



Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Policy, Business and Related Sessions

Saturday, July 20 – Wednesday, July 24 |
Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile

*Minnesota Representative Paul Anderson, and Illinois Representative Norine Hammond, Co-Chairs
North Dakota Senator Jim Dotzenrod, Vice Chair*

Friday, July 19

Optional Tour of Invernergy Control Center

3:00 pm

Invernergy Control Center

Saturday, July 20

Urban Agriculture Exploration and Dinner Tour

1:30

Bus leaves Marriott

2:45 – 3:45 pm

Method natural cleaning products and Gotham Greens

4:00 – 5:30 pm

Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Dinner – Horse Thief Hollow

Sunday, July 21

Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Clark Room | 4th Floor

10:00 – 10:15 am

Committee introductions

10:15 – 10:45 am

How are State Fairs Funded?

To keep state fairs thriving, organizers tap multiple revenue sources — including tax dollars. Beyond the fun and education, state fairs can also help boost the economies of host cities and surrounding regions. Some studies, for example, have put the impact at over \$100 million a year. But state fairs also cost money to operate and maintain, and in recent years, states in the Midwest have had to grapple with this question: Should tax dollars be used to help keep the fairs going? Ms. Calico will discuss how state fairs are funded as well as the impact of state fairs.

Marla Calico, President, International Association of Fairs and Expositions

10:45 – 11:15 am

**Consumers as the New Regulators: How Consumer Demand is Changing
Agriculture and Food Production**

In agriculture and the food business, consumer preferences and demand can change at the speed of light in the internet age. Responding to sudden changes in consumer demand is something farmers -- by the nature of the business -- find difficult to do. Ms. Schroeder is going to discuss the impact of changing consumer demand on farming and legislating.

Brianna J. Schroeder, Janzen Agricultural Law

11:15 – 11:30 am

Committee Business

Monday, July 22

- 7:30 am** **Breakfast Table Topic: The State of Renewable Energy in the Midwest**
Northwestern Room | 6th Floor
Discussion Facilitator: Sen. John McCollister, *Nebraska*
- 2:15 – 3:45 pm** **The Impact of Tariffs and Trade Agreements on States and Provinces**
Marriott Ballroom | 4th Floor
Joint MLC Agriculture & Natural Resources/Midwest-Canada Relations Policy Session
Communities of all sizes in the region are closely tied to trade, with their economies dependent on exporting agricultural products. This session will look at the impact of tariffs on agriculture and manufacturing in the region.
- Shannon Herzfield, Vice President, Archers Daniels Midland
- Scott Miller, Senior Advisor, Center for Strategic and International Studies
- Mathew Wilson, Senior Vice President, Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters
- 4:00 – 5:30 pm** **Two Natural Resource Challenges and Opportunities for the Midwest**
Grand Ballroom 2 | 7th Floor
- 4:00 – 4:45 pm** **From Scarcity to Security: Managing Water for a Nutritious Food Future**
The fundamental starting point for food and for life is water. Over the past century, our understanding of water management and agriculture enabled us to dramatically decrease hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. We have developed new knowledge and technology that allow us to harness this precious resource and manage life systems, creating unprecedented abundance for much of humankind. Despite this progress, some clear lessons emerge from the pages of history. Dr. Tiboris will be discussing water policies and their importance to the U.S., the U.S. farming community, and agribusiness.
- Michael Tiboris, Ph.D, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs
- 4:45 – 5:30 pm** **The State of Solar Energy**
With one glance at the most recent U.S. rankings on solar energy, it becomes clear the Midwest has a long way to go if it wants to catch up to other regions on the use of this renewable source. Only Minnesota and Indiana placed in the top half of states as of 2017, but Illinois and other states are working with the industry to provide incentives and highlight solar farms. Mr. Wagoner will discuss the role, impact and future of solar from the perspective of the rural electric providers.
- Greg Wagoner, Executive Vice President Wabash Valley Power Alliance

Tuesday, July 23

- 7:30 am** **Breakfast Table Topic: Suicide Prevention: Ideas for State Action**
Indiana Room | 6th Floor
Discussion Facilitator: Rep. Joan Ballweg, *Wisconsin*