

Experts to Discuss, Explain Tough Topics at Agricultural Outlook and Policy Conference

Plans for the 2013 Agricultural Outlook and Policy Conference, sponsored by the Center for Agricultural and Natural Resource Policy at the University of Maryland, are being finalized, with expert speakers scheduled to share their thoughts about the current state of economic affairs and provide insights on where we may be going from here.

This highly anticipated event will take place December 4th at the Loews Hotel, located at 126 West Street, Annapolis, MD, from 8:30 to 3:30. Lunch will be served.

Conference planners are tapping into the wealth of knowledge available in the University of Maryland's (UMD) renowned Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics as well as other experts and have confirmed the following speakers:



Dr. Stephanie Mercier is an agricultural policy specialist with **Agricultural Perspectives**. She retired in 2011 from the position of chief economist for the Democratic staff of the Senate Agriculture Committee, a position she held beginning in March of 1997. Previously, she served as team leader for the Trade Policy and Programs area of the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Since leaving the Committee, she has been working as an independent agricultural policy consultant on projects in the areas of domestic farm and risk management programs, environmental policy, federal agricultural budgets, domestic nutrition assistance programs, and international food security and agricultural development policy. Stephanie will give an update on the current Farm Bill debate.



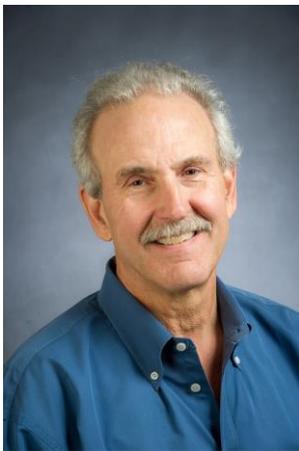
Harrison Pittman is the **Director** of the National Agricultural Law Center in Fayetteville Arkansas. Harrison received his Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law, after attending Mississippi State University and graduating from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He then earned an LL.M. in Agricultural Law from the University of Arkansas School of Law's Graduate Program in Agricultural Law. Harrison has worked at the Center since 2001. During that time,

his title and job duties have spanned the range of graduate assistant, staff attorney, co-director, interim director and currently, director; in which capacity he has served since 2007. He will discuss the growing importance of the law in agriculture.



Dr. Frank J. Coale is a **Professor** in the Department of Environmental Science and Technology at the University of Maryland. His career-long contributions in research, Extension education, teaching and service have been keenly focused and have had a lasting impact on better management of our agricultural ecosystems. His work has resulted in positive changes in agricultural best management practices, environmental preservation, policy development and citizen understanding. He has provided significant and lasting leadership in his roles as an academic department chair and through service in numerous professional organizations. Dr.

Coale has exhibited a steadfast commitment to understanding the relationships between agricultural production and the wellbeing of the surrounding ecosystem. He has excelled in transferring that understanding into implementable on-farm management practices and development of science-based public policies.



Associate Professor **Jim Hanson** from the **University of Maryland** will discuss the economics of grass-fed livestock systems in Maryland.



Joanna Kille is the **Director of Government Relations** for the **Maryland Department of Agriculture** and will give an update on state legislation and regulations.

Mark Jekanowski, Crops Branch Chief with **USDA-ERS**, will provide an update on grain markets.

David Harvey and **Alex Melton** both from **USDA-ERS** will provide a poultry market outlook. David J. Harvey is an outlook economist for the poultry and aquaculture industries in the Market and Trade Economics Division of the Economic Research Service (ERS), U.S. Department of Agriculture. He has worked for ERS since 1979. He received a M.S. in Agriculture Economic in 1977 from Rutgers University and B.S. in Agriculture Economics in 1974 from the University of Maine. His work focuses primarily on the short-term forecasts of production, trade, stocks, and prices for the broiler, other chicken, turkey, and eggs industries. Alex Melton is an Agricultural Economist within the Market and Trade Economics Division of the Economic Research Service (ERS) in the Animal Products and Cost of Production Branch. He has worked at ERS since 2013. He received his Master's Degree in International Economics from the University of California - San Diego School of International Relations and Pacific Studies in 2011. His work at ERS focuses primarily on poultry issues including the forecasting of production and prices in the poultry market.

Carol Hollingsworth Public Affairs Specialist with **USDA NRCS** will provide an update on NRCS's conversation programs.

Steve Connelly, *UMD and MDA Partnership Update*. Connelly is working under contract with MDA to promote Crop Insurance and manage the targeted states grant program from the Risk management Agency. He is currently the Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association. Connelly is a partner in the Capstone

Group-NCH, a firm providing association management and government relation services. He earned a degree in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of Maryland. His career includes service with the USDA Farm Service Agency, Maryland Ag Education Foundation, Maryland Department of Agriculture, and Maryland Farm Bureau. Connelly resides in Rising Sun, MD with his wife Valerie.

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Lynch at 301-405-1264 or LLynch@umd.edu, or Paul Goeringer at 301-405-1293 or lgoering@umd.edu. If you know others to whom this conference might be of interest, please pass on the information, which can be found at <http://agresearch.umd.edu/CANRP/>.

Registration for the event is \$35.00.

Registration forms are available at <https://agoutlookpolicy.eventbrite.com>

Thank you,

Lori Lynch
Director
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University of Maryland