tax incentive and would be eligible for a tax credit covering the full cost of training. The tax credit is effective in the 2018 tax year and is funded at 12 million dollars for the 2020-2021 biennium. The funds are available on a first-come-first-served basis. Finally, the sunset for the credit is 2023 with the Rural Finance Authority issuing a report on the effectiveness of the credit no later than Feb. 1, 2022.

#### **Judge sets timetable for hog farm nuisance lawsuits in N.C.**

<http://www.meatingplace.com/Industry/News/Details/76909>

Litigation against alleged pollution by the hog industry in eastern North Carolina will move forward with two test cases in April 2018, a federal judge ruled this week. U.S. District Judge W. Earl Britt said the initial trial would involve up to 10 plaintiffs with similar accusations against the hog farms, which are accused of releasing noxious fumes, making disruptive noise and expelling liquid excrement into the surrounding areas. The original lawsuits involved more than 500 neighbors of hog farms and those accused include a subsidiary of Virginia-based Smithfield Foods, now a division of China's WH Group. North Carolina contributed an estimated \$2.3 billion to the nation's hog industry in 2015, according to USDA figures. Subsequent trials will take place two weeks after the first trial and continue every month until decisions based on individual charges against the operations are reached. Attorneys for the plaintiffs noted that the affected neighbors are not accusing the hog farms of causing health issues, which should limit any confusion among potential jurors as to the actual charges against specific hog producers in specific areas, the report added.

#### **Agriculture has a lot of friends in Idaho Legislature**

<http://www.capitalpress.com/Idaho/20171207/where-agriculture-gets-respect-in-the-legislature>

At least 24 percent of the Idaho Legislature — 25 out of 105 lawmakers — are either current or retired farmers or ranchers or involved in agribusiness. Why it's important: When it comes to understanding farm-related legislation, "It certainly makes it easier if there is a basic understanding of agriculture to start with," said Sen. Bert Brackett, a Republican rancher from Rogerson. With 24 percent of the Legislature, ranchers and farmers also hold many leadership positions.

#### **FDA Releases Annual Summary Report on Antimicrobials Sold or Distributed in 2016 for Use in Food-Producing Animals**

<https://www.fda.gov/downloads/ForIndustry/UserFees/AnimalDrugUserFeeActADUFA/UCM588085.pdf>

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today published its annual report summarizing sales and distribution data for all antimicrobial drugs approved for use in food-producing animals. The 2016 report shows that antimicrobial sales decreased from 2015 to 2016, with domestic sales and distribution of all antimicrobials decreasing by 10 percent and domestic sales and distribution of medically important antimicrobials decreasing by 14 percent. In previous years (between 2009 and 2015), overall sales volumes increased annually.

#### **Some Idaho milk producers lose contracts**

<http://www.capitalpress.com/Dairy/20171122/some-idaho-milk-producers-lose-contracts>



Increasing milk production and buyers' inability to continue to move excess milk out of state is expected to reduce Idaho's dairy herd by 10,000 cows in the next few months.

#### **Washington State Department of Agriculture WSDA acts on goal to radio tag all cows**

<http://www.capitalpress.com/Livestock/20171221/wsa-acts-on-goal-to-radio-tag-all-cows>

The Washington State Department of Agriculture's goal is to tag every cow with radio-frequency identification; there will be resistance. The department says the tags will help follow a cow from birth to slaughter, aiding animal-health officials to speedily respond to diseases and bringing the state in line with coming USDA standards. The department indicated it will propose replacing metal ID tags with radio-frequency identification, or RFID, on tens of thousands of cows. According to WSDA, electronic tags will be less prone to record-keeping errors and help track cattle as individuals, not just part of a branded herd. "Updating our rules to incorporate RFID devices is an important first step in strengthening our state's animal disease traceability system," State Veterinarian Brian Joseph said in a written statement.

#### **New Jersey looks to make 'drunken-droning' a crime**

<https://nypost.com/2017/12/08/new-jersey-looks-to-make-drunken-droning-a-crime/>

State lawmakers on passed legislation that would bar people from operating drones while drunk. The New Jersey bill would make operating a drone under the influence of alcohol a disorderly person offense, which carries a sentence of up to six months in jail, a \$1,000 fine or both, upon conviction. It also would make using a drone to hunt wildlife and endanger people or property a similar offense. The Democrat-led Senate approved the legislation 39-0. Lawmakers say the changes are aimed at pre-empting local ordinances that might vary.

#### **Manitoba Pilot program seeking dairy farmers to make it easier to hire locally**

<http://edairynews.com/en/pilot-program-seeking-dairy-farmers-56957/>

Keystone Agricultural Producers is working with Workplace Education Manitoba and Industry Training and Employment Services to create a pilot program that would see interested participants trained to work on dairy farms in southeastern parts of the province. "The idea behind it is to fill some of the gaps in labor for farmers in Manitoba," said Keystone policy analyst Alanna Grey. "It's pretty significant how some of the labor shortage you experience can impact the finances of your operation." The program will pair a dozen dairy farmers with individuals currently looking for employment and provide them with detailed training. The plan is to teach the requirements required by industry, as well as working to upgrade literacy and numeracy skills. But first, the pilot project will work to identify suitable candidates for the program.

#### **Consumers increasingly dictate production, retail placement through emerging fork-to-farm model**

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2017/12/13/Consumers-dictate-production-placement-through-fork-to-farm-model>

Increasingly savvy shoppers who are well-versed in food production and nutrition are turning the tables on the farm-to-fork marketing model that once educated them and influenced what they consumed to create a fork-to-farm model that requires producers, manufacturers and retailers to meet their continuously changing preferences for new products and increased quality, according to Rabobank analysts. In the past five years, the entire food and beverage supply chain and industry has undergone a "truly historic transformation ... that instead of our industry working from a push point-of-view, it is now working from a pull point-of-view," Donald Meltzer, of Rabobank. As a result, he said, "the consumers are demanding variation that basically our supply chain was not originally set up to manage" and, therefore, it is creating pressure on merchandising and processing companies in the midstream, as well as increased opportunities for players at either end of the supply chain. For example, farm-to-fork messaging about the health benefits and sustainability of fruits and vegetables helped drive up demand for produce by a "respectable 15% to 16%," but a "look under the hood at some specific categories of fruits and vegetables" shows that consumer preference for convenience is influencing what specific produce is selling and how retailers are marketing it. Specifically, he said, consumer desire for convenience that is pushing shoppers to ecommerce and meal kits will place pressure on beef and create new avenues for chicken and pork. He explained that overcrowding in meal kits means many players are judged not on design or menu, but on price, with the bulk falling in the \$9-\$12 per plate range. This range prices out many beef options, but is a generous range for



less expensive broilers and pork, he said. "Just the opposite is true, however, when we go to ecommerce where we see incredible opportunity" for more expensive or exotic animal proteins because it enables producers to reach a broader audience, and service consumer demand for natural, antibiotic free, organic or lesser known animals that would be considered niche requests in brick and mortar stores, Close said. "For the smaller producers and specialty producers that are looking to enter the marketplace, this can be a really good opportunity," he said

#### **States sue Massachusetts over animal confinement law**

<https://www.wattagnet.com/articles/32926-states-sue-massachusetts-over-animal-confinement-law?v=preview>

Indiana and 12 other states are suing Massachusetts over its farm animal confinement law, which is set to take effect in 2022. The lawsuit, which was filed by the State of Indiana in Supreme Court of the United States, takes exception to the future law, which makes it illegal for farmers to keep sows in gestation crates, layer hens in cages, or calves in veal crates. The law will also make it illegal for products raised in other states and not in accordance with those standards to be sold in Massachusetts. The law was approved through a ballot initiative, known as Question 3, in 2016, gaining approval from about 78 percent of Massachusetts voters. Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin joined Indiana in the suit. The states allege that the Massachusetts law is an effort to regulate farming in other states, which is a violation of the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

#### **'Puppy Mills' Targeted by One State, Activists Seek Others**

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2017/12/13/puppy-mills-targeted-by-one-state-activists-seek-others>

The number of local ordinances across the country banning the sale of pets from commercial breeders, defined as large operations that raise pets for wholesale distribution, has grown from about a hundred last year to about 250. "The momentum is there," said Goodwin, senior director of the Humane Society's Stop Puppy Mills campaign. California this fall became the first state to outright ban sales of commercially raised animals in retail shops — a new success for activists working across the country to transform the way pets are taken in by families. Although the U.S. Department of Agriculture regulates large-scale commercial breeders, animal welfare activists say that as shelter adoptions continue to rise, consumers are becoming more aware of the unsafe, unsanitary conditions in which commercially bred pets are sometimes raised. Activists nationwide hope California becomes a model of how to turn local ordinances into a statewide law. The idea is to approach smaller jurisdictions first, planting the seeds for statewide action, said Elizabeth Oreck, national manager of puppy mill initiatives at Best Friends Animal Society, a nationwide organization. In California, at least 36 municipalities, including Los Angeles, San Francisco and Sacramento, approved banning the stores from selling pets before the California Legislature acted.

#### **With pineapple and sugar production gone, Hawaii weighs its agricultural future**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/with-pineapple-and-sugar-production-gone-hawaii-weighs-its-agricultural-future/2017/12/17/c6e69236-e105-11e7-8679-a9728984779c\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/with-pineapple-and-sugar-production-gone-hawaii-weighs-its-agricultural-future/2017/12/17/c6e69236-e105-11e7-8679-a9728984779c_story.html)

Tens of thousands of abandoned acres of farmland lie fallow on this island, cemeteries of Hawaii's defunct plantation era, which met its end last year when the state's last remaining sugar grower shut down an operation that had run for 146 years. Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co.'s sprawling sugar cane fields used to provide visitors to Maui a rolling green blanket as they arrived at the airport, but they are newly stagnant, joining other growers in a long decline. Facing competition from cheap foreign labor, a shortage of farmworkers and some of the nation's highest land costs, the sugar and pineapple plantations that used to be the state's lifeblood are not redeploying into active agriculture, raising questions about the industry's future here. "Pineapple is lost, sugar is lost, and we now have one sole industry, which is a very dangerous position to be in," said Maui County Councilman Alika Atay. "We have put all our eggs into one basket, and that is tourism. But not everybody who lives on this island wants to work in the hotel industry, and it's almost impossible to feed a family here working as a farmer. We are now seeing drastic displacement of young people leaving Maui because of a lack of economic opportunity." The closure of Maui's last sugar producer marked a pivotal moment



in Hawaii's agricultural production. Since 1980, Hawaii's total land use for agricultural production has shrunk by about 68 percent, according to data from the University of Hawaii. The state's Agriculture Department is working on the issue with a depleted staff — 122 of its 360 positions are vacant, including the entire branch responsible for market analysis and tracking the state's trends in food imports and production. The agency is narrowing its focus to court outside capital for investments in Hawaii food production and is studying the possibility of allowing farmers to inhabit small family homes alongside their crop beds. Tenant farming is now restricted on state agriculture land.

### **As gas taxes fall short of funding Colorado's roads, CDOT gets good reviews on test of mileage-based system but concerns remain**

[https://www.denverpost.com/2017/12/12/colorado-mileage-tax-experiment/?utm\\_campaign=2017-12-13+Stateline+Daily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Pew](https://www.denverpost.com/2017/12/12/colorado-mileage-tax-experiment/?utm_campaign=2017-12-13+Stateline+Daily&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Pew)

Amid the praise, concerns emerged about privacy, out-of-state drivers and penalizing cars that use little to no gas. A four-month study designed to measure Coloradans' appetite for overhauling how the state pays for roads offers a glimpse of the challenges that await as changing technology erodes the clout of gasoline taxes. The study enlisted 150 drivers to evaluate the prospect of calculating state transportation funding based on the miles they drive. Several issues emerged from the broadly positive results, including privacy concerns stemming from the program's use of GPS, the challenge of collecting revenue from out-of-state motorists traveling through Colorado and the appearance of punishing drivers of electric or fuel-sipping vehicles. "In order to get closer to making a pitch for implementation, we have to answer more questions," said Tim Kirby, a planning manager with the Colorado Department of Transportation. "We're at the beginning stages of research." CDOT released results Tuesday from its Road Usage Charge Pilot Program, which was conducted from December 2016 through April of this year, as it seeks to identify more stable sources of road tax revenue. The good news is that the initial feedback from the study was generally positive. More than 90 percent of participants thought the system, which let drivers record and report their mileage manually or with a device plugged into their car, was accurate and easy to use. And 81 percent of participants said a road usage charge is a "fair funding method" to address the glaring needs of a state trying to maintain the health of its roads and bridges in the face of rapid population growth.

### **Cuomo announces 50% growth in craft beer-making in New York since 2014**

<http://www.whec.com/news/cuomo-craft-beer-making50-percent-growth-since-2014/4704338/>

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced Tuesday that the number of craft beer makers in New York State has grown 50 percent since 2014, when the Craft New York Act was put into place. In a press release, the Governor's office notes that 340 new craft beverage businesses have opened their doors since the act. "This administration has worked hard to cut red tape, lower costs and roll back burdensome regulations for New York's craft beverage industry - efforts that are clearly paying off in every corner of this great state," Governor Cuomo said in the release. "I'm proud of the continued growth of this sector, which has created jobs, spurred tourism, supported New York farms and led to the creation of top-notch world-renown products." The Governor's office noted that New York is now one of the top five states in America for number of craft beverage producers in every major category.

### **Georgia lawmakers propose tax breaks and fast internet for rural areas**

<http://www.myajc.com/news/state--regional-govt--politics/georgia-lawmakers-propose-tax-breaks-and-fast-internet-for-rural-areas/JXNPVDzSkQVGvJBRM5sYuO/>

A powerful group of state lawmakers approved sweeping proposals designed to encourage people and businesses to move to rural Georgia. The group voted unanimously to support income tax breaks worth up to \$6,000 a year, high-speed internet lines in unconnected areas and better health care access. The recommendations of the Georgia House of Representatives Rural Development Council could become a reality if enacted by the state Legislature next year. House Speaker David Ralston, R-Blue Ridge, said the council's initiatives are a high priority as lawmakers try to bolster far-reaching stretches of the state. The efforts are focused on counties losing population and jobs to cities, leaving behind areas with few prospects for economic growth. Of Georgia's 159 counties, 124 of them had less than 5 percent population growth for five straight years. The ambitious effort is meant to upgrade the state's sparsely populated



regions so that more jobs will be available, reducing the economic need for locals to move to cities. To encourage businesses to relocate to rural areas, lawmakers say they intend to improve internet service, education and health. Among the council's recommendations: An income tax deduction worth up to \$3,000 a year for anyone who moves to a rural area. The tax break would double in counties that also give real estate property tax discounts for new residents. The group did not say how much it might cost the state. State funding for internet companies to offer high-speed service in underserved areas. About 16 percent of Georgians lack access to broadband internet. Establishment of a Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovations to assist communities in recruiting businesses and identifying growth areas.

#### **MFA sets strict internal policies for sale, use of Dicamba.**

[http://www.hpi.com/crops/mfa-sets-strict-internal-policies-for-sale-use-of-dicamba/article\\_8901d596-d522-11e7-8d9e-2b42d01c057e.html](http://www.hpi.com/crops/mfa-sets-strict-internal-policies-for-sale-use-of-dicamba/article_8901d596-d522-11e7-8d9e-2b42d01c057e.html)

Intensive scouting protocol will base application dates on soybean growth stages. Applicators will be alerted when the majority of soybeans in their area have reached the reproductive stage, when dicamba injury can do the most harm to non-target plants.

#### **Puppies Rescued From Puerto Rico May Have Leptospirosis**

<http://time.com/5030710/new-hampshire-puppies-leptospirosis/>

Health officials in New Hampshire are warning residents after a puppy brought to the state from hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico tested positive for a bacterial infection that can be transmitted to humans.

#### **Idaho High School Senior Proposes Bill Mandating Ag Education**

<http://www.capitalpress.com/Idaho/20171124/high-school-senior-proposes-bill-mandating-ag-education>

A bill will be proposed during the 2018 Idaho legislative session requiring all students who graduate high school to have taken at least two agriculture education classes.

#### **Minnesota Ag loans expand for more pollution prevention; State extends eligibility to include larger livestock operations**

<http://www.austindailyherald.com/2017/11/ag-loans-expand-for-more-pollution-prevention-state-extends-eligibility-to-include-larger-livestock-operations/>

Low-interest loans for projects that help prevent pollution are being expanded by the state to include larger livestock operations. Minnesota Department of Agriculture is expanding the Agricultural Best Management Practices – better known as AgBMP – loans under an agreement with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program in Louisiana. Livestock operations holding National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits or those with more than 1,000 animal units now can apply.

#### **Pennsylvania Reconvenes Rural Development Council**

[http://www.lancasterfarming.com/news/farm\\_policy/pennsylvania-reconvenes-rural-development-council/article\\_f2fd8105-aaa3-536c-98fa-5e7453119c93.html](http://www.lancasterfarming.com/news/farm_policy/pennsylvania-reconvenes-rural-development-council/article_f2fd8105-aaa3-536c-98fa-5e7453119c93.html)

Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding presided over the first meeting of the reconstituted Rural Development Council on behalf of Gov. Tom Wolf. The governor is re-establishing the council to give rural Pennsylvanians a louder voice in state government and to better coordinate state programs for rural communities. "Pennsylvania has nearly 3.4 million Pennsylvanians living in rural areas, spread throughout 66 of our 67 counties," said Redding, who will chair the council. "This council will help ensure rural Pennsylvania voices are heard as we work together across sectors to solve problems and develop strategies designed to grow our rural communities and ensure they are vibrant places to call home," he said. The council consists of leaders from public, private and nonprofit sectors across the state. Former U.S. Rep. Mark Critz serves as the executive director.



### **Ohio Announce Changes to Ohio's Livestock Care Standards**

[http://www.agri.ohio.gov/public\\_docs/news/2017/11.13.17%20ODA%20Announces%20Changes%20to%20Ohios%20Livestock%20Care%20Standards.pdf](http://www.agri.ohio.gov/public_docs/news/2017/11.13.17%20ODA%20Announces%20Changes%20to%20Ohios%20Livestock%20Care%20Standards.pdf)

Effective January 1, 2018, veal calves must be housed in group pens by ten weeks of age. Additionally, whether housed in individual stalls or group pens the calves must be allowed to turn around and cannot be tethered. Also effective January 1, tail docking on dairy cattle can only be performed by a licensed veterinarian and if only medically necessary.

### **Minnesota Testing Farmer Health-Care Cooperative**

<https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/news/livestock/article/2017/11/06/changes-farmers-minnesota-testing>

The idea of a farmer health-care cooperative had been kicked around in Minnesota since 2009 but had faced multiple regulatory stumbling blocks. At the end of last year, Minnesota farmers complained to state lawmakers that the insurance exchange was collapsing down to one insurance option across much of the exchange and as many as seven counties in the state were looking at no insurance option. Minnesota lawmakers passed legislation last spring specifically allowing farmers and their employees to form a health-care cooperative. "It will fill a need in the individual marketplace for the people who have gotten hammered by the premium increases," said Gary Wertish, president of the Minnesota Farmers Union. "This is where all the farmers fall, and this is an attempt to correct that." The cooperative, called 40 Square, is a self-insurance plan that operates like most insurance policies with a deductible, copays and a percentage of out-of-pocket costs. Deductibles and out-of-pocket costs are waived for routine preventive care, and there are standard costs for prescription drugs. A summary of 40 Square plans offers annual deductible options for families from \$3,000 to \$13,100 in different plans.

### **Ohio Supreme Court says CAUV woodland owners can appeal**

<https://www.farmanddairy.com/news/ohio-supreme-court-says-cauv-woodland-owners-can-appeal/462099.html>

A group of woodland owners who believe they have been overcharged for their property taxes can appeal the values to the Ohio Board of Tax Appeals. A group of landowners from 20 Ohio counties had previously appealed their CAUV values to the Board of Tax Appeals, arguing their taxes were too high because the state used too low of a cost for clearing woodlands, and that the board's rules were unreasonable.

### **Illinois Praised as Property Tax Model for Wind Farms**

<http://tspr.org/post/illinois-praised-property-tax-model-wind-farms>

Illinois' taxing model for wind energy companies is touted as one of the best in the country, bringing in \$30.4 million in property taxes in 2016, according to economic experts. Barton DeLacy, a tax expert from Chicago, said that the Illinois system is a good model that is very close to the value he gives to wind farms and is much more consistent than in other states. The change came in 2007, after the Illinois state legislature determined the state's haphazard system of property tax assessments created inconsistent and confusing assessments for wind energy companies. Up until then, wind farms were assessed on a county-by-county basis leading to a system where schools were not being able to predict how much revenue they would receive from the taxes and companies being uncertain on how much they would have to pay each year.

### **Louisiana agriculture chief unveils new mobile pet shelter for floods, emergencies**

[http://www.nola.com/pets/index.ssf/2017/12/louisiana\\_agriculture\\_chief\\_un.html](http://www.nola.com/pets/index.ssf/2017/12/louisiana_agriculture_chief_un.html)

Louisiana's agriculture department has unveiled its second mobile pet shelter for emergencies. It's similar to one rolled out during the 2015 hurricane season. The new unit is a 48-foot transport truck equipped with up to 55 metal cages, feed, water bowls and a wash down system. It has an air ventilation system to provide proper air circulation and temperature for the pets. The agriculture department can accommodate up to 3,000 pets at established mega pet shelters. The mobile pet shelter is primarily used when sudden events -- such as the August 2016 flood -- occur in areas where pet shelters aren't available.



### **Texas A&M AgriLife invests \$179 million to lead agriculture research for fifth year**

<http://www.southwestfarmpress.com/extension/texas-am-agrilife-invests-179-million-lead-agriculture-research-fifth-year>

Whether it's remote sensing tools or developing better water strategies for rural or urban areas, Texas A&M AgriLife Research is putting more research dollars to work faster than any agricultural entity across the nation, according to officials. AgriLife Research led the nation in agricultural research expenditures for fiscal year 2016 with more than \$179 million, according to the National Science Foundation. This marked the fifth year in a row the agency led in research investments, topping more than 200 universities nationwide.

### **New York Microchipping Law Looks to Help Reunite Lost Pets With Owners**

<http://www.mytwintiers.com/news/local-news/microchipping-law-looks-to-help-reunite-lost-pets-with-owners/884872425>

A New York law that went into effect this week requires that all animal shelters, rescue groups and other organizations that take in found pets check to see if the animal has a microchip in them. They then must try to contact the owner within 24 hours. "We've been in compliance with this legislation for many years and microchipping is one of the most reliable ways to ensure that you reunite a pet with their owner in the shortest amount of time," Executive Director of the Chemung County SPCA Tom Geroy said. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, about 52 percent of lost dogs who have been implanted with a microchip are reunited with their owners, and 39 percent of microchipped cats are returned home.

### **Iowa legislature provides county fairs immunity against zoonotic diseases**

[http://www.csgmidwest.org/policyresearch/policy\\_agriculture.aspx](http://www.csgmidwest.org/policyresearch/policy_agriculture.aspx)

Iowa Senator Dan Zumbach, like many farmers, has been a 4-H leader and is active on his county fair board. The outbreaks of Escherichia coli O157:H7 and other enteric diseases associated with county fairs weighed heavy on his mind. Zoonotic disease presents a high risk to the health and safety of visitors as well as the viability of agritourism facilities and county fairs. Fairs and agritourism facilities have a responsibility to reduce the risk of a visitor getting sick from animals. But even healthy animals carry germs. We can't tell by looking at an animal which animals might have germs. The bacteria can be on the fur or skin or the environment. People can pick up the bacteria by touching the animal or the environment. Then they touch their mouth or eat fair food. Most visitors don't understand this inherent risk. SF 362 – "Barring claims against fairs for damages arising out of the transmission of pathogens from certain animals housed on the fairgrounds" passed the House unanimously and only one member of the Senate voted against it. It requires warning signage to be posted at the point of entry. Zumbach suggests that other states look at their statutes and consider whether "pathogens are an appropriate addition to the other liability concerns." It will be a state by state determination as to whether "inherent risks" are read to include zoonotic diseases.

### **Michigan deepens investment in value-added agriculture industry**

<http://www.csgmidwest.org/policyresearch/1117-value-added-ag.aspx>

Michigan's new budget reflects a vision of adding more value to Michigan's agriculture products. It includes a \$4.7 million grant program for mid-sized food and agriculture processing facilities. Many agriculture-based operations simply have *not qualified* for existing state programs designed to encourage business expansion. The reason: They don't create enough jobs. Michigan's new grant program aims to fill that gap. Michigan's new budget and its \$4.7 million worth of grants expand on a pilot program initiated by the Legislature in 2016. Three projects were funded under this pilot program, including help for a dairy processor to expand and produce nonfat dry milk, butter and condensed milk. The success of the pilot program led to legislative passage of this year's \$4.7 million program, Green says.



**C. Building the Rural Infrastructure, Pavilion 2.**

Today's transportation infrastructure system was built for a different time. A properly planned infrastructure should pay for itself. Action is needed to catch up to the accelerating rate at which technology is advancing. Infrastructure must bring together and further improve commerce. Rapid changes in technologies are already stretching the capacity of the public sector to respond, facilitate and finance innovations. Do you need proof of how important broadband and good roads are to your communities? How can you help build your community's roads, broadband and rural infrastructure?

*Leif Magnusson, President, Claas America*

*Don Williams, Senior Specialist, NTIA*

*Moderator, Senator Bill Hansell, Oregon*

*Staff, Bob Haefner*

**D. Hemp; State, Provincial Successes and Failures, Pavilion 1.**

Hemp is one of the oldest domesticated crops known to man, and while Kentucky is leading the nation in trying to bring it back as a crop, Canada is leading the U.S. in that effort. Come hear about hemp production and marketing efforts in Canada and Kentucky.

*Ryan Quarles, KY Commissioner of Agriculture*

*Kim Shukla, Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance*

*Minister Ralph Eichler, Moderator*

*Staff, Anne Roberts Brody*

**E. Options to Address Opioid Abuse, Pavilion 3.**

Effective, evidence based treatment of opioid abuse disorders is urgently needed in rural America. Multiple barriers stand in the way of appropriate treatment, including a decaying rural mental health and substance abuse treatment infrastructure, lack of rural physicians and mental health practitioners and administrative barriers. Come talk about how you can address one of the greatest threats facing rural America today.

*Regina Labelle, LaBelle Strategies —*

*Moderator, Senator Ron Miller, West Virginia*

*Staff, Karen Marshall*

**4:45-5:30 pm Plenary on Agriculture Technology, Research and the Rural Economy Salon 2 & 3**

It is widely agreed that increased productivity, arising from innovation and changes in technology, is the main contributor to economic growth in U.S. agriculture. Every dollar invested in public agriculture research generates ten to twenty times that amount in benefits to society. America's farms are among the most productive in the world, but they will not stay that way without continued investment in research. Where will that research lead agriculture? Come hear the winner of multiple awards on communicating about science talk about food, research, agriculture and you.

Salon 2 & 3 *Alison L. Van Eenennaam, Ph.D. University of California, Davis*

*Moderator, Representative Richard Creagan, Hawaii*

**6:00 pm Reception and Dinner, Salon 1.**

Western state and provincial residents. Please sit at the tables indicated, or look for Oregon Representative and SARL Board member Brad Witt. Together the western attendees need to come up with co-chairs for the 2020 Summit.

*Moderator, Senator Eddie Fields, Oklahoma*

*Invocation, Senator John Wilkinson, Georgia*

*Representative Triston Cole presents 1<sup>st</sup> Annual SARL Defender of Ag and Rural Award*

*Recognition of Tim McIntyre, Vice President, Communications, Dominos*

*SARL Past Presidents, Doug Jones, Idaho, Senator David Johnson, Iowa and Senator Bill Heath, Georgia, for the Introduction of resolutions and board candidates*

*Introduction of 2019 Co-Chairs Minister Ralph Eichler, Manitoba and Minister Oneil Carlier, Alberta*

*Announcement of Trivia Winners*



**9:00 pm Movie Night, Salon 2& 3.**

Food Evolution, narrated by Neil DeGrass Tyson who says "the film explores all the ways science has been used and abused in public discourse surrounding the genetic engineering of food. In a world of misinformation and disinformation, nothing can be more timely."

**9:30 -11:00 pm Hospitality Suite - Rooftop Bar.**

**Sunday, January 7**

**8:00 am Annual Meeting, Salon 1.**

See attached agenda

**9:00 am Federal issues, Salon 1.**

Here is your chance for an open discussion with leaders of the two governmental entities that may have more impact on agriculture than the USDA

*Larry Sands , Senior Advisor for Agriculture Policy, Environmental Protections Agency*

The agriculture and rural issues that the EPA oversee seems to be an endless list, Water Quality including the Waters of the US regulations, reporting of Air Emissions from Livestock Operations, Pesticide Handling including Dicamba, the Clean Power Plan, Small and Rural Wastewater Systems. It seems the EPA is in every aspect of agriculture.

*Dr. Stephen Ostroff, FDA, Deputy Commissioner for Foods and Veterinary Medicine*

The FDA and state agriculture programs have gotten extremely close since the implementation of the Egg Safety Inspection program, in which 8 states contract with the FDA to inspect shell egg producers to prevent Salmonella. Then came the Food Safety Modernization Act, which is requiring states to decide whether to harmonize their food safety regulations with the FDA as well as decide how involved they want to be in producer education, inspection and compliance. This year the Veterinary Feed Directive came along requiring veterinary prescriptions for the use of many antibiotics in animal feed. And in many states, legislators and regulator are seeking help in restricting milk labeling to products from mammals, and yet people willask what does the FDA have to do with agriculture. If they only knew.

*Moderator, Senator Brian Munzlinger, Missouri*

**Buffet lunch will be available to eat there or box to take to airport.**