What is Foster Our Future 2020?

Foster Our Future 2020 is an expo and discussion forum showcasing how research and science are changing the food and agriculture landscape. Hosted by the Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR), Foster Our Future gathers stakeholders from the federal government, top commodity groups and trade associations, C-suite executives from major companies, non-profits/NGOs and influential philanthropists. This extraordinary group of innovative thinkers, including former Vice President Al Gore, will come together to tackle some of the greatest challenges facing food and agriculture.
Foster Our Future 2020 features speakers from key sectors in food and agriculture, such as policymakers, farmers, researchers, sustainability experts and the private sector. For full information, click here.

Keynote: Al Gore, former Vice President

- Christopher Adams, Adams Family Farm
- Dr. Elizabeth Ainsworth, USDA ARS
- Jeni Arndt, Colorado State Representative
- Dr. Amanda Ashworth, USDA-ARS
- Aaron Ault, Purdue University & Ault Farms
- Chip Bowling, U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance
- Thomas Burke, Global Food Traceability Center
- Dr. Dorn Cox, Open Tech Ecosystem for Ag Management / Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture & the Environment
- Rodney Davis, U.S. Representative - Illinois
- Meredith Ellis, G Bar C Ranch
- Hon. Dan Glickman, Aspen Institute & Bipartisan Policy Center
- Bill Hilliard, Atalo Holdings, Inc.
- Bryan Hitchcock, Global Food Traceability Center
- Dr. Scott Hutchins, USDA
- Dr. Tu Anh Huynh, Univ. of Wisconsin – Madison
- Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, USDA
- Mike Johanns, U.S. Senator - Nebraska
- Daniel Johnson, Rochester Institute of Technology
- A.G. Kawamura, Solutions from the Land
- Mark Keenum, Mississippi State University
- Dr. Isaya Kisekka, University of California - Davis
- Kranthi Mandadi, Texas A&M
- Dr. Pamela Marrone, Marrone Bio Innovations Inc.
- Dr. Shefali Mehta, Open Rivers Consulting Assoc.
- Shane New, Understanding Ag, LLC
- Dr. LaKisha Odom, FFAR
- Jimmy Panetta, U.S. Representative - Calif.
- Dr. Yiping Qi, University of Maryland
- Dr. Tom Rabaey, General Mills, Inc.
- Amanda Raster, U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance
- Dr. Sally Rockey, FFAR
- Shauna Sadowski, General Mills, Inc.
- Bill Strassburg, Wegmans
- Debbie Stabenow, Senator - Michigan
- Fred Strathmeyer Jr., Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
- Cortney Van Oeffelen, Van Oeffelen Farm Service
- Tom Vilsack, U.S. Dairy Export Council
- Dr. Jason Wallace, University of Georgia
Below is an abbreviated agenda. Click here for full details.

- 12:30 p.m. Registration Opens
- 1-5 p.m. Foster Our Future Exhibits
- 1-1:25 p.m. Opening Comments
- 1:30-2 p.m. Transforming the Food System through Regenerative Agriculture
- 2-2:30 p.m. Solving for Climate Change One Farm at a Time
- 2-2:30 p.m. Ozone’s Suffocating Effects on Crops
- 2-2:30 p.m. FFAR New Innovators in Food and Agriculture Research Awardees
- 2:30-3 p.m. A Green Light for Hemp: What’s Next? Opportunities and Challenges for Restarting the U.S. Hemp Industry
- 3-3:30 p.m. Traceability in the Age of Supply Chain Digitization with a Case Study in Seafood
- 3-3:30 p.m. How Agriculture, Food Manufacturing and Retail Partners with University Technology
- 3-3:30 p.m. FFAR New Innovators in Food and Agriculture Research Awardees
- 3:30-4 p.m. A Farmer’s Perspective on Agricultural Data Value, Usage and Privacy
- 4-4:30 p.m. The Role of Biologicals in Regenerative Agriculture
- 4-4:30 p.m. FFAR New Innovators in Food and Agriculture Research Awardees
- 4:30-5 p.m. Hear it from the Top: A Conversation with Former Secretaries of Agriculture
- 5:30-7 p.m. Reception, feat. Representatives Jimmy Panetta & Rodney Davis
- 7:10-7:30 p.m. Keynote - Al Gore
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. Panel - Agriculture: The Climate Solution, moderated by Al Gore

“We know that farmers and scientists must be front and center in our battle to reverse climate change.”
- Sally Rockey, Ph.D., Executive Director, FFAR
THE CHALLENGE

Our world is changing rapidly. The global population is increasing, climate change is causing extreme weather events, and natural resources are diminishing. U.S. agricultural and food systems are the most productive in the world, but these changes threaten to do more than just set back our progress. Without research, science and collaboration that help farms adapt to these unprecedented developments, farmers could lose their farms, causing the food system to collapse. Yet, by adapting, farmers can ensure their farms, and our entire food system, continue to thrive.

WHY ATTEND?

Sustainably feeding a growing and changing world is one of the greatest challenges facing our society today. At Foster Our Future 2020, journalists will have the opportunity to:

- Explore game-changing research technology and innovation
- Learn about cutting-edge food and agricultural research
- Interview high-profile public figures and executives
- Meet pioneering scientists and thinkers

ABOUT FFAR

The Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization originally established by bipartisan Congressional support in the 2014 Farm Bill, and refunded in the 2018 Farm Bill, builds unique partnerships to support innovative and actionable science addressing today’s food and agriculture challenges.
“Innovation in agriculture allows us to see a clear future where all people have access to nutritious and affordable food from thriving farms.”
- Sally Rockey, Ph.D., Executive Director, FFAR

PRESS RESOURCES

MULTIMEDIA LINKS

- Foster Our Future Video (Embeddable)
- Photo Gallery (2019)
- Foster Our Future 2020 Logos
- Speaker Headshots

REGISTRATION

Click here to register for Foster Our Future 2020.

CONTACT

For questions, speaker interview requests, or more details, please reach out to: Sarah Goldberg, Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, FFAR
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