A Conversation with a Nutritionist: Melinda Johnson

Melinda Johnson is a Registered Dietitian, and works as a Clinical Associate Professor of Nutrition at Arizona State University, where she also manages the program for future Registered Dietitians.

Johnson's career has allowed her to be active with the media, serving as a Spokesperson for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for a decade and also contributing a monthly column to the US News website called Eat+Run. Johnson is an Arizona native, and she is a proud alumna of Project CENTRL, class XXII.

As Arizona Farm Bureau works more and more with nutritionists and draws counsel from food advocates like Johnson, the farmer nutritionist partnership will continue to grow. Currently, Arizona Farm Bureau’s Fill Your Plate partners with ASU nutrition communication students to support the website’s weekly blog.

In this backdrop, Arizona Agriculture wanted to visit with Johnson about some critical issues dealing with food, the Farm to Table movement and much more.

Arizona Agriculture: What’s “big” in the nutrition circles right now?

Johnson: It depends on the circle. The “paleo” diet continues to be big with college students, especially those that are into the CrossFit type of workout which continues to gain in popularity due to the show American Ninja Warrior! Fad diets in general are always big with the general population, we just insert a different fad diet depending on the year. Plant-based eating is always big in nutrition professional circles, and the Mediterranean-style of eating is still hot with nutrition professionals.

Arizona Agriculture: How can the nutrition experts and agriculture work together more?

Johnsion: I am a big fan of connecting with each other through social media, but this takes a conscious effort, because it’s easy to stay stuck in your own professional silo. I love to browse the #AgChat conversations on Twitter, they lead me to finding very interesting agricultural accounts, and I always learn something new. In the world of dietitians, #RDChat is used very often, so agriculture people can follow that hashtag to interact with registered dietitians.

Offering agriculture tours to nutrition interns or nutrition professionals is my other favorite way of working together. Our ASU interns go visit local dairies to learn about the industry and ask questions.

Finally, I do wish we would do better at cross-promoting our different conferences and meetings, to invite each other to attend or even present. When I had my year-long experience with the leadership program through Project CENTRL, it really hit home with me how refreshing it was to be sitting in a room full of people from all different industries because I’m usually just surrounded by Registered Dietitians when I go to conferences.

Arizona Agriculture: What’s your take on the Farm to Table movement?

Johnson: I like that the public is getting more interested in knowing where their food is coming from and wanting to support local farmers. However, I would like to start to expand the public’s idea of “local” to really support that all agriculture has a “local” reality to it wherever it ends up. So, the Farm to Table movement at least has people thinking about where their food started out, and they may be surprised to learn that “local” might be hiding in their own grocery store!
Candiates Babeu and O’Halleran Are Asked to Answer the Tough Questions
By Joe Seip and Ann Kennedy Olle with Arizona Farm Bureau’s Government Relations and By Julie Murphy, with the Communication, Ag Education and Marketing.

The federal government’s intrusion into Arizona’s land management has rankled farmers, cattlemen and state leaders for years.

Over the years, the federal government owns at least 42 percent of Arizona’s vast land. But their stewardship and rules about how the state must maintain its lands prevent responsible growth, costs taxpayers and threatens our private property rights.

Nowhere is that more evident than in two federal initiatives: The reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf and a new Grand Canyon National Monument. President Obama is considering turning 1.7 million acres near the Grand Canyon as a new national monument that would be off limits for economic development, especially mining and grazing.

This power grab by the Obama Administration hurts Arizonans. State residents and visitors already enjoy gorgeous vistas, abundant camping grounds and nature’s greatest monument without further federal designations.

The state and local communities are fighting environmentalists and the Obama Administration to restrict introduction of the gray wolf in certain areas of Arizona. I will champion that fight. Much of the gray wolf population should reside in Mexico. But introducing them to areas in northern Arizona outside what is believed their natural habitat makes no sense. This expensive proposition wastes money and time. The gray wolf has a home and it is in northern Mexico.

The Environmental Protection Agency powers also must be reined in. The EPA is looking to shutter coal-fired power plants across the country, including several in Congressional District 1. The EPA is out of control and Congress must come to the aid of Arizonans who would have to pay substantially higher utility rates if coal plants shut down.

The Navajo Generating Station is a huge economic driver for the Navajo Nation but it also powers the Central Arizona Project canals that feed Colorado River water to millions of residents and many farmers. I will fight any effort to close NGS. Obamacare must also be replaced. The alleged Affordable Care Act provides little care and is not affordable, at least for government. In 14 of the state’s 15 counties, only one provider is available for residents. In Pinal County, we lost all providers until Blue Cross/Blue Shield decided to serve residents there. However, it requires a substantial government subsidy and a large increase in premiums.

There’s a better way. We must open up health care plans to competition. As we all know, competition means better outcomes with smaller price tags. I will work with House Speaker Paul Ryan to replace Obamacare with something that makes insurance simple and affordable for you to protect your family, home and car.

We make insurance simple. A Farm Bureau agent makes insurance simple and affordable for you to protect your family, home and car.

With offices across the state, we make it simple to protect your family, home and car. Contact your local agent today.

Arizona Farm Bureau Federation
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Regulatory Reform

As president, what actions will you take to minimize the federal government’s regulatory burden on business owners and American families? What specific rules and regulations will you prioritize for rollbacks or streamlining?

“American families are able to put affordable, fresh food on their tables. That’s why as president, I will work with Congress to reform our regulatory system. We will reduce the power of government bureaucrats, and increase the freedom of our nation’s farmers to be as productive as possible. We will increase transparency and accountability in the process, so that consumers and producers are better informed and able to be used to ensure that any regulation is justified before it is adopted. Unfair regulations that are bad for American farmers and consumers will be changed or repealed. There will be no more ‘sue and settle’ deals with extreme environmental groups.”

CLINTON RESPONSE:

Hillary knows the Farm Bill reauthorization presents an incredibly important opportunity to set both rural and urban development policy priorities—which are central to our economy, energy, and food security. That’s why as president, Hillary will work to ensure we provide a focused safety net for farmers and ranchers by continuing to make progress in targeting federal resources in commodity payment, crop insurance, and disaster assistance programs. She will also support programs that are the more important with current commodity market prices. She will also help the new generation of farmers by doubling funding for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development program and strengthening USDA grant programs to make them less bureaucratic and more accessible to small farmers and ranchers.

The Farm Bill also provides the opportunity to improve and enhance our rural development programs that are essential to raising the standard of living in many rural communities—including programs to enhance broadband access, improve soil health and manage wastewater, and expand access to credit for small businesses.

Immigration Reform and Ag Labor

As we advance immigration reform and resolve the critical labor shortage that many farmers and ranchers face each year, how would you address the concerns of undocumented workers who are already working on farms across America, as well as the need for a long-term supply of agricultural labor?

“America’s farm workers are the backbone of our nation’s agriculture. They are critical to the economic health of our farms and rural communities. They must be part of our solution, not our problem.”

CLINTON RESPONSE:

Hillary knows that migrant farmworkers play a critical role in developing and supporting our agricultural economy. She has heard from farmers across the country who have expressed their frustrations about our broken immigration system.

As president, Hillary will introduce comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to full and equal citizenship within her first 100 days in office. It will treat every person with dignity, fix the family visa backlog, uphold the rule of law, protect our borders and internal security, and bring millions of hardworking people into the formal economy. Hillary understands that the agricultural industry needs comprehensive immigration reform to protect both farm owners and the workers they employ, and ensure American families are able to put affordable, fresh food on their tables.”

International Trade and Trans Pacific Partnership

The United States has worked constructively over many decades to preside over the WTO and, for economic reasons, the Trans Pacific Partnership. What will be your greatest priorities and standards for gaining access to new markets. As president, will you be an aggressive proponent for expanding trade and be willing to pursue remedies against nations and their leaders who use various barriers to unfairly limit access to their markets from competition?

The TPP agreement would boost U.S. agriculture exports and gross farmers’ and ranchers’ income by more than $5 billion a year. That market growth and income boost is needed more than ever as our farmers face a downturn in commodity prices. Will you support ratification of the TPP Agreement to bring down foreign tariff, address non-science-based barriers to trade and enable American farmers to sell more of their farm goods around the world?

TRUMP RESPONSE:

As president, I will be an aggressive proponent for the defending the economic interests of American farmers and ranchers on the world stage. I will fight against unfair trade deals that disadvantage the American farmers.

“Strongly oppose TPP as drafted and will work hard to develop trade agreements that are in the national interest and beneficial to our agriculture and business community. Every new trade deal must meet that test. In fact, Hillary opposed the only multilateral trade deal she voted on in the Senate because it didn’t meet that standard. Harder row to hoe since the first TPP deal was finalized – including it contains on currency manipulation and pharmaceuticals – she came out in opposition. It did not meet her standard. The TPP also contains a trade “rules of origin” standard on automobiles that gives a backdoor into America’s market for the rest of the country. Hillary Clinton has also invested in a plan to stop particularly in her opposition to the TPP. She opposes it now, she opposes it in November, and she will not move forward in January.

Energy

Agriculture is a growing provider of renewable energy — contributing to America’s energy independence and improving rural economies. Will you support federal policies that encourage the production and sale of farm-grown fuels and renewable energy?

TRUMP RESPONSE:

“Hillary is committed to operating the U.S. government in as open and transparent a way as possible. As president, I will work to build on this progress, including by launching a $60 billion Clean Power Plan and using our government as a partner, not an obstacle, in getting low-cost wind and other renewable energy to rural communities.”

CLINTON RESPONSE:

“Rural America is a leader in energy production — helping to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and make our economy more resilient. Renewable fuels can also play an important role in reducing carbon pollution. Rural innovations are finding new ways to produce low-carbon biofuels, using feedstocks ranging from algae to agricultural waste, with a wide range of transportation applications. And electricity generated from wind and solar energy can also help improve air quality, help achieve attainment of Clean Air Act standards, and lower taxpayers’ pollution control costs.”

CLINTON RESPONSE:

“America’s farm communities are already playing a critical role in renewable energy production. For example, in rural Illinois, 71 percent of the state’s biofuels production comes from ethanol — attracting more than $1 billion in new investment and providing an important supplementary source of income to family farms. Meanwhile, electricity prices have fallen by 10 percent for American families and businesses in recent years. This year’s presidential election is one for the history books even before the November 8th General Election.”

As President, Bill Clinton announced an energy policy that would support the development of clean and renewable energy sources. The Clinton Administration took steps to ensure that the federal government is a partner, not an obstacle, in getting low-cost wind and other renewable energy to rural communities.

The Administration worked with Congress to establish the Rural Utilities Service and other successful USDA programs that ensure the federal government is a partner, not an obstacle, in getting low-cost wind and other renewable energy to rural communities to the rest of the country, and helping electric coops capture the clean energy and energy-efficiency opportunities of the 21st-century economy, supporting the Clean Power Plan, which the EPA estimates will deliver between $55 and $93 billion in annual economic and public health benefits by 2030 from wind and solar energy can improve air quality, help achieve attainment of Clean Air Act standards, and lower taxpayers’ pollution control costs.”

CLINTON RESPONSE:

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Arizona Farm Bureau’s AgPAC Endorses Several Candidates

By Joe Sigg, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Director and
Ana Kennedy Otto, Arizona Farm Bureau Government Relations Manager

We have a great opportunity to send two teams to the legislature on November 8th from District 6 and District 14. This is an opportunity because all six candidates understand their districts very well and the issues their constituents face. In our case, sometimes it is rural issues we share with other folks and sometimes it is strictly agricultural issues. And, if we are bringing up a new topic, they are very good at listening and responding. And sometimes, the willingness to listen is more important than actual agreement on a topic.

From District 6 we recommend Senator Sylvia Allen, Representatives Brenda Barton and Bob Thorpe. From District 14 we like Senator Gail Griffin and newcomers to the legislature for House seats: Becky Nett and Drew John.

Additionally, we are so pleased that in House District 8, we have incumbent T.J. Shope running. Shope has a strong record of supporting Farm Bureau, agriculture and rural Arizona. David Cook is a rancher and Farm Bureau member from Gila County running for the Arizona House in District 8. Mr. Cook’s ranching and agriculture background is especially important in this year’s election in light of Senator Steve Pierce’s departure from the State Senate. Cook would be the only member of the State Legislature engaged in production agriculture. District 8 would be well represented in the Arizona House with the election of both T.J. Shope and David Cook.

Finally, Lisa Otondo (D-District 4) has served in the Arizona House since 2012 and is a member of the Agriculture, Water and Land Committee. This election she is running for the Senate seat vacated by Lynne Pancrazi. Ms. Otondo was born and raised in Yuma, Arizona and has family ties to the rich agricultural heritage of the area. This connection to agriculture has led her to work on behalf of her constituents on a range of agricultural and natural resource issues. Additionally, as a Democrat, Otondo has been important to rural agriculture through her involvement with the Democratic House Caucus and we expect her rural representation to be just as important in the Democratic Senate Caucus.

All candidates have opponents in their races, and as we have seen in Arizona politics, every vote matters and AgPAC of the Arizona Farm Bureau is pleased to endorse these candidates – all truly cut from the fabric of rural cloth.

Why Should Arizona Farm Bureau Members Vote for You?

This election we have two very capable and recognizable candidates for the Arizona Senate Seat from District 8. Both are great supporters of Arizona agriculture and have extensive history with this industry.

The challenge for voters in this district will be to pick the candidate they believe will best serve them and our agriculture industry in the legislature.

So, Arizona Farm Bureau reached out to the two candidates and asked them for 200 to 300 words on why they are the candidate to serve as Arizona Senator from District 8.

Frank Pratt
Republican Candidate for Arizona Senate, District 8

I have personally worked in farming for more than 25 years and owned and operated my own farm for 20 years. Farming was my passion and my life for many years and provided me with great insights into the issues farmers and those in the agricultural industry face on a daily basis.

My brother and nephews still own and operate a farm in Arizona. This agricultural background and experience has been critically important as a State Representative for one of the rural Districts in Arizona. As someone who was born, raised, and lived my entire life in rural Arizona, I know and understand the issues that are so important to the people of my district. One of our most important industries in Arizona, and the District I represent, is agriculture.

During my time at the State Capitol I have been Chairman of the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee, Co-Chairman of the Water and Agriculture Committee, as well as a member of the Rural and Economic Development Committee.

I have sponsored, Co-sponsored and voted for many important pieces of legislation that have had a very positive effect on the agricultural community.

My commitment to agriculture is ongoing and unwavering. Your support and your vote for Frank Pratt for Senate in Legislative District 8 will ensure that agriculture has a knowledgeable and strong supporter of the men and women who work so hard in agriculture. It truly has been an honor to represent the people of rural Arizona for the past several years and I look forward to continuing my service as a State Senator.

Barbara McGuire
Democratic Candidate for Arizona Senate, District 8

As a State Senator and proud Farm Bureau member who represents a rural and agriculture-dependent district, I understand the issues that are important to our communities.

As a 4-H member, I learned early about the importance of farming and also the hard work that goes into it by helping my uncle with daily chores on his farm in Coolidge. As a young girl, my mother worked in the cotton fields at Picacho during WWII. Her stories about this always remind me of the far-reaching importance and proud legacy of agriculture in Arizona.

In the Arizona Legislature, I have been a friend to the Farm Bureau and agriculture community. I have worked hard to pass bipartisan legislation that is beneficial to our communities, and worked tirelessly to oppose harmful legislation.

I trust and value the friendships that I have made over the years with Farm Bureau leaders and fellow members. Keeping an ongoing dialogue with these friends has helped me to do my job better. When it comes to issues like guest worker programs, tax reform, protection of water and property rights, and fighting against federal overreach, I am proud to stand with my constituents and the agricultural community.

Arizona’s farmers are some of the hardest working in the world, and we must ensure that they have the ability to sell more of their goods free of unnecessary obstacles. This is one of the best things we can do to support the economy of our rural communities. As an experienced legislator who works across the aisle, I have been able to advocate for Ranchers and Farmers at both the federal level and state level. Once again I ask for your support and your vote on November 8th. You can visit my website at www.SenatorMcGuire.com.

Only Two Citizen Initiatives will be on the Ballot this Year

For the first time in 75 years, the November ballot in Arizona will not have any matters referred to it by the legislature. This means either they could not agree or they are doing the job we elected them to and not just passing issues on to voters! And there are only two citizen initiatives on the ballot: (1) legalize recreational use of marijuana; (2) Increase the minimum wage. While several were proposed and had petitions circulating, these were the only ones submitted and passing various legal challenges.

AZFB made official comment on both of these initiatives and took a “no” position:

1. The Arizona Farm Bureau opposes Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act (I-08-2016):
When you de-criminalize a behavior, in this case use of a substance, but still require sideboards to keep the use away from minors, structures and processes must be insured. It is different from simply abandoning enforcement – it’s a paradigm change in enforcement and education. Arizona has medical marijuana. We believe insufficient time has elapsed to evaluate whether complete legalization is either wise or all of its consequences have been properly evaluated.

When it comes to choosing health insurance, don’t go it alone.

Your Farm Bureau agent will help you sort out your options and find the right health insurance plan to fit your needs and budget. Contact your Farm Bureau agent today.

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Why AgPAC Needs to Matter to You

By Julie Murphree, Arizona Farm Bureau Communication Director

You've heard it before. Agriculture is clearly a minority in this state. So, it makes sense that the AG Political Action Committee of the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation (AgPAC) would be established to provide individuals interested in the future of the agricultural industry an opportunity to contribute to worthy candidates for Arizona's offices.

And so, AgPAC was formed. With extensive vetting of candidates, the AgPAC seeks out candidates who believe, and have demonstrated their beliefs in the principles to which Arizona agriculture is dedicated.

Plus, AgPAC gives us another opportunity to open a door to legislators that predominately represent urban constituents. These legislators' constituencies are far removed from the everyday workings and technology of your farm, ranch, dairy, feedlot, plant nursery or vineyard. AgPAC raises funds to support the candidates of any party affiliation who are committed to working for the best interests of Arizona agriculture.

These urban constituents routinely question:
- Agriculture’s use of water.
- Our use of technology in crop and livestock production.
- The health effects of dust caused by normal farming practices.
- The working conditions of our laborers,
- If we are treating our animals humanely,
- Our sales tax exemptions,
- The safety of our food.
- Grazing on federal and state trust lands,
- And, funding the Arizona Department of Agriculture.

Our fundraising strength will serve as a reminder to political leaders that farmers and ranchers remain stakeholders in Arizona's future. This won't happen, however, if you don't donate to the cause.

With the continued support of Farm Bureau members like you, our voice will be heard in the State Capitol and in Washington D.C. Elections Matter! Consider supporting agriculture through a contribution to AgPAC.

To contribute to AgPAC go online to azfb.org/Public-Politics/AgPAC or write a check to “AgPAC” and send to 325 South Higley Road in Gilbert, Arizona 85296.

Editor's Note: The purpose of AgPAC is to receive, administer and expend funds for political purposes in connection with promoting and supporting candidates who are supportive of the policies of the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation. Contributions are voluntary. Members have the right to contribute without any advantage conditioned upon making the contribution or reprimand or threat of reprimand related to the failure to make a contribution. AgPAC cannot accept corporate contributions. Contributions to AgPAC are not tax deductible as a business expense or as a charitable contribution.

DeLancey Named Executive Director of the new Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center

The University of Arizona has hired attorney Cindy DeLancey as the first executive director of the Natural Resource Users’ Law and Policy Center. She began her appointment at the beginning of last month.

The center, announced in November 2015, is a partnership between the university’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) Cooperative Extension and the James E. Rogers College of Law, and is the first university-based and cooperative extension-based natural resources users legal center in the nation. The center will include a Natural Resource Users Public Interest Law Clinic staffed by law and CALS students to address the unmet legal needs of ranchers, farmers, miners, and others who work with natural resources.

DeLancey is currently the director of government and public affairs for BP America’s Lower 48 business unit in Wyoming. She was previously the executive director of the Wyoming County Commissioners Association and was the elected county and prosecuting attorney for Carbon County, Wyoming and served as an assistant attorney general and special assistant United States Attorney.

As executive director for the new center, DeLancey will provide educational and outreach opportunities for agriculture and law students in the natural resource arena.

“The university is breaking new ground and is leading the way for agriculture and law students to work shoulder-to-shoulder with farmers, ranchers, miners and other natural resource users to impact law and public policy across the west,” said DeLancey.

“I am honored to be a part of such an important program and look forward to working with the students and natural resource community.”

Three UA senior administrators developed and launched the center: Marc Miller, dean of the College of Law; Jeff Silvertooth, director of Arizona Cooperative Extension; and Shane Burgess, vice president for Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences and Cooperative Extension, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and director of the Arizona Experiment Station.

Miller praised DeLancey’s experience. “Cindy has worked with the natural resources community, developing partnerships across industries, and helping those in energy, agriculture, mining, tourism, and other industries work with government agencies and thrive economically; she will bring that experience and passion to the leadership of the center and to the vision for a new kind of training and research for students in law and in CALS.”

Silvertooth commented on the positive impact this center and DeLancey’s hire will have. “This center provides us the opportunity to address common needs that are often brought to our attention in the Cooperative Extension System (CES) across the state and to partner with another college on the UA campus with the appropriate expertise to address the legal issues many stakeholders are dealing with. Although the effort with the center is new to the UA and Arizona, this is consistent with our UA mission as a land-grant institution, which is a core aspect of the CES. Cindy DeLancey brings a wealth of experience and vision for the center that is consistent with the basic mission and a capacity to build an outstanding program. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity to work with Cindy in this new endeavor.”

Burgess added, “Cindy understands the needs of all of the very diverse groups who need and want to use natural resources wisely for the long term. She will serve them all well and she’ll also be a tremendous asset as we encourage our agriculture and life science students to build on the education we give them and pursue legal training.”

Senator John McCain Receives the Friend of Farm Bureau Award

Arizona Farm Bureau President Kevin Rogers, First Vice President Stefanie Smallhouse, members, Don and Linda Merrell, Kacie and son Cort Tomerlin, Rep. Trent Franks, Rep. Matt Salmon, and Rhonda Vanderslice, along with staff members Jim Klinker and Ana Kennedy Otto met with Arizona’s Congressional delegation including Senator John McCain during their recent visit to Washington, D.C. While with Senator McCain, the group presented him with the Friend of Farm Bureau for his support of farm friendly legislation during this congressional session. In the 11 congressional offices, the group emphasized support of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement and opposition to national monument designations. Members also shared personal accounts of problems they have been facing as a result of the Affordable Care Act: less coverage, higher deductibles, higher premiums and loss of coverage with health insurance companies leaving the market. While the Arizona group was in his office, McCain was on the floor of the Senate blasting the Affordable Care Act for the impact it was having on rural Arizona.

The Arizona Farm Bureau Board of Directors has endorsed Senator McCain is his bid to be reelected to the US Senate. We support our other friends of Farm Bureau candidates.

The current two-year session of congress is quickly coming to a close. During the session, the Arizona Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau let our eleven member congressional delegation know our positions on national legislation. As a result, the American Farm Bureau tracks the voting record. Because of their support, the following congressional leaders earned the Friend of Farm Bureau award for this session of congress:

Representative Trent Franks
Representative Paul Gosar
Representative Martha McSally
Representative Matt Salmon
Representative David Schweikert
Senator Jeff Flake
Senator John McCain
n necessary freedom to operate while working to meet consumers’ demands for a variety of food choices, whether organic or conventional, meat or vegetarian, local or the household-name products many of us grew up with and still enjoy thanks to our major national food makers? There is no one size fits all in agriculture. Would you ensure that regulations do not restrict consumers’ or farmers’ food and production choices?

 TRUMP RESPONSE:
“The Trump Administration will be a pro-agriculture Administration. As President, I will fight for American farmers and their families. Through hard work, persistence and innovation, and making wise use of our nation’s God-given lands and resources, American farmers are the best in the world at growing the food and other products that people need to flourish. Growing our farm sector and supporting our nation’s farmers is absolutely critical to making America great again. Too often, bad policies and needless government mandates harm farmers and make food and farm products more costly for consumers. I support, and will implement, policies that are good for farmers and consumers. For example, I oppose unravel-

t government mandates that hurt farmers and confuse consumers, such as mandatory biotech labeling. I will also fight for tax reform that reduces tax burdens on American farmers. We will end the death tax. I will reverse the EPA’s war on farmers by rescinding the Waters of the US rule, climate rule, and the host of other regulations that are harming farmers without helping the environment. I will appoint justices to the Supreme Court who will defend the 2nd Amendment. Hillary Clinton will appoint justices who will eviscerate 2nd Amendment rights. Most importantly, we will get the entire U.S. economy growing again, which will be a boon to the agriculture sector as well.”

 CLINTON RESPONSE:
“Due to the ingenuity of America’s farmers and ranchers, consumers across the world have access to better, safer, and a wider variety of food options than ever before. Hillary Clinton believes that supporting that ingenuity goes hand in hand with ensuring food quality and safety.

 That’s why, as president, Hillary will fight to increase our investment in the basic and applied research that makes agricultural advancements possible. She will also fight to ensure that America’s farmers and ranchers of all sizes have the tools they need to succeed. That means expanding access to capital, investing in rural transportation, water, and broadband infrastructure, and continuing to make progress in protecting federal resources in commodity payment, crop insurance, and disaster assistance programs.

 Hillary believes we should work to build a strong local and regional food system by doubling the funding for the Farmers Market Promotion Program and the Local Food Promotion Program. By expanding the availability and accessibility of funding to incentivize voluntary private conservation. For example, she will work with all stakeholders to address them.

 Endangered Species Act

 Privately owned land provides habitat for the majority of our nation’s endangered and threatened species. As a result landowners often face harsh regulatory restrictions on their ability to use the land or, worse, face fines and forced to spend millions of dollars to comply. Here in Arizona, dozens of species have actually been recovered under the law. It’s time to think about incentive-based programs that create a positive role for landowners in species recovery. The law is overdue for review and rethinking. As president, how would you fix the broken Endangered Species Act, and what role would you assign America’s landowners?”

 TRUMP RESPONSE:
“America is blessed with abundant natural resources and beautiful wildlife. Our nation has a proud tradition of conservation and stewardship. This is more true for farmers than anyone else. Farmers care more about the environment than the radical environmentalists. Regrettably, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has a poor track record of actually helping to recover animals at risk of extinction. In truth, the ESA has become a tool to block economic development, deny property rights to American landowners, and enrich activist groups and lawyers. Instead of saving endangered species, the Obama Clinton bureaucrats are endangering American workers with discredited choices made at the whim of extreme activist groups. Hillary will work with all stakeholders to address them.

 Hillary also believes that we should be doing more to slow and reverse the decline of at-risk wildlife species before the breach of extinction and need the protection Endangered Species Act. To this end, Hillary will support nearly doubling the American Wildlife Grants program to $300 million per year. This type of support for the voluntary conservation of at-risk wildlife can help reduce the need for species to receive the protections of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). For wildlife that is listed as threatened or endangered, Hillary will direct federal agencies to take full advantage of the flexible tools available under the ESA that respect and accommodate landowner interests, including safe harbor agreements, habitat conservation agreements, and other forms of voluntary conservation measures.”

 CLINTON RESPONSE:
“Hillary knows that America’s ranchers and farmers are proud stewards of their land, and that America’s wildlife depend on the health of working lands to survive and thrive. That is why she will increase both the availability and accessibility of funding to incentivize voluntary private conservation. For example, Hillary will work to fully fund the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and will incent her Secretary of Agriculture to direct the Interior Department and Commerce Department to conduct a top-to-bottom review of all Obama Administration settlements, rules, and executive actions under the Endangered Species Act and other similar laws, and we will change or rescind any of those actions that are unlawful, bad for America, and contrary to what the American people want. Hillary will work closely with Congress to improve and modernize the Endangered Species Act—a law that is more than 30 years old—so that it is more transparent, uses the best science, incentivizes species conservation, protects private property rights, and no longer imposes needless and unwarranted costs on American landowners.”

 Clean Water

 The Environmental Protection Agency has clear direction from both Congress and the Supreme Court on the limitations of its authority under the Clean Water Act, and yet the agency continues to push to the limits or ignore them completely. What would you do as president to ensure that the EPA acts within the bounds of the Clean Water Act?”

 TRUMP RESPONSE:
“First, I will appoint a pro-farmer Administrator of EPA. Next, I will eliminate the unconstitutional

## 2016 AZFB Annual Convention Registration Form **Submit before Oct. 21** One Form for each family!

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Johnson continued from page 1

For example, I had the opportunity to visit a farm in Arizona that grew jalapeños that were then cut into small strips and sold as salsa. I thought it was so cool to know that when I purchased a jar of Pace, I was supporting a local Arizona farm. To me, that is Farm to Table. But, I was only able to make this connection because this Arizona farmer was willing to take the time to tell his story.

Arizona Agriculture: The USDA has had a fairly decent track record over the decades when it comes out with updated dietary guidelines. But last year's release provoked controversy and ire in part because some of the recommendations did not appear to be based on science, but on politics. What parameters could be put in place so this is avoided?

Johnson: Well, now, this is one HUGE question! One of the problems with crafting a well-done set of Dietary Guidelines is that you cannot come up with one way of eating that everyone should eat, period. There are merits to the various nuances of eating. For example, eating low-carb has been shown through research to help some people lose weight, ultimately helping their overall health. But, this evidence does not mean that everyone should eat low carb, and it may not mean that eating low carb will help people be successful in the long term.

Keeping politics out of the Dietary Guideline is simply not going to happen, as long as money is at stake. However, we do need to keep insisting that the committee responsible for crafting the Dietary Guidelines are respected professionals in their fields, and that they back up their final statements with the evidence they used to craft that statement.

Arizona Agriculture: When formulating guidelines, where do you see the working group's strengths? What are their weaknesses?

Johnson: The strengths come from the scientific literacy of the panel. They are respected professionals who know how to read and interpret evidence as presented through published research. They may come in with some personal bias that they don't ever fully overcome. Some may be easier to manipulate through lobbying activities, just because they are human. The weakness of the whole process is that the public expects a black and white set of “rules” that are the ultimate truth, but science is not black or white, and is always evolving.

Scientists are comfortable with shades of grey on a topic, but this does not tend to translate well into guidelines. The weakness of the whole process is that the public expects a black and white set of “rules” that are the ultimate truth, but science is not black or white, and is always evolving. Scientists are comfortable with shades of grey on a topic, but this does not tend to translate well into guidelines.

Johnson: I love it! Labels can be very powerful. I’ve often wondered about how labels create a culture. For example, Colorado is frequently touted as the fittest state, especially since we can grow and/or raise every major food group year round. Additionally, thanks to Yuma we’re the salad bowl of the nation during the winter. How do we better exploit this? Certainly in the nutrition community.

Arizona Agriculture: What are your thoughts on labeling, especially as it relates to nutrition?

Johnson: As Princeton Professor Johnson reminds us, the history of labeling dates back to the days when people were free to dump toxic chemicals at will. The Clean Water Act not only stemmed these environmental disasters but helped to reverse course and restore healthy swimmable and fishable waters for all Americans to enjoy. As President, Hillary will continue this legacy. She will work to ensure that clean air and water regulations are upheld.

CLINTON RESPONSE: The Clean Act is one of our most successful environmental regulations, helping to fulfill the basic right of all Americans to access clean water. Not too long ago our rivers were literally on fire, and pollutants were free to dump toxic chemicals into them. The Clean Air Act not only stemmed these environmental disasters but helped to reverse course and restore healthy swimmable and fishable waters for all Americans to enjoy. As President, Hillary will continue this legacy. She will work to ensure that clean air and water regulations are upheld.

Johnson: How inspired are you going to be to watch your portion size and go for a walk? What do you think the public expects a black and white set of “rules” that are the ultimate truth, but science is not black or white, and is always evolving. Scientists are comfortable with shades of grey on a topic, but this does not tend to translate well into guidelines.

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Johnson: The media is moving towards visuals instead of text, and will probably continue to do so.

Arizona Agriculture: Keeping politics out of the Dietary Guideline is simply not going to happen, as long as money is at stake. However, we do need to keep insisting that the committee responsible for crafting the Dietary Guidelines are respected professionals in their fields, and that they back up their final statements with the evidence they used to craft that statement.

Vote Michael Francis for CAP Water Board

Maricopa County needs a farmer on the CAP board to assure we have water for local food production. Michael Francis, a native Arizona and University of Arizona graduate, owns a diverse farming operation, garden rose distribution enterprises, and a crop insurance agency. He also serves on the Governor’s Military Affairs Commission and was chairman of the Arizona Power Authority.

Candidates continued from page 7

“Waters of the US” rule, and will direct the Army Corps of Engineers and EPA to no longer use this unlawful rule and related guideline documents in making jurisdictional determinations. This rule is so extreme that it gives federal agencies control over creeks, small streams, and even puddles or merely dry areas on private property. I will also ensure that these agencies respect the valid exclusions under environmental statutes for agricultural practices. To be clear, my Administration will work to ensure clean water for all Americans while also heeding the proper limits of federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. Unlike the Obama-Osama team, my Administration will work cooperatively with the States—most of which have been completely ignored by EPA under the Obama Administration—to achieve shared, common-sense environmental goals.

CLINTON RESPONSE: The Clean Water Act is one of our most successful environmental regulations, helping to fulfill the basic right of all Americans to access clean water. Not too long ago our rivers were literally on fire, and pollutants were free to dump toxic chemicals into them. The Clean Air Act not only stemmed these environmental disasters but helped to reverse course and restore healthy swimmable and fishable waters for all Americans to enjoy. As President, Hillary will continue this legacy. She will work to ensure that clean air and water regulations are upheld.

TRUMP RESPONSE: I strongly oppose the extreme, climate alarmism agenda of the Obama-Clinton years. Too often, the Obama-Clinton team imposed billions of dollars in environmental costs on Americans citizens without achieving real environmental benefits. In fact, the Obama EPA cut funding to the States for water infrastructure and programs that help rural communities while increasing spending on EPA bureaucrats, lawyers, and UN climate programs. As President, I will rescind the Climate Action Plan (including the Clean Power Plan) and other excessive regulations issued under the Clean Air Act that impose unjustified costs on American workers and farmers. My administration will work cooperatively with the States to achieve shared, common-sense environmental goals. Affordable energy is critical to the success of American farmers. According to a recent report in the Wall Street Journal, the Obama-Clinton climate agenda will cost the U.S. over $3 trillion. We cannot afford to allow the Obama-Clinton policies of high energy costs and over-regulation to last any longer.

CLINTON RESPONSE: Hillary Clinton rejects the false choice between strengthening our economy and protecting our environment and climate. This does not exist. We can grow our economy and protect our environment, while helping families and workers struggling to get by. As President, Hillary will go beyond the agreement made in Paris, cutting our emissions by 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025. As President, Hillary will work to make the United States the clean energy superpower of the 21st century, and build the broad range of pollution and efficiency standards and clean energy tax incentives that have made the United States a global leader in the battle against climate change while protecting kids’ health, saving American households and businesses billions of dollars in energy costs, and creating thousands of good paying jobs.

Over the past seven years, the amount of wind power in the US has grown threefold and the amount of solar power has grown 30-fold. Renewable energy is now the fastest growing source of job creation in the country. America’s farm communities have played a critical role in this progress with 95% of utility-scale wind production occurring in rural areas, attracting more than $50 billion in private investment.

TRUMP RESPONSE: As President, Hillary will work to make the United States the clean energy superpower of the 21st century, and build the broad range of pollution and efficiency standards and clean energy tax incentives that have made the United States a global leader in the battle against climate change while protecting kids’ health, saving American households and businesses billions of dollars in energy costs, and creating thousands of good paying jobs. Over the past seven years, the amount of wind power in the US has grown threefold and the amount of solar power has grown 30-fold. Renewable energy is now the fastest growing source of job creation in the country. America’s farm communities have played a critical role in this progress with 95% of utility-scale wind production occurring in rural areas, attracting more than $50 billion in private investment.
You campaigned or received encouragement from your County Farm Bureau president, and earned the coveted slot of being a delegate representing your county at the Arizona Farm Bureau Annual Convention this coming November 2, 3 and 4th. Or, maybe you didn’t attend your county Farm Bureau meeting but leadership decided to elect you as a delegate. Either way, delegates are sitting atop a golden opportunity to influence agriculture’s most important and hot topics while having a good time, learning a lot and visiting with fellow farmers and ranchers throughout Arizona.

In preparation for the meeting and exercising your vote, it’s a good idea to visit with your County President or Policy Development Chair to learn which policies your county has submitted for consideration at the state level and key policies that other counties have submitted. This is often discussed at your county’s October board meeting, so you’ll want to attend this month’s scheduled county board meetings.

Of course, if you were in the thick of your county’s policy development you already know what policy issues are most important to your county. The value of being involved in such discussion is by the time you make it to the state’s November Annual Meeting is that you’ve been able to establish and have an informed opinion about the issues.

Be sure to register for the hotel and convention (Registration Form on page 7).

Questions

be resolved by all interests putting their issues forward … all interests, all parties have to achieve some solutions, and everyone has to leave something on the table.

What is the solution to the failure of Affordable Health Care in rural Arizona? We must keep in mind that this issue begins and ends with people … with their families and their lives. This is one of those public policy issues that has enormous personal impact, and we cannot toy or tinker with it for political ends. Clearly, Affordable Health Care is not working well in many ways and needs to be repaired, so our citizens have access to reliable and appropriate health care. We cannot go backwards on this. We need to look at the networks and the apparatus to pinpoint problems, profit issues for the providers and cost drivers. Where the marketplace has dried up access to providers, we need to step in, at least with band aids (the Medicare structure is one way), if only temporarily, while potential providers and the government can work out new marketplace solutions.

This generation of students will deliver the next generation of solutions.

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- Expand your knowledge at educational workshops
- Vote on up-and -coming businesses trying to achieve the American dream
- Network with your peers
- And deepen your love for agriculture

For more information, go to http://annualconvention.fb.org/
Presidential Candidates Have it Wrong:  Most Americans Support Free Trade
By Julie Murphy, Arizona Farm Bureau Communication Director

Comissioned by American Farm Bureau Association, a new poll from Morning Consult shows most voters favor fair trade — something all candidates should keep in mind as a congressional vote on the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement comes closer to reality.

“Most Americans support free trade,” American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said, “and most farmers do, too. Exports account for almost a quarter of American farm receipts, so opposing fair trade agreements like TPP doesn’t make a lot of sense to rural America.”

Global trade is an intricate system of give and take,” said Arizona Farm Bureau First Vice President and southern Arizona rancher Stefanie Smallhouse. “Arizona agricultural products are distributed all over the globe and in order for growers to be sustainable we need to have access to local and global markets. This particular trade agreement will increase demand for several Arizona products including dairy and beef in the growing markets of the Pacific and will greatly decrease tariffs which currently place our products at a disadvantage.”

Among other things, the August poll found:

• Fifty-seven percent of registered voters have a favorable view of “fair trade.”

• Fifty percent said they would be more likely to support TPP if they knew it would provide new markets overseas for U.S. farm products.

• After Americans were told TPP would increase net farm income by $4.4 billion and agricultural exports by $5.3 billion, 52 percent said they would be more likely to support TPP. More than half (51 percent) say an estimated increase of 40,100 jobs resulting from the agreement would make them more likely to support TPP.

• Fifty-two percent of voters say they would be more likely to support TPP if they knew the deal would increase annual income in the U.S. by $131 billion.

• Sixty-nine percent of voters support trade policies that will open new markets for U.S. products and U.S. farmers while less than one in 10 (8 percent) oppose.

“Most trade deals start out with loud opposition, only to fade away once the details come closer to reality,” Duvall said. “We are convinced TPP is no different: The more people know, the more they will support this vitally important agreement.”

Meet Arizona Agriculture’s Historic Aggie House
By Justen Ollendick, Collegiate YF&R Chair and Aggie House member and former Arizona Farm Bureau intern.

Aggie House, Incorporated is the University of Arizona’s oldest social organization that has provided students within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with opportunity for scholarship, professional development, social life and continuing the legacy and traditions of Aggie House, Inc.

An interview with Aggie House, Inc. Officers – Tucson, Arizona

Part of an ongoing series about Arizona’s farming and ranching families.

Tell me about the history behind the Aggie House: The Aggie House was organized in 1937 when a group of students in the college of Agriculture here at the University through common need decided to establish an organization that would permit them to live together and receive the benefits of a college education and of fellowship with minimal expense. At that time the late Dr. E.D. Tetreau, professor of Rural Sociology, and Dr. R.S. Hawkins, former Vice Dean of the College of Agriculture generously provided active guidance and financial assistance. Those organizers of the Aggie House established the first house at 1002 E 1st Street. In a period of five years, with effective financial management and active cooperation they were able to buy all the house furnishings and kitchen equipment, and accumulate a $3,500 surplus.

In 1943, with World War II pressing hard on America, the Aggie House ceased operations while all its members went into the armed services. After the war, the returning veterans were interested in reactivating the Aggie House and began the task of reorganizing in the face of financial obstacles. A building was rented which later its owner put up for sale. The boys living there were ordered to vacate by March of 1947. Meetings with the faculty advisors ensued, and the plans were made to purchase the house. A suggestion was offered that outside help in buying the place might be enlisted from people around the state interested in the welfare of students and in all phases of agriculture. The response from this statewide plea was gratifying! Persons and organizations too numerous to mention contributed both hard
Aggie House continued from page 11

Aggie House, Inc. was again established with the primary purpose of helping those students of agriculture who otherwise might not be able to attend the University because of costs. Today it is a three-story brick home facing east at 819 North Euclid Avenue, two blocks west of the University of Arizona campus. The house contains a library, dining room, commercial kitchen, store room, furnace room, sleeping porch on the 3rd story, and study rooms to accommodate up to 30 students.

What do members of the Aggie House do? The Aggie House has always been active in campus affairs. There are members appointed to every pertinent council or committee in the Associated Students of the University of Arizona. Through these committees and in house activities, ample opportunity is offered for development in leadership. The Aggie House, Inc. leadership consists of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Business Manager, Assistant Business Manager and auditors, as well as a social chairman, intramural sports manager, and historian. In addition, a U of A College of Agriculture staff member is elected to serve as an advisor.

Where do you see Aggie House in the next 5 to 10 years? After a short window of decline in membership due to a vast majority graduating, membership has nearly doubled and is continuing to climb. The pledge class of 2016–17 is one of the largest that has been seen in almost five years. What does this mean for the organization? It means more opportunity to grow our network, engage alumni, and continue to recruit young men that will help to continue the prestige legacy of Aggie House, Inc. Year to year, we hope that our relationship with the College of Agriculture at the University and other Greek-life affiliations continues to be as strong as it is today and has been in the past. Our alumni also prove to be of significant value as they help to guide and influence our financial and legal actions that help to keep the organization in good standing.

How does Aggie House, Inc. connect to Farm Bureau? The Farm Bureau provides resources for young agricultural professionals to develop their leadership skills. A huge portion of our membership, and their families, are longtime Arizona Farm Bureau members and members of their local counties. Our members are also dually enrolled as Collegiate YF&R members and are looking forward to participating in the activities of that organization this year! Past alumni serve in various leadership roles in local and state Farm Bureaus as well.

Candidates continued from page 9

while, electricity prices have fallen by 10% for American families and businesses in real terms. Landmark vehicle standards under the Clean Air Act are reducing US oil consumption by 1.8 billion barrels and saving the average driver $130 to $180 a year. The Renewable Fuel Standard is cutting US oil dependence and carbon pollution even more.

As President, Clinton will work to build on this progress, including by imposing a $60 billion Clean Energy Challenge to forge new federal partnerships with states, cities, and rural communities across the country that are ready to take the lead on clean energy and energy efficiency, giving them the flexibility, tools and resources they need to succeed. This includes expanding the Rural Utilities Service and other successful USDA energy programs and ensuring the federal government is a partner, not an obstacle, in getting electric cooperatives to capture the clean energy and energy efficiency opportunities of the 21st century.

Bioscience

Our future food security will depend on science, technology and innovation to increase efficiency, adapt to droughts and fight plant diseases. Agricultural biotechnology and other new crop development techniques will prove vital. As president, how will you ensure that new traits are reviewed expeditiously, that USDA’s GMO disclosure rules are focused on science and that solutions from science and technology are harnessed to meet the challenge of feeding a growing world.

TRUMP RESPONSE:

“I support the use of technology in food production, which has enabled American farmers to increase yields to levels never before experienced in the history of the world. Through innovation, American farmers are producing crops more resilient to drought, heat, and pests. Government should not block positive technological advancements in agriculture. Agency reviews need to be streamlined with all unnecessary red-tape cut out.”

CLINTON RESPONSE:

“Our target should be to find policy solutions that are grounded in science and respect consumers. Hillary understands the need for a national solution to the GMO labeling question — one that provides consistency to food companies and consumers across state lines. And she is glad Republicans and Democrats have worked together to build a bipartisan solution to this issue.”

Initiatives continued from page 5

2. The Arizona Farm Bureau opposes The Fair Wages and Healthy Families Act (I-24-2016):

Economists have legitimate disagreements as to both the positive and negative impacts of minimum wage increases. Predicting outcomes, in advance, on any new proposal is just that – a guessing game. Where does it wash between those who are better off with more income and those with job losses because of the increase? Any-one who says they know, don’t know. There are simply too many variables and too many unknowns.

It is clear from economic literature that small and measured minimum wage increases tied to inflation, more correctly move with market principles and cause less economic distortions. Arizona already has in place a system indexed to inflation. Combining this approach with earned tax credits for those struggling to earn a living wage, in a studied manner would seem more reason-able – not perfect, but more reasonable. An initiative that simply throws numbers against the wall is not a studied approach. Perhaps the greater good is a cost that should be shifted to the public rather than simply piling upon employers.

Candidates continued from page 9

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