

NYFEA UPDATE

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AG PROMISE

The 2014 Agriculture's Promise conference was another success. With the new Farm Bill and numerous other issues facing the industry, a crowd of passionate supporters of the next generation of agriculture gathered in Washington DC. The attendees were employed in a discussion of key issues and the development of six talking points. The points were delivered to Congressmen and their agricultural aides.



On Sunday afternoon, the attendees began the conference by participating in a Leadership Workshop. The topic was "How to expand the Ag Communication program?" The association wants to grow participation in its annual Ag Communication program. (See nyfea.org for details) Also, the group discussed the possibility of expanding the President's Council. The PC is a national panel of sponsors and agribusiness professionals dedicated to assisting young people as they learn to be advocates for the industry. Included in the discussion was "how will the organization develop and utilize the talking points on an annual basis?"

Monday was an interesting day for the attendees. With a snow storm in town, the list of speakers had to be adjusted. Matt Mika of Tyson was able to overcome the weather. He shared a wealth of insight on policy concerns. In addition, the group utilized a round-table discussion exercise. Topics reviewed and debated included the Farm Bill, country of origin labeling, school lunch programs, NAFTA and beginning farmer education programs. The group also experienced an advocacy workshop led by the 2013 Ag Communication Award winners. The evening reception at the Tortilla Coast restaurant featured visits with additional agricultural policy makers.

On Tuesday, the young and beginning farmers met in the House Agricultural Committee Room with Bart Fisher, chief economist of the United States House Ag Committee. This informative discussion was insightful and challenged the participants. Most attendees finished the day with visits to Congressional offices.



Ag Promise discussion on Talking Points



President Tim Kelley speaks to the crowd



Matt Mika of Tyson Foods



Allen Tyler and Talking Points



Attendees in Ag Committee Room



Participants outside the Capitol



Guests work on Talking Points



CJ Fleenor leads workshop



The U. S. Capitol in Snow!



The evening featured good views of memorials.