



# FARM AID 2016 at USDA

Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Jefferson Auditorium  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, DC

## AGENDA

### 11:00 am WELCOME

Doug O'Brien, Senior Policy Advisor for Rural Affairs at the White House Domestic Policy Council  
Carolyn Mugar, Executive Director, Farm Aid

### 11:15 am PREMIER SCREENING of *HOMEPLACE UNDER FIRE*

Farm Aid is pleased to host the premier screening of our documentary film, *Homeplace Under Fire*, with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. *Homeplace Under Fire* is the story of American farm advocates and their thirty-year fight to keep family farmers on the land. The Farm Crisis of the 1980s drove hundreds of thousands of family farmers into foreclosure. Yet, out of that crisis arose a legion of farm advocates who have refused to stand and watch their way of life go up in flames.

### 11:45 am DISCUSSION

Effective farm policy requires an ongoing, iterative process where grassroots voices that see the impact of policies firsthand translate their insights into national policy development and implementation. *Homeplace Under Fire* illustrates how farm advocates are essential players in this process – serving as conduits of the farmer experience in order to improve or refine policies in Washington, D.C. This panel will explore how farm advocates have been so important to the work of keeping farmers on the land and advancing equal opportunity for all farmers in the country, and the progress that the 30-year engagement between the USDA and advocates has yielded.

**Moderator:** Scott Marlow, Rural Advancement Foundation International – USA (RAFI-USA)

[Elanor Starmer](#), Administrator of Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

[Val Dolcini](#), Administrator of Farm Service Agency (FSA)

[Dr. Joe Leonard](#), Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at USDA

**Stephen Carpenter**, Deputy Director & Senior Staff Attorney at Farmers Legal Action Group (FLAG)

**Ben Burkett**, Federation of Southern Cooperatives, 4th generation farmer

### 12:45 pm AUDIENCE Q&A

### 1:15 pm CLOSE