

...Young Farmers Conference

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The conference registration will be waived for students participating in the Collegiate Discussion Meet.

The conference is open to college students and young farmers and ranchers ages 18 to 35.

Additional registration information, including costs, can

found online at <https://texasfarmbureau.org/YFR>.

Registration for the conference and Collegiate Discussion Meet closes on March 11.

Login or create an account at my.texasfarmbureau.org to register for the conference and Collegiate Discussion Meet.

For questions regarding the conference or registration fees, contact youngfarmers@txfb.org or call 254.751.2489

right as a key player in the solution to this challenge," U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue said. "This agenda is a strategic, department-wide effort to better align USDA's resources, programs and research to provide farmers with the tools they need to be successful. We are also continually mindful of the need for America's agriculture industry to be environmentally, socially and economically sustainable to maintain our position as a leader in the global effort to meet demand. We are committed as ever to the environmental sustainability and continued success, of America's farmers, ranchers, foresters and producers."

The first component of the Agriculture Innovation Agenda is to develop a U.S. ag-innovation strategy that aligns and synchronizes public and private sector research.

The second component is to align the work of USDA's customer-facing agencies and integrate innovative technologies

and practices into USDA programs.

The third component is to conduct a review of USDA productivity and conservation data. USDA already closely tracks data on yield, but on the environmental side, there's some catching up to do.

USDA has set benchmarks to hold the agency accountable. These targets will help measure progress toward meeting the food, fiber, fuel, feed and climate demands of the future. Some of the benchmarks include:

Food loss and waste: Advance USDA's work toward the United States' goal to reduce food loss and waste by 50 percent in the United States by the year 2030.

Carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas: Enhance carbon sequestration through soil health and forestry, leverage the agricultural sector's renewable energy benefits for the economy and capitalize on innovative technologies and practices to achieve net reduction of the agricultural sector's current carbon footprint

by 2050 without regulatory overreach.

Water quality: Reduce nutrient loss by 30 percent nationally by 2050.

Renewable energy: Increase the production of renewable energy feedstocks and set a goal to increase biofuel production efficiency and competitiveness to achieve market-driven blend rates of 15 percent of transportation fuels in 2030 and 30 percent of transportation fuels by 2050.

USDA announces Agriculture Innovation Agenda

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the Agriculture Innovation Agenda, a department-wide initiative to align resources, programs and research to position American agriculture to better meet future global demands.

USDA will stimulate innovation so that American agriculture can achieve the goal

of increasing production by 40 percent while cutting the environmental footprint of U.S. agriculture in half by 2050.

"We know we have a challenge facing us: to meet future food, fiber, fuel, and feed demands with finite resources. USDA's Agriculture Innovation Agenda is our opportunity to define American agriculture's role to feed everyone and do

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