



European Union Rural Development Study Tour

July 7-11, 2008
Belgium, Germany, France

Participant Roster

Steve Baccus
President, Kansas Farm Bureau
[REDACTED]

Scot Blehm
Nebraska State Director
USDA Rural Development
[REDACTED]

Tom Buis
President, National Farmers Union
[REDACTED]

Clare Carlson
North Dakota State Director
USDA Rural Development
[REDACTED]

Sam Carney
Vice President, National Pork Producers Council
[REDACTED]

Matt Chase
Executive Director, National Association of
Development Organizations
[REDACTED]

David Cleavinger
President
National Association of Wheat Growers
[REDACTED]

Thomas Dorr
Undersecretary, USDA Rural Development
[REDACTED]

Gregg Doud
Chief Economist
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
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Barry Evans
President, Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.
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Charles W. Fluharty
President Emeritus and Director of Policy
Programs, Rural Policy Research Institute
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Joe Guinan
Program Officer, German Marshall Fund
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Keith Heffernan
Chief of Staff, USDA Rural Development
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John Hoffman
President, American Soybean Association
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Allan Johnson
Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary
USDA Rural Development
[REDACTED]

Erik Johnston
Associate Legislative Director
National Association of Counties
[REDACTED]

Charlie Kruse
President, Missouri Farm Bureau
[REDACTED]

Colleen Landkamer
Immediate Past President
National Association of Counties
[REDACTED]

Nancy Pellett
Former Chair, Farm Credit Administration
[REDACTED]

Kent Pepler
President, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union,
National Farmers Union
[REDACTED]

Courtney Phillips
Program Assistant, German Marshall Fund
[REDACTED]

Trees Robijns
Program Assistant, German Marshall Fund
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Dan Rotenberg
Counselor, Agricultural Affairs
Delegation of the European Commission
[REDACTED]

Mark Simmons
Oregon State Director
USDA Rural Development
[REDACTED]

Mark Schwiebert
Member, Board of Directors
National Corn Growers Association
[REDACTED]

Susan Stacey
Deputy Chief of Staff
USDA Rural Development
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Charlie Stenholm
Former Ranking Member, House Ag Committee
Olsson, Frank, & Weeda
[REDACTED]

Stephen R. Tolman
Chief Executive Officer
National Corn Growers Association
[REDACTED]

Don Villwock
President, Indiana Farm Bureau
[REDACTED]

Larry Wooten
President, North Carolina Farm Bureau
[REDACTED]

Sara Wyant
President, *Agri-Pulse*
[REDACTED]





DETAILED AGENDA

RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES – LESSONS FROM EUROPE

Belgium – Germany – France

July 7-11, 2008

Sunday, July 6th, 2008

Arrival of the first members of the Delegation

Monday, July 7th, 2008

United States – Brussels, Belgium

Hotel: Royal Windsor Grand Place
5, rue Duquesnoy
1000 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 505 5555

7h30 Arrival of the second part of the Delegation at BXL airport:

Morning/Afternoon Open for rest or touring Brussels

17h30 Opening by Thomas Dorr; Undersecretary USDA Rural Development, Charles Fluharty; President Emeritus and Director of Policy Programs at RUPRI, Joe Guinan; Senior Program Officer, Economic Policy Program, followed by a briefing on Geographical Indications by Mr. L. Daniel Mullaney (U.S.T.R. Trade Advisor in the U.S. Mission to the EU).

Thomas C. Dorr

Thomas Dorr joined United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 2001 and was appointed by President George W. Bush in 2002 and again in 2005 to be the under secretary for rural development. Rural Development has a portfolio of business, housing, and infrastructure loans totaling nearly \$100 billion and invests annually nearly \$15 billion in rural America.

As Under Secretary, Mr. Dorr also serves as the chairman of the USDA Energy Council which is responsible for advancing the President's Energy Initiative. His leadership and initiative to create a national renewable energy conference resulted in bringing together nearly 1,500 private and public sector renewable energy interests in October of 2006 and included participation by President Bush, Cabinet members from the Departments of Agriculture and Energy, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency. He continued this leadership role through the development and co-hosting of the ministerial-level 2008 Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (WIREC).

Under Secretary Dorr has broad agricultural, financial, and business experience, including serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the 7th District Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, the Iowa Board of Regents, and as a member and officer of the Iowa and National Corn Growers Associations. He was the president of a family farming and agribusiness company for 30 years and holds bachelor's degree from Morningside College.

Charles W. Flubarty

Charles W. Flubarty is the founder and president emeritus of the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI), the only national policy institute in the U.S. solely dedicated to assessing the rural impacts of public policies. He currently services as RUPRI's director of policy programs. Since RUPRI's founding in 1990, over 250 scholars representing 16 different disciplines in 100 universities, all U.S. states and 25 other nations have participated in RUPRI projects. A research professor in the Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri-Columbia (UMC), he also holds an adjunct faculty appointment in the UMC Department of Rural Sociology. Mr. Flubarty is the author of numerous policy studies and journal articles and has given dozens of Congressional testimonies and briefings. He is also a frequent speaker before national and international audiences, and has provided senior policy consultation to most federal departments, state and local governments, associations of government, planning and development organizations, and several foundations.

Joe Guinan

Joe Guinan joined the German Marshall Fund in 2004, and his work for the Economic Policy Program includes developing program strategy, coordinating GMF's economics programming in Europe, and managing all aspects of the grant-making process. During his time at GMF he has focused mainly on agriculture in the context of world trade talks and efforts to reform farm policies in the U.S. and Europe. Joe is in charge of overseeing GMF's new initiative on the Common Agricultural Policy. Prior to joining GMF, Joe spent four years at the Department of Government & Politics at the University of Maryland, College Park, and at the National Center for Economic and Security Alternatives in Washington, DC, where he researched political-economic systems. He holds dual British-Irish citizenship and was educated at Balliol College, Oxford University.

18h30

Group meets in the lobby to walk to the restaurant

La Maison du Cygne
2, Rue Charles Buls (Grand'Place)
1000 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 511 8244

19h00

Dinner with Debra Henke, Minister Counselor, Agricultural Section, US mission to the US and Roger Waite, Editor, Agra Fact.

Debra Henke

She was in the Foreign Service for 28 years. Previously she was at Assistant Deputy Administrator for International Trade Policy (Washington), Director of the Multilateral Negotiations Division (Washington), Agricultural Chief – AIT/Taipei, Area officer of Eastern Europe & The Former Soviet Union/Russia (Washington), Agricultural Attaché – Berlin, Germany, Agricultural Attaché – Rome, Italy, Manager of Agricultural Information & Marketing Services (Washington) and International Economist focusing on Soviet Union (Washington) all at the USDA/FAS:

Before this, she worked for the state department as a Commercial Officer in London, U.K. Ms. Henke has a Masters in Agricultural Economics from Kansas State University and a Bachelors in Political Science and Soviet Studies from University of Kansas. She was born in Osborne, Kansas and grew up on a mixed-use farm with wheat and cattle. Ms. Henke is married with one son.

Roger Waite

*Roger Waite will brief the delegation about European agricultural reform and rural development. Having been writing about European agriculture policy in Brussels for nearly 17 years, Roger is best known as the editor of the two Brussels-based publications on the Common Agricultural Policy, *Agra Facts* and *Agra Focus*, which he co-founded in the autumn of 1995. In just over 12 years, *Agra Facts* in particular has established a reputation for accuracy, reliability, and being first with the news in Brussels—and it is now the most widely read newsletter on the CAP in Brussels, also having subscribers in 35 different countries. In addition to this, Roger is a regular contributor to BBC and RTE radio programs on agricultural policy and EU farm issues in the United Kingdom and Ireland, and speaks at Conferences and Seminars on CAP issues several times a year.*

21h30

Return to the hotel

Tuesday, July 8th, 2008
Brussels, Belgium

7h30

Arrival of the last part of the Delegation

Breakfast at the hotel

8h00 Meet in the lobby to depart the hotel by bus, going to the European Commission, DG Agriculture

European Commission
Berlaymont Building
Rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels

The Directorate-General for Agriculture

The European Commission's DG for Agriculture and Rural Development is based in Brussels under the authority of Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel. With a staff of about 1,000 and led by Director-General Jean-Luc Demarty, it is responsible for the implementation of agriculture and rural development policy, the latter being managed in conjunction with the other DGs which deal with structural policies. It is made up of 12 Directorates dealing with all aspects of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) including market measures, rural development policy, financial matters as well as international relations relating to agriculture.

9h00

Briefing at the European Commission, DG Agriculture

Welcome by Loretta Dormal-Marino and Iman Boot:

Loretta Dormal-Marino, Deputy Director General, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

Ms. Dormal Marino is currently the Deputy Director General in DG Agriculture and Rural Development. She is responsible for three directorates in charge of rural development policy and the implementation of rural development programmes. In this role, Ms Dormal contributes to achieve the Commission's ambitious objectives for the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry, improve the environment in the countryside, raise the quality of rural life and increase the diversification of rural economies. Before that, Loretta Dormal Marino, Italian by birth, was Director at the Competition DG with responsibility for controlling state aid in the services industries, a position she has held since July 2003. Prior to that, she spent almost five years as Director in charge of

controlling state aid schemes and fiscal issues (Directorate G). From 1996 to 1999, Ms Dormal was head of the unit in charge of state aid policy in the field of regional aid. Before joining the Directorate-General for Competition, Ms Dormal held posts of assistant to the Director-General in the “Task force human resources” (now Education and Culture DG) and in the former DG XXII (Coordination of Structural Policies).

Ms. Dormal-Marino began her career at the European Commission in 1983, taking up a post in DG II (Economic and Financial Affairs), where she worked on the monitoring of national monetary policies and on macro-economic analysis. An economist by training, Ms Dormal's early career included stints at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Padua (1974–1982), and at the Veneto Region as a consultant on foreign trade for regional industrial associations.

Iman Boot, Assistant to the Deputy Director General for Agriculture and Rural Development European Commission

Currently Mr. Boot is the assistant to Mrs. Loretta Dormal-Marino, the Deputy Director General responsible for rural development, organic farming, bio energy, quality policy, etc. He has been working in DG Agriculture and Rural Development since 1998, among other things on the 2003CAP Reform and the 2004 Enlargement. Before joining the Commission services he worked in market research in the private sector. By training Mr. Boot is an anthropologist.

Program:

Mr. Rob Peters - general introduction into Rural Development in the EU

Rob Peters

Mr. Peters is the Head of Unit: E.I.4: Hungary, Italy, Malta, in DG Agri. He currently heads one of the geographical units in DG AGRI dealing with the rural development programmes of Hungary, Italy and Malta. Previously he was involved for many years in policy analysis and policy reform, starting with the 1992 CAP reform, Agenda 2000, enlargement and more recently rural development policy for 2007-2013.

Mr. Martin Scheele - agri-environmental programmes and their effect on the wider economy

Martin Scheele

Mr. Scheele is the Head of Unit, environment, GMO and genetic resources at DG Agri. Martin Scheele studied Agricultural Science at the University of Göttingen with a specialization in “Economic and Social Sciences of Land.” In 1990, he received a PhD in the field of Agricultural Economics. He spent a year at the University of Wisconsin in Madison after which he finalized his Habilitation at the Department for Agricultural Sciences at the University of Göttingen. Martin Scheele works since 1993 for the European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development. Having started in the field of Rural Development, he changed in 1996 into the unit responsible for “Economic Analysis and Policy Conception.” From October 2003, he was lead head of the unit responsible for policy evaluation and studies. Since January 2008, he is head of the unit dealing with environment, GMO and genetic resources.

Mrs. Hilikka Summa - Climate change impact and the need for adaptation

Hilikka Summa

Dr. Hilikka Summa is a head of unit in the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission. The responsibilities of her unit cover bioenergy, biomass, forestry and climate change, being in charge of coordination of the agricultural aspects of

EU policies related to biofuels and bioenergy. Her responsibilities also include the implementation of the EU Forest Action plan and measures related to forestry and climate change in the EU Rural Development policy. Hilkka Summa works in the European Commission since 1997. Her previous assignments include promotion of agricultural products and evaluation of agricultural policies. Before joining the EU administration she was a civil servant in the Ministry of Finance of the Finnish government.

Mr. John Bensted-Smith - Energy, food versus fuel?

John Bensted-Smith

Since 2004, John Bensted-Smith has been the Director responsible for the Directorate "Economic Analysis, Perspectives and Evaluations" within the Directorate General for Agriculture in the European Commission. Previously, Mr. Bensted-Smith has held many positions within the Commission: He was the Head of Unit responsible for management of the Cereals, Oilseeds and Protein Crop sectors within the Directorate General for Agriculture; a Member of Cabinet of former Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler, with special responsibility for Agriculture and Rural Development; a Member of the Commission's Enlargement Task Force negotiating the accession of Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden to the European Union; Member of Cabinet of Peter M. Schmidhuber, Member of the European Commission with special responsibility for the Budgets and Financial Control; Official in the Directorate General for Development; and Official in the Directorate General for Agriculture, Commission of the European Communities. From 1980-1983 he was a business Consultant in a firm of Management Consultants, specializing in the agricultural and allied industries.

12h00 Depart to walk to the Hotel Silken Berlaymont for lunch

Hotel Silken Berlaymont Brussels
11-19, Boulevard Charlemagne
1000 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 231 0909

12h30 Informal buffet lunch in their restaurant L'Objectif.

Presence from DG Agri:

Jean-Luc Demarty
Loretta Dormal-Marino
Jose Sousa Uva
Iman Boot
Rob Peters
Mauro Poinelli
Tarja Tiainen-Balsby

14h30 Afternoon public event in the Jean Rey room:

Order:

- Opening by Mr. Ronald Asmus (Executive Director GMF- Brussels office)
- Moderated by Mr. Chuck Fluharty
- Speeches by Mr. Dorr and Mrs. Dormal-Marino
- Responses from the panel:
 - Mr. Matt Chase
 - Ms. Nancy Pellett
 - Mr. Don Villwock
 - Ms. Marjorie Jouen
 - Mr. Pekka Pesonen

Ronald Asmus

*Dr. Asmus is currently Executive Director of the Brussels-based Transatlantic Center and responsible for Strategic Planning at the German Marshall Fund of the US. He has played an important role in expanding GMF's operations in Brussels and its overall growth and expansion in recent years. Dr. Asmus has been a leading thinker, practitioner and policy entrepreneur working on US-European relations for over two decades. He served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs from 1997-2000 and has been a senior analyst and fellow at Radio Free Europe, RAND and the Council on Foreign Relations. He has been a pioneering voice in the debate over post-Cold War European security and NATO's transformation. He has published widely and is the author of *Opening NATO's Door*. For his ideas and diplomatic accomplishments, he has been decorated by the US Department of State as well as the governments of Sweden, Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.*

Marjorie Jouen

*Ms. Jouene is senior adviser for Notre Europe, in charge of EU regional policy, employment policy, rural development and agriculture, future EU enlargements. Notre Europe is a European non-profit think-tank founded by Jacques Delors, based in Paris (www.notre-europe.eu). From 2006 to 2008, she was the Deputy Head of the Cabinet of the President of the EU Committee of the Regions in Brussels. From 2003 to 2006, she headed the "European Union – Enlargement" Unit at the Treasury Department in Paris. From 1999-2002, she advised Notre Europe on Enlargement, Regional policy and Local employment issues. From 1993 to 1998, she was a Member of the Forward Studies Unit of the European Commission in Brussels, in charge of social and regional issues. From 1980, she was a High-level official at the French Ministry of Finances graduated from ENA (Ecole nationale d'administration) and graduate in political science. Ms. Jouen has written many articles and reports on the social, economic and territorial cohesion in Europe. She is the author of *Diversité européenne, mode d'emploi*, Editions Descartes & Cie, Paris (2000) and *Future of work*, M. Jouen and B. Caremier Eds, Kogan Page, London (2000)*

Pekka Pesonen

Since 2007 Pekka Pesonen has been the Secretary General of the Committee of Professional Agricultural Organizations in the European Union- General Confederation of Agricultural Co-operative in the European Union (COPA-COGECA). Mr. Pesonen was previously State Secretary at the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Before that he held the position of advisor at the Finnish Union of cooperatives and agriculture in Brussels and has operated as Head of Unit at Valio. Pekka Pesonen has a degree in Agriculture, Forestry and Agricultural Policy from the Helsinki University.

16h30

Cocktail reception

18h30

Depart from the hotel Silken Berlaymont

De Warande
Zinnerstraat 1
1000 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 514 3000

19h00

Dinner with handpicked participants from within the Brussels agricultural world

Dinner participants:

-Loretta Dormal-Marino

-Iman Boot

-Debra Henke

-Gail Macdonald

(Assistant Director, Bureau de l'Agriculture Britannique (BAB))

-Ingeborg Bromée

(Policy Advisor COPA-COGECA)

-Michael Treacy

(Irish Farmers Association)

-Hannes Lorenzen

(European Parliament)

-Anneke Smolders

(Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the EU)

-Andrzej Babuchowski

(Deputy Polish Permanent Representative)

-Willi Kampmann

(Brussels Head of the German Farmers Union (DBV))

-Alois Bauer

(Head of Unit Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the European Union)

21h15

Return by bus to the hotel

Wednesday, July 9th, 2008

Brussels, Belgium - Wallonia, Belgium - Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany

Breakfast and check out of the hotel

7h30

Meet in the lobby to travel from Brussels to the Ardennes (Wallonia, Belgium). We will be joined on the bus by Mr. Pedro Tarno (Head of Unit AGRI E.I.1 - Rural Development Programmes, Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands)

Gal Cuestas

Rue des Prisonniers Politiques, 281

6730 Bellefontaine

063/457127

Ardennes (pronounced "abr-den")

The Ardennes is a region of forests and rolling hills in Belgium, Luxembourg and France.

Considered to be the "green lung" of the area, it is a main ecological tourism destination. In

Belgium the Ardennes is found in the southern province of the region of Wallonia. The provincial

capital, Namur, has a population of 3.5 million and is the seat of the Walloon Government and

Parliament. Wallonia consists of five provinces: Walloon Brabant, Hainaut, Namur, Liège and

Belgian Luxembourg. The woods, forests, nature reserves and rivers of the Ardennes form

privileged locations for those who love ecology, natural, fauna and flora. It is really astounding that

nature is so dense on such a small surface and that there is such a great variety of "sports-nature" activities.

10h00

Pick up Mr. Thomas Gaillard (responsible for agri-environmental measures in Cuestas) and Mr. Bernard Vandoren (Nature and Forest department of the sub-region of Virton). They will start the explanation on our way to the natural reserve of Rawez.

Natural Reserve of Rawez (pronounced "rah-way")

This nature reserve includes the Prouny and Rawez marshes and the surrounding wet meadows. The wide array of flora includes rare varieties of plants such as curious triglochin (Triglochin palustris). The intensification of agricultural practices has also threatened the unique flora of the area. The traditional practice of mowing and grazing is essential to its preservation. Agreements between local farmers and the Walloon Region have focused on practices that increase biodiversity. Such practices include late mowing and pasture, extensive grazing and late hay pasture.

10h15

Arrival at the Natural Reserve of Rawez (Natura 2000 site)

Natura 2000

Natura 2000 is the centerpiece of EU nature and biodiversity policy. It is an EU-wide network of nature protection areas established under the 1992 Habitats Directive. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. It is comprised of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated by member states under the Habitats Directive, and incorporates Special Protection Areas (SPAs) which they designate under the 1979 Birds Directive. Natura 2000 is not a system of strict nature reserves where all human activities are excluded. Whereas the network will certainly include nature reserves most of the land is likely to continue to be privately owned and the emphasis will be on ensuring that future management is sustainable, both ecologically and economically. The establishment of this network of protected areas also fulfils a Community obligation under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. Natura 2000 applies to Birds Sites and to Habitats Sites, which are divided into biogeographical regions. It also applies to the marine environment.

We start with a presentation of Mr. Vandoren and Mr. Gaillard on the project: Maintenance of the parcels by traditional breeds (agri-environmental measures of a high nature value area within Natura 2000).

We walk over to the farm of Mr. Homel (local farmer of milk and beef who manages parts of the reserve). He will show us his farm; give us some more explanation on what his reasons are to cooperate within the project and how he manages his facility.

11h00

We get back on the bus to leave for Bellefontaine

L'Etable de la Fontaine – Tintigny
GAUTHIER-LAPERCHÉ, Sylvie et Stany
Rue de la Rosière, 262
6730 BELLEFONTAINE
Tel. 063/44 41 86 or cell: 063/22 96 10

Bellefontaine (pronounced "bell-fawn-tayn")

Bellefontaine (literally meaning "beautiful fountain") is named (at least since 1251) after the numerous sources and fountains found on its territory. Legend says that the daughters of a local lord used to perform their ablutions in one of these fountains, which was nicknamed fontaine des belles ("fountain of beautiful women"). In 1976, Bellefontaine was incorporated into the municipality of Tintigny (pronounced "tah-n-tee-nee")

- 11h15 Short presentation of the pedagogic farm "La Fontaine" in Bellefontaine followed by a panel discussion
- Panel discussion in the lunch area of the farm:
 -Moderated by Pedro Tarno
 -Panelists: -Mr. Rene Poismans (Counselor for the Walloon Ministry of Agriculture, Rural, Environment and Tourism): he will present the Walloon policy for Rural Development.
 -Mr. Thierry Walot (agronomic engineer at the Catholic University of Louvain): he will present the agri-environmental measures in Wallonia.
 -Ms. Laurence Roussel (responsible for environment and agriculture at Cuestas) The local Leader group Cuestas will present the context and a project combining environmental aspects, producer-consumer link, and local products creating a quality label for beef.
- 12h15 Buffet lunch at La Fontaine with regional representatives and stakeholders to which local products will be served.
- Lunch participants:
 -Ms. Helene Hanus (representative for diversification at Cuestas)
 -Ms. Catherine Andre (Technical responsible in Cuestas)
 -Farmers in the region: -Mr. Christian Defat (raises bio cattle Limousine)
 -Mr. Jean Francois Depienne (raises bio cattle race Angus and veterinary)
 -Mr. Alain Vandebussche (producer of milk, meat, race Blanc/bleu/Belge and pigs, diversification of rapeseed oil) et Mme. Vandebussche
 -Mr. Pierre Ansay (raises bio cattle, mainly limousines)
- 13h15 Travel to Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany
- DLR Mosel
 Görrestr. 10
 54470 Bernkastel-Kues
 Tel.: 0049 6531 / 956-125
- Rheinland-Pfalz (In English: Rhineland-Palatinate)*
Rhineland-Palatinate is the German Federal State furthest west in the country. It offers extraordinarily rich and diversified regions. Idyllic river landscapes, mountainous country, historical towns, charming villages and several of the best wine-producing areas in Germany. Ever-changing and exciting, its regions are as different as the people that live here. Rhineland-Palatinate's culture is as colorful as the history that has shaped this federal state and its nine regions. With its unique blend of Romanticism and adventure, a range of tourist packages from nature to culture and wellness to wine, a landscape that is full of contrast, and people who enjoy extending the friendliest hospitality - the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate has so much to offer.
- 14h30 Meeting at Parking Merttert (Luxembourg) with:
 -Mr. Rainer Sonne (DLM Mosel)
 -Mr. Lothar Helfgen (DLM Mosel)
- Mr. Sonne and Mr. Helfgen will give extra explanation on the Bus about the land reparcelling projects in Altrich-Platten-Wengerohr:
 - Agriculture
 - Street planning

- Means of compensation
- Conservation
- Blue action (Biberbach)

15h20

Altrich-Platten-Wengerohr land reparcelling project.

Altrich-Platten-Wengerohr (pronounced all-trish-pla-tuhn-vey-ney-roar)

Altrich-Platten-Wengerohr is the short version of three villages in the Rhineland-Palatinate area: St. Andreas Altrich, St. Martin Platten and St. Peter Wengerohr.

We will get a presentation of the project from a place with a strategic overview over the area. Further, we will go and visit the bio-gas plant, the game-bridge over a national road and the reparcelling of an abandoned wine yard.

16h05

Drive to Morbach: extra information about the wine sector and wine tourism

Morbach (pronounced: moor-babb)

Morbach is the paradise for the adventurous person, breathtaking scenery of the Hunsrück region, refreshing "Joie de Vivre" and fascinating culture. Morbach's beginnings trace back to Napoleon. Straight through the Hunsrück he had a road built that led to Bernkastel on the Moselle river. The road crossed precisely at Morbach and the Hunsrück High Street from Trier to Koblenz. The result: the small town of Morbach became the centre of the Hunsrück - and the ideal starting point for a multitude of excursions. A trip to Morbach is also a trip into the history of the Hunsrück. Numerous historical monuments bring to mind the ever-changing fate of the region. Among the sights are unique archaeological ensembles from Celtic-Roman times and from the medieval and baroque ages.

16h40

Morbach energy park

This is an old American army base which they turned into an energy park. We will be visiting a wood cluster plant driven on bio-gas, a wind farm and solar facilities. We get Mosel wine and something small to eat. Two more people will join us on the bus:
 -Mr. Jörg Böhmer, (Instituts für angewandtes Stoffstrommanagement (IFAS) of the Fachhochschule Birkenfeld)
 -Mr. Grehl (representative of the town of Morbach)

17h15

Departure to accommodation in Trier

Park Plaza Trier
 Nikolaus-Koch-Platz 1
 54290 Trier, Germany
 Tel: +49 651 99930

Trier (pronounced: tree-eh)

Founded in or before 16 BCE, Trier is Germany's oldest city. It is located in a valley along the Moselle River, surrounded by forests and vineyards. In the Mosel-wine region of western Germany, Trier is near Luxembourg and France. It was home to six Roman emperors and has many ruins, including the Porta Nigra gate, a Roman theater and baths, the Trier Cathedral which incorporates part of a church built by Emperor Constantine and the Liebfrauenkirche, one of the earliest Gothic buildings in Germany. Trier is also the birthplace of Karl Marx. With about 100,000 residents and the University of Trier, Trier is a lively city.

18h30 Arrival in Trier
19h00 Meet in the Lobby of the hotel to walk over to the restaurant

Zum Domstein
Hauptmarkt 5
54290 Trier
Tel: +49 651 74490

19h15 Dinner with local officials in Trier

Dinner Participants:

-Prof. Dr. Siegfried Englert, State Secretary

(since 2006, State Secretary in the ministry for Science, transport, Agriculture and viticulture. Before that founder and manager of the Ostasieninstitute of the FH Ludwigshafen)

-Prof. Dr. Peter Heck

(Managing Director of the Institute for applied material flow management (IfaS). Responsible for a.o. material flow management“, Environmental policy, international trade and sustainable development)

-Herr Ralf M. Krüger

(Lawyer at JUWI GmbH. Juwi is developing renewable energy projects worldwide. Working with landowners, local communities, financial institutions and utility companies, we evaluate sites, lease land, design, build and operate wind farms as well as large scale photovoltaic systems on rooftops and open-space installations) responsible for Wind energy –planning and projection, Abroad)

-Mr. Michael Grehl

(Representative of the Community of Morbach for the Energy park Morbach)

-Mr. Arno Billen

Farmer, Representative of the young farmers in Rhineland-Palatinate. He has a very big farm (milk and (dairy cattle husbandry and distillery) ca. 30 km from Trier in the Eifel region and he has also a big biogas plant.

-Ms. Claudia Brillmann

(Head of Division and Deputy Head of Department at the department for business development, Europe, foreign trade, tourism at the Ministry for Economics, Infrastructure, agriculture and viticulture of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate)

-Ms. Gisela Horix

(Head of division agriculture and plant production, plant protection, soil protection, service for plant protection at the Ministry for Economics, Infrastructure, agriculture and viticulture of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate in the department for viticulture and agriculture)

-Ms. Nina Lux

(Member of staff at the department for soil development, agriculture policy and market at the Ministry for Economics, Infrastructure, agriculture and viticulture of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate)

-Mr. Rey Santella

(Agricultural Attaché, USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Embassy/Germany)

21h15 walk back to the hotel

Thursday, July 10th, 2008

Moselle, France – Champagne, France – Paris, France

Breakfast and check-out of the hotel

7h30

Meet in the lobby to depart by bus to travel to Moselle (Lorraine, France)

Moselle (pronounced mow-zelle)

Moselle is a department in the east of France named after the Moselle River. Moselle is part of the current region of Lorraine and is surrounded by the French departments of Meurthe-et-Moselle and Bas-Rhin, as well as Germany (states of Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate) and Luxembourg in the north. Both in the first and the second World War, the region of Lorraine became part of Germany. In 1944, the American Army liberated it and it returned to France permanently.

8h45

Meeting in Schengen to get an explanation about rural tourism in the area and some general tourist information with:

- Mr. Nicolas Rouyer (a representative of the prefecture)
- Ms. Volpato (tourist guide)

9h30

Visit of the port of Metz: Metz is the biggest inland port for cereals in Europe. We will meet with port officials who will explain the importance of the port for rapeseed and cereal production in the area.

Metz (pronounced "mehts")

Metz is a city in the northeast of France, capital of the Lorraine region and prefecture of the department of Moselle. It is located at the confluence of the Moselle and the Seille rivers. The city is famous for its yellow limestone architecture ("la Pierre de Jaumont") and for its nickname "The Green City". Metz is in the heart of a new economic region known as the SaarLorLux which combines the culture and economic aspects of this unique region in Europe. The city has developed its university and overall infrastructure for the EU's 2007 "Culture Region."

-Welcome by Mr. Bernard Niquet (prefect of the Region of Lorraine, Prefect of the Department of Moselle)

- Remarks by: -Mr. Robert Loboda (director of the port)
- Mr. Jean-Louis Roux (Regional director for agriculture & forestry)

Bernard Niquet

After his studies in law, Mr. Bernard Louis Niquet (1946) worked in the cabinet of the prefect of Paris, after that he was the head of the press section (adjunct of the director general for information and communication) in the city council in Paris. He moved then to become the director general for information and communication in the city council of Paris. Later he became the technical advisor to the presidency of France. After this part of his career, he became Prefect of Yvelines, shortly after prefect of the region of Poitou-Charentes and prefect of Vienne. In 2007 he became officer in the order of the national Legion of Honor and in the same year also prefect of the region of Lorraine, prefect of the defense zone – East, and prefect of the Moselle department.

10h15

Departure by bus to Château-Salins (Moselle), first we will pass through Metz to visit the city.

Château-Salins (pronounced "sha-toe-sal-uhn")

Château-Salins is a commune in the Moselle department of France. Located on a salt plain north of Nancy, Château-Salins has a population of 2,470. The current mayor is Gaëtan Bennimeddourene, whose term lasts from 2008 until 2014. The Moselle department in eastern France is part of the greater region of Lorraine. Historically the territory has been claimed as part of both France and Germany, leading to many different variations of the department; the current

form of Moselle was established in 1871 when Chateau-Salins became part of the department.

On the bus there will be explanations on French Rural Development, the institutional context, the role of the local communities and of the agricultural organizations by Mr. Vincent Wahl (assistant at DRAF).

11h15-11h30 While driving past the windmills, we will get an explanation by a Mr. Norbert Lambin (responsible for the energy policy in Lorraine and an expert on wind farms in the region).

11h45-12h30 Presentation of a local project providing child care in the federation of communities of Saulnois and a presentation of local rural development strategy, including a meeting with members of the community of Saulnois.

*Saulnois (pronounced "sawl-nwa")
Saulnois is a natural area corresponding to the Seille River ("Pail River") valley in the south of the Moselle department. Its borders are roughly the current borders of the Chateau-Salins commune. The name 'Saulnois' comes from the exploitation of the salt which was formerly produced in the area.*

12h45 Lunch with local, departmental and regional political leaders

Lunch participants:

-Jean-Luc PELLETIER

(President of the Regional Chamber for Agriculture in the Lorraine region)

-Antoine HENRION

(President of the Agriculture Chamber of the Moselle Department)

-Jean-Marc BREME

(President of the Departmental Federation of the agricultural unions (FDSEA57))

-Edmond CLAISER

(young farmers in the Moselle Department)

-Laurent ROUYER

(young farmers in the Lorraine region)

-Gérard PELTRE

(president of local leader group RED)

-Daniel Beguin

(President of the Regional Council)

-

(President of the general council)

-Gaëtan BENIMEDDOURENE

(Mayor of the City Council of Chateau-Salins)

-Roland GEIS

(Mayor of Delme, federation of communities of Saulnois)

-Emmanuel BOHN

(Director General of services, federation of communities of Saulnois)

-Brice LEROND

(President of the commission for environment, ecology, water, federation of communities, General Counsel of the canton de Delme)

-François FLORENTIN

(President of the commission of Agriculture, Agri-food agri-industry, renewables, federation of communities)

-Jean-Michel MEREL

(Canton de Vic sur Seille, Mayor of Ley)
 -Patrick GAZIN
(Canton de Château-Salins, Mayor of Attiloncourt)
 -Fernand LORMANT
(Canton de Dieuze, General Council, Mayor of Dieuze)
 -Claude CORNET
(General Council of the canton of Château-Salins)
 -Alain PATTAR
(Canton d' Albestroff, General Council, Mayor of Insming)
 -Xavier LEROND
 -Mr. VENANT
(Deputy-prefect of the region of Lorraine)
 -Noëlle REINSCH
(General Secretary of Château-Salins)
 -Jean-Louis ROUX
(Regional Director Agriculture and forestry)
 -Jean Kugler
(Department director for Agriculture and forestry)
 -René RINGHAND
(Responsible for the Europe Cell SGAR)

14h30

Departure by bus to Charly sur Marne (Champagne)
 Mr. Pedro Tarno and Mr. Dan Rotenberg will give some more information about the
 Champaign region

103, rue Emile Morlot
 02310 Charly sur Marne

Champagne (in English: Champaign)
Champagne is a historic province in the northeast of France, best known for the production of the sparkling white wine that bears the region's name. The area is about 100 miles (160 km) east of Paris. There are five departments within the region: Aisne, Aube, Haute-Marne, Marne, and Seine-et-Marne. The towns of Troyes (capital of Champagne), Reims and Épernay are the commercial centers of the area. Most of Champagne is now part of the French administrative region of Champagne-Ardenne.

18h30

Arrival in Charly sur Marne at the vinegery of Mrs. Carole Doré (Vice-president of
 the French Young Farmers)

A meeting with young farmers will be combined with a tour of a Champagne house,
 vineyard and a light dinner with local products.

20h30

Departure by bus to Paris

21h30

Arrive in Paris

Bel-Ami Hotel
 7-11 rue St-Benoît
 75006 Paris
 Tel: +33 1 4261 5353

Friday, July 11th, 2008
Paris, France

8h00 Meet in the hotel lobby for a briefing by Ms. Elizabeth Berry (Minister Councilor at the American Embassy in Paris) and Ms. Meg Hawley-Young (Ag and Trade Advisor at the U.S. Mission to the OECD)

Elizabeth Berry

Elizabeth Berry is currently Agriculture Minister-Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, France. She has previously held several positions within the U.S. Department of Agriculture: from 2003-2004 she was the Director of the Forest and Fisheries Products Division; in 2001-2003 she was the Director of the Analysis, Grain and Feed Division; in 1997-2001 she was an Agricultural Minister Counselor in Rome, Italy; in 1996-1997 she was an Area Officer (North Asia) of Foreign Agricultural Affairs; in 1990-1996 she was with the Grain and Feed Division as a Supervisory Agricultural Economist in the Market Access/Export Credits Support Group; in 1988-1990 she was an Agricultural Attaché in Quito, Ecuador; in 1985-1988 she was an Agricultural Attaché in Seoul, Korea; in 1981-1985 she was a Program Analyst of Export Credits; and in 1979-1981 she was a Presidential Management Intern in the Office of International Cooperation and Development. She has a Bachelors Degree from the University of Michigan, and a Masters in Public Policy from the University of Minnesota.

8h30 OECD briefing given by Mr. Mario Pezzini (Deputy Director, Public Governance and Territorial Development) and Mr. José Antonio Ardavín about the new rural economy and the new rural policies in the context of new global challenges (Issues of attention of OECD's Rural Development Unit: 2008)

Mario Pezzini

Mr. Pezzini joined OECD in 1995 as Principal Administrator in charge of the work on Distressed Urban Areas. From 1996 to 1999 he was the Head of the OECD Rural Development Programme and from 1999 to 2007 the Head of the Regional Competitiveness and Governance Division. Before joining the OECD he was Professor in Industrial Economics at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris as well as in US and Italian Universities. On several occasions Mr. Pezzini has been economic advisor for international organizations and think tanks in the field of economic development, industrial organization and regional economics, with a particular focus on policies for clusters and networks of small and medium sized firms as well as on policies to valorize natural and cultural resources. A member of several governmental advisory boards, Mr. Pezzini was also manager in the Regional Government of the Emilia-Romagna Region in Italy.

9h30 Briefing by Mr. Stefan Tangermann: Appointed Director of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries at the OECD in 2002, Professor Tangermann became head of the newly-formed Trade and Agriculture Directorate in 2006.

Stefan Tangermann

Mr. Tangermann has acted as a professor of economics and agricultural economics for twenty-five years. His academic work has concentrated, among others, on the need and options for reforming agricultural policies in OECD countries, and on strengthening the rules for agricultural trade. Having previously taught at the University of Frankfurt/Main, Mr. Tangermann has been professor of agricultural economics at the University of Göttingen since 1980. He was also Director of the Institute of Agricultural Economics, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, and Vice-President of the University of Göttingen. In addition, Mr. Tangermann has been a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Federal

Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture in Germany since 1976. From 1994 to 2000, Mr. Tangermann was a member of the Science Council of Germany, a high-level body appointed by the President of the Federal Republic, where he also served as chairman of the Scientific Committee and of several working groups. He is a Member of the Academy of Science at Göttingen, and Member of the Executive Committee of the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium.

10h30

Departure to the French Ministry of Agriculture by bus

French Ministry of Agriculture
Rue de Varennes 78
Paris

11h00

Meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture with Mr. Gilles Pelurson (assistant director at the Cabinet of Minister Barnier -French Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries) and two Rural Development organizations: CNASEA and CEMAGREF.

Speakers:

- Mr. Pelurson will welcome the delegation
- Mr. Ehrhart will give an overview on how France applies Rural Development and how it relates to the EU policy
- Director of CNASEA will explain its operation (focus: young people in rural areas)
- Director of CEMAGREF will talk on the challenges: agri-environmental measures
- rest of the time is open for Q&A

CNASEA

Cnasea is a national public institution under the wings of the ministry of agriculture and fisheries and of the ministry of the economy, finance and employment. It is embedded in every administrative region, metropolis and overseas department – with 20 regional delegations and 11 offices and local representatives. Cnasea has four pillars: payments, control, advice and study.

CEMAGREF

Cemagref is a public research institute that targets results directly useable in land and water management. The goal is to produce new knowledge and technical innovations for use by managers, decision-makers and companies in providing answers to the specific questions raised by society concerning resource management, land use and development. Work focuses on surface-water resources, land and aquatic ecosystems, predominantly rural areas, water technologies, agro systems and food safety.

12h30

Depart to walk to the restaurant

Maison de l'Amerique Latine
217, Boulevard St Germain
75007 Paris, France
+44 (0)1 49 54 75 00

13h00

Lunch debriefing with Mrs. Dormal-Marino, Deputy Director-General, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

15h00

Off to tour Paris

Saturday, July 12th, 2008
Paris, France – United States

The delegation leaves for the airport.

—Original Message—

Subject: RE: Thank you so much!
Date: Sat, 19 Jul 2008 14:28:33 -0400 (EDT)
From: Thomas Dorr <[REDACTED]@usda.gov>
To: All Trip Participants

Friends.....that's what two days on a bus creates....and I thank you!

I would like to echo the comments of both Chuck and Al. The efforts to identify economic opportunities in not just Rural America, but rural regions around the world, has been a gleam in the eye of a lot of people for many decades. The unique timing of technology, renewable energy, and world political changes has made us all look prescient.

Yet the convergence of these events, and subsequent opportunities, would mean nothing without the committment of time and focus given by each of you personally and professionally. I can't thank you enough for the foresight and committment you've given in the process of trying to focus on how best to develop policies and strategies to capitalize on these opportunities.

The trip was a lot of work for a lot of people. For that I am most appreciative. It was also a lot of fun. But most importantly, it brought out the best in the leadership of agriculture and rural. The stage, as pointed out by many, has been set for a renewed farm/rural bill discussion in the coming months. I believe we are all up to the challenge. I certainly believe that you collectively have the potential to help create significant new policies which will positively impact rural America. Thanks!

Finally, in addition to GMF, Farm Foundation, and the Kellogg Foundation, I can't say enough about the efforts of Chuck Fluharty and Al Johnson. There are not two more committed guys to rural development. I am very proud they've worked with me through a number of these initiatives. What we've been able to do would not have been possible without their committment and passion.

I too, intend to stay involved and thus look forward to working with you in any way I can.

Thanks again!

With warmest regards,

Tom