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CHARTING THE PATH FORWARD: ACTIONABLE TAKE-AWAYS

Co-Founder of the ASU Morrison Institute for Public Policy
Richard Morrison, Esq.



Richard Morrison has served Arizona in many ways. He has been a natural resources lawyer, a partner in multiple family-owned farming and ranching entities, and an Adjunct Professor of agricultural law at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. At ASU, he also serves on seven advisory boards involving three colleges and one university-wide program.

Richard is a former trustee of the nationally recognized Farm Foundation. In the Foundation's Roundtable, he is now an Honorary Lifetime Fellow. Early in his career, he served on the USDA National Advisory Council for Rural Development. He later taught courses at the Morrison School of Agribusiness and is often credited with founding its Graduate Certificate Program in Water Resources Management.

Following his parents' example, Richard committed himself to philanthropy forty-five (45) years ago. He is generally recognized as a Co-Founder of the Morrison Institute of Public Policy at ASU, but his philanthropic efforts extend beyond that, including service as a Director and President of a private charitable foundation and as a Director of the Arizona Community Foundation. As President of the private foundation, he endowed two professorships in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Arizona. He later personally established a professorship in water law at ASU's College of Law. (Professor Rhett Larson, known to many of us, currently holds that position.) A decorated veteran, Richard was inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame in 2022.



Arizona Department of Agriculture
Director's Awards Presentation by Paul Brierley

I hope that you enjoyed today's program, visiting with hundreds of your fellow agriculturists and found the program fulfilling. We hope to see you next year for the 8th Annual Arizona Agribusiness Roundtable.

Raffle Drawings!



AZ DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Arizona Agribusiness Roundtable

March 13, 2026

Director Paul Brierley of the Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) and Tom Davis, President of the Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona (ABWC) welcome you to the

7th Annual Agribusiness Roundtable: "Navigating Change"

This event is an opportunity to hear from high level speakers with wide representation of agriculture, discussing important agribusiness related issues in the state of Arizona and beyond. Thank you to all sponsors of this year's Roundtable, you make these events possible. We hope you enjoy visiting with hundreds of your fellow agriculturists and find the program fulfilling.

Paul E. Brierley

Paul Brierley
AZ Department of Ag,
Director

Tom Davis

Tom Davis
ABWC,
President



ARIZONA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Arizona Department of Agriculture Director and
Host of the 7th Annual Arizona Agribusiness Roundtable,

Paul Brierley

Serving as your Master of Ceremonies for Today's Program



Thank you for spending your day with us at today's Agribusiness Roundtable, where all facets of Arizona Agriculture gather together with great speakers and panelists from across the state and nation. You will hear new perspectives on the many changes happening around us, and we will be "Navigating Change Together." That is the theme throughout the day, and I know you'll go home with new motivation to make this amazing industry even better. We at the Arizona Department of Agriculture are here to help you make that happen!



Padma AgRobotics

Founder of Padma AgRobotics Raghu Nandivada, MBA

Raghu Nandivada is the founder of Padma AgRobotics, an Arizona-based AgTech company developing AI-powered robotic systems to help farmers address labor shortages, improve productivity, and advance sustainable farm operations. His work focuses on practical field robotics for tasks such as weeding, bird deterrence and harvesting in specialty crops.

Nandivada's path into ag robotics was shaped by his family's farming background in India. He earned a Master's degree in electrical engineering and an MBA from Arizona State University. With over two decades of engineering experience, Raghu brings a strong blend of technical depth and entrepreneurial vision to agricultural innovation. He has led the development of advanced robotic platforms at Padma AgRobotics, including USDA-supported work on autonomous harvesting systems designed to reduce costs and support sustainable farming.



Salt River Project Chief Water Executive and Associate General Manager of Water Resources

Leslie Meyers

Welcome to the Salt River Project, PERA Training & Conference Center. Leslie has over 30 years of water resources management experience in Arizona and the Southwest, most recently with the Bureau of Reclamation. Throughout her career, Meyers has worked on strategic initiative planning and implementation with federal and state-level organizations, tribes, irrigation districts, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and others.



Co-Founder and COO of BDS AI Don Fotch, MBA

Thank you to our Centerpiece Sponsor!

Arizona Agribusiness Roundtable



Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona President and
General Manager, Yuma County Water Users' Association

Tom Davis



We welcome everyone in-person and virtually to the 7th Annual Arizona Agribusiness Roundtable event! These meetings would not be possible without the support of our sponsors, staff, Salt River Project PERA Training & Conference Center and the University of Arizona College of Ag, Life, & Environmental Sciences. We appreciate your attendance and trust you will leave with some new contacts, strengthened relationships, and learn something new. It is nice to know that partnerships and discussions are taking place all year long. Thank you for joining us, have a great day, and safe travels.

**Associate Director of Applied Research & Development
 Stephanie Slinski, PhD**

Dr. Stephanie Slinski is the Associate Director of Applied Research and Development at the Yuma Center of Excellence for Desert Agriculture (YCEDA), a public-private partnership between the desert agriculture industry and the University of Arizona. In this role, Dr. Slinski drives high-impact research collaborations and strategic partnerships to address the critical needs of the agricultural sector.

Her work focuses on advancing solutions in water conservation, Agtech, soil and plant health, and long-term agricultural sustainability. Demonstrating her commitment to state-wide economic development, Dr. Slinski recently secured funding from the Arizona Board of Regents to establish and direct the Arizona Hub for Agriculture Innovation. This organization accelerates the development, integration, and commercialization of agricultural technologies emerging from Arizona's public universities.



**Senior Director of the Arizona State University Luminosity Lab
 Dr. Tyler Smith**



Tyler Smith serves as the Sr. Director of The Luminosity Lab at Arizona State University which is a lean, interdisciplinary group of highly exceptional students. Built on a “Skunk Works” model of innovation, Luminosity prides itself on strategic design, systems level thinking, and rapid product development. Tyler is a 4th generation Arizonan and grew up working on his family’s farm in Maricopa. He is currently the Co-Lead of the Arizona Hub for Agriculture Innovation (AHAI) which is a tri-university partnership to develop technology and applied research for agriculture in the state of Arizona. In addition to that, Tyler oversees research teams working on projects ranging from AI software systems, medical systems, education solutions, autonomous vehicles and UAVs, robotic systems, aerospace systems, wearable and IoT devices, and electrical and energy systems.

Their goal is to push the limits of emerging technology and advance projects from research to commercialization. Over the past five years he has received numerous patents in various fields including energy, robotics, automation, and medical and led teams at Luminosity to win national and global awards including Xprize, RedBull Global Innovation Challenge, and the NASA BIG Idea Challenge.

**Arizona Agribusiness
 Roundtable**



**Arizona Agriculture:
 Navigating Change Together**
 Friday March 13, 2026
 Pera Training & Conference Center

8:00AM	Check-in, Find Your Seat, Breakfast and Networking
8:30AM	INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME Tom Davis, President of the Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona Leslie Meyers, Associate General Manager of the Salt River Project
8:35AM	ANNUAL "STATE OF ARIZONA AGRICULTURE" PRESENTATION Paul Brierley, Director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture
9:30AM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER Dudley W. Hoskins, Under Secretary, Marketing & Regulatory Programs for the USDA
10:15AM	NETWORKING BREAK
10:30AM	FORCES OF CHANGE: AGRICULTURE AT A DEFINING MOMENT Sara Wyant, Founder & Publisher for Agri-Pulse Communications
11:15AM	INTERPRETING CHANGE: REALITIES OF THE ROAD AHEAD - Fireside Chat Harrison Pittman, Director of the National Agricultural Law Center Moderated by Kathleen Merrigan, Executive Director, Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems & Former US Deputy Secretary of Agriculture
12:00PM	LUNCH IS SERVED
12:30PM	DIRECTOR'S IMPACT AWARDS Paul Brierley, Director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture
12:45PM	NETWORKING BREAK
1:00PM	NAVIGATING CHANGE TOGETHER: INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVES Panel of National & State Industry Leaders Scott Fryer, Vice President of Global Marketing for American Pistachio Growers Jonathan Sarager, Senior Director of Federal Government Affairs for Western Growers Paul Bush, President & CEO of Calcot Craig Caballero, CEO of the United Dairywomen of Arizona Tim Petersen, 2nd Vice President of Arizona Cattlegrowers' Association and Arizona Beef Council Member Moderated by John Boelts, President of Arizona Farm Bureau
1:45PM	POSITIONING FOR THE FUTURE: EMERGING SOLUTIONS \$3M Regents' Grant - Arizona Hub for Agriculture Innovation Dr. Stephanie Slinski, Associate Director of Applied Research & Development for the University of Arizona Yuma Center of Excellence for Desert Agriculture (YCEDA) Dr. Tyler Smith, Senior Director of the Arizona State University Luminosity Lab Raghu Nandivada, MBA, Founder of Padma AgRobotics Don Fotch, MBA, Co-Founder & COO of BDS AI Moderated by Dr. Shane Burgess, Charles-Sander Dean Emeritus of the University of Arizona College of Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences
2:30PM	CHARTING THE PATH FORWARD: ACTIONABLE TAKE-AWAYS Richard Morrison, Co-Founder of the ASU Morrison Institute for Public Policy
2:45PM	CONCLUSION OF EVENTS & DRAWING FOR PRIZES (MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)



Arizona Department of Agriculture Director

Paul Brierley

State of

Arizona Agriculture Address



Paul E. Brierley, Director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture, was raised working on his family's diversified farm. After earning an electrical engineering degree and spending 5 years in telecommunications research, he returned to production agriculture in southeast Arizona.

Paul worked with producers across Arizona as Farm Bureau's Director of Organization for 10 years. Then, in 2014 he became the founding Executive Director of the University of Arizona's Yuma Center of Excellence for Desert Agriculture, which he built into a highly effective agricultural research organization. He is highly respected and represents the best of our agriculture industry in Arizona.

On June 26, 2023, Paul took over the reins as Director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture under the appointment of Governor Katie Hobbs. He continues his tradition of partnering with industry to work towards the best possible outcomes in carrying out the agency's mission to protect the health and safety of Arizona consumers, advance and support Arizona agriculture, and safeguard commerce.

USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Dudley Hoskins

Dudley Hoskins was nominated by President Trump to serve as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP) on January 20, 2025, and was sworn in on September 30, 2025. Dudley is a native Texan who most recently served on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry under Chairman John Boozman (AR).

Previously, Dudley worked for the American Horse Council, CropLife America-RISE, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture before joining USDA in the first Trump administration as a Senior Advisor to then Secretary Perdue.

Dudley earned his undergraduate degree from Tulane University and Juris Doctorate from Texas A&M School of Law.



CHARTING THE PATH FORWARD: ACTIONABLE TAKE-AWAYS

Charles-Sander Dean Emeritus of the University of Arizona College of Agriculture, Life, & Environmental Sciences

Shane Burgess, PhD

A native of New Zealand, Dr. Burgess has worked around the world as a practicing veterinarian and scientist. His areas of research expertise include cancer biology, virology, proteomics, immunology, bioinformatics, and computational biology. Dr. Burgess is Vice President of the University of Arizona Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension, and the Charles-Sander Dean of the College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences. In FY22, this \$320M/year enterprise taught 10,700 students and almost 5,000 K-12 students in all 15 counties, had more than 1,250 employees and almost 1,000 DPS background-checked volunteers.

A first-generation student, Dr. Burgess graduated with distinction as a veterinarian in 1989 from Massey University. He has worked in and managed veterinary clinical practices in Australia and the United Kingdom, with services in horses, farm animals, pets, wild and zoo animals, and emergency medicine and surgery. He did a radiology residency at Murdoch University, where he co-founded Perth's first emergency veterinary clinic concurrently, and he has managed aquaculture facilities in Scotland. He did his Ph.D. in virology, immunology, and cancer biology, conferred by University of Bristol Medical School, while working full time outside the academy between 1995 and 1998.

Dr. Burgess volunteered to work in the U.K. World Reference Laboratory for Exotic Diseases during the 2001 U.K. foot and mouth disease crisis, where he led the diagnosis reporting office for the Office of Prime Minister Tony Blair. He was awarded the Institute for Animal Health Director's Award for Service.

In 2002, Dr. Burgess joined Mississippi State University's College of Veterinary Medicine as an assistant professor. In 2011, he was recruited from Mississippi State as a professor, associate dean, and director of the Institute for Genomics, Biocomputing and Biotechnology. Between 1997 and 2011 he was research-active and did most of his 194 refereed publications, mentored 38 graduate students and received \$53M in competitive funding.

Dr. Burgess is honored to lead the University of Arizona Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension as they advance their mission as part of a land-grant university by preparing students to be leaders and job creators, researching solutions to society's biggest challenges, and bringing the science of the university to the families and communities of Arizona.



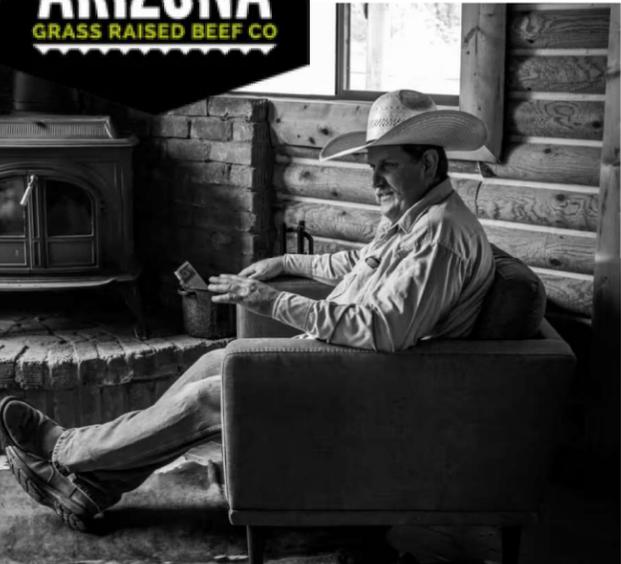
**CEO of the United Dairymen of Arizona
Craig Caballero**

Craig Caballero is the Chief Executive Officer of United Dairymen of Arizona (UDA), a farmer-owned cooperative representing dairy families across Arizona, and a second-generation dairy farmer. UDA processes approximately 4 billion pounds of milk annually, transforming locally produced milk into a wide range of dairy products and ingredients that are distributed across the United States and exported to markets around the world. Craig has played a significant role in shaping UDA's direction through more than two decades of leadership. He served 24 years on the UDA Board of Directors, including 17 years on its Executive Board, helping guide the cooperative's growth, operational expansion, and long-term strategy for supporting dairy producers.

His contributions extend beyond Arizona. Craig has served on many national dairy boards over the years, currently serves on the Executive Committee of the National Milk Producers Federation, and is a Lifetime Member of Pinal 40, reflecting his continued commitment to agricultural leadership and community engagement. Together with his wife Heather, they are raising three children: Anika, who works on the family dairy; Joseph, who is currently serving in the U.S. Army; and Ethan, who is a senior in high school. Craig's life and career reflect a deep dedication to family, farming, and the future of the dairy industry.



**2nd Vice President of Arizona Cattle Grower's Association
& Arizona Beef Council Member
Tim Petersen**



I appraised Agriculture real estate for a decade in Arizona. I am a 3rd generation meat cutter, my great grandfather had 3 butcher shops in Chicago. We currently own and operate the NO's, Palmerita and FF ranches in Yavapai and La Paz counties. Founder of Arizona Grass Raised Beef Co. Direct to consumer beef company. Operate a USDA inspected meat processing plant, and 2 USDA Inspected commercial kitchens. Owner, Founder of Renderology, LLC. We render Tallow for retail, commercial use, energy bars, skin care and food service.

1st Vice President, Arizona Cattle Growers, President, Yavapai Cattle Growers, Vice President of Yavapai County Farm Bureau, Board of Directors, Arizona Farm Bureau under President John Boelts leadership, and Member, Arizona Beef Council board



NETWORKING BREAK

FORCES OF CHANGE: AGRICULTURE AT A DEFINING MOMENT

**Founder & Publisher for Agri-Pulse Communications
Sara Wyant**

Sara Wyant is an award-winning agricultural journalist, entrepreneur and founder of Agri-Pulse Communications Inc., a unique digital media firm she launched in 2004 to focus on farm, food and rural policy issues. An investigative reporter who has written many groundbreaking stories, Wyant has covered almost every farm and food policy debate since the 1980s. She is well recognized on Capitol Hill, as well as by farm, ranch and commodity associations across the country, as a veteran journalist and sought-after speaker.

Throughout her career, Wyant has been a trailblazer through several "glass" ceilings. In 1995, she was the first female to be named to the senior management team in agricultural publishing as vice president for editorial at Farm Progress. She served as the first female chairwoman on the Farm Foundation's board of trustees and as president of the American Agricultural Editors Association, where she also earned an Oscar in Agriculture award for excellence in agricultural reporting. Wyant was named to Folio's "Top Women in Media" in the Entrepreneurs category in 2015. For her leadership within the industry, she has received numerous awards and accolades from a wide variety of organizations including: American Agri-Women, Agriculture Future of America, FFA, Missouri Farm Bureau, National Association of Farm Broadcasters, North American Agricultural Journalists, United Soybean Board and others.

A graduate of Iowa State University, Wyant gained first-hand knowledge of crop and livestock production while growing up on a century farm near Marengo, Iowa, which she now owns and manages. She and husband Allan Johnson also own the farm where her husband's family originally established a homestead near Almont, North Dakota. They are the parents of two sons and three grandchildren. Email Sara Wyant: Sara@Agri-Pulse.com

Go to @agripulse or @agripulwest on X to follow Sara and her team, follow Agri-Pulse's LinkedIn page or like Agri-Pulse's Facebook page.



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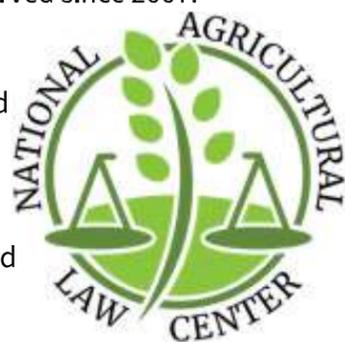
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INTERPRETING CHANGE: REALITIES OF THE ROAD AHEAD-FIRESIDE CHAT

Director of the National Agricultural Law Center Harrison Pittman

Harrison Pittman is the director of the National Agricultural Law Center. Harrison received his Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law, after attending Mississippi State University and graduating from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He then earned an LL.M. in Agricultural Law from the University of Arkansas School of Law's Graduate Program in Agricultural Law. Harrison has worked at the Center since 2001. During that time, his title and job duties have spanned the range of graduate assistant, staff attorney, co-director, interim director and currently, director; in which capacity he has served since 2007.

Harrison received the American Agricultural Law Association 2025 Distinguished Service Award and was the AALA's inaugural recipient of the Excellence in Agricultural Law Award in 2010. He has taught multiple law school agricultural law and undergraduate courses. Harrison serves on the Board of Leading. He is an active Rotarian, and he and his wife Susan have three college-age children.



Executive Director, ASU Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems

Kathleen Merrigan

Kathleen Merrigan, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and a leader in sustainable food systems, serves as inaugural executive director of the Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems at Arizona State University. Merrigan also holds the position of the Kelly and Brian Swette Professor of Sustainable Food Systems with appointments in the School of Sustainability, College of Health Solutions and School of Public Affairs.

From 2009-2013, Merrigan was U.S. Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, then a \$150 billion, 110,000 employee institution. As Deputy Secretary, she created and led the Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Initiative to support local food systems; was a key architect of First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" campaign; and made history as the first woman to chair the Ministerial Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Before joining the USDA, Merrigan held a variety of agriculture policy positions, including faculty member at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University, Administrator of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, and senior staff on the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, where she wrote the law establishing national standards for organic food.

Recognizing the history and scope of her work, Time Magazine named Merrigan among the "100 most influential people in the world" in 2010. Kathleen has a Ph.D. Environmental Planning and Policy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Master of Public Affairs, University of Texas, and B.A. English and Political Science, Williams College.



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Morrison School of Agribusiness

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A Collaborative Effort by the Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona, Arizona State University Morrison School of Agribusiness and Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering

This unique collaboration has been designed by distinguished practitioners of water, power, and general management, who have decades of experience and are among the most knowledgeable and recognized leaders in the field. The Water Management Certificate program, upon completion from ASU and the agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona will provide professional education to persons who are, or will be, managers of organizations who have governance authority and institutional responsibility to develop, store, and deliver water and power resources, or are advisors in those similar fields.

The program's objective is to help individuals become more effective resource managers, whether they are in public or private institutions.

THIS IS NOT A POLICY OR THEORY ORIENTED PROGRAM!

The instructors are seasoned practitioners who have experience finding solutions to the problems they discuss when teaching. Their insights are not found in textbooks or academic theories. Their goal is to prepare the next generation of leaders who will require knowledge and skills beyond just moving water from point to point.

For more information about the Water Management Certificate Program, visit: www.agribusinessarizona.org/wmcp



President and CEO of Calcot Paul Bush

A Kern County, Calif., native that grew up on a cattle ranch in western Arizona, Paul holds a bachelor of science degree in agricultural economics from the University of Arizona in Tucson, graduating in 1989. Post-graduate work included a six-month graduate assistantship at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Paul and wife Nancy currently reside in Phoenix, Arizona.

Professional background: Paul has worked for Calcot, Ltd., the Bakersfield, Calif.-based cotton marketing cooperative for 28 years. He started as a field representative for areas in Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas and served in this role for ten years (1998-2007). Paul was named vice president January 1, 2007. As vice president of Calcot's Southwest U.S. operations, Paul was responsible for all operations of the Glendale, AZ, office, including inbound traffic, warehouse operations and providing Calcot members and gin managers with information critical to their marketing needs. He oversaw recruiting memberships and complete operations in Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. Paul assumed his new post as CEO on September 1, 2018, succeeding Jarral T. Neeper, who exited after a nine-year term as the co-op's president. Paul is the eighth chief executive in Calcot's 99-year-history. In this role, he answers directly to Calcot's board and is responsible for guiding the grower-owned cooperative association in its efforts to maximize returns on producers' cotton, as well as other business endeavors.

Prior to Calcot, Paul managed Bluebonnet Warehouse for four years for King Ranch, Inc., in Galveston, Texas, was accounting manager for King Ranch's Arizona operations for three years and was the gin manager of 11 - Mile Corner Gin for Chickasha Cotton Oil Co. in Arizona for over a year before leaving to pursue an opportunity with Calcot. Involved in cotton industry affairs, Paul was a board member with the Cotton Warehouse Association of America in 1996-97 and is currently serving as a board member to the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council, the National Cotton Council (NCC), Cotton Council International, and Amcot, the organization representing America's cotton marketing cooperatives. Paul is also a graduate of the NCC's 1999-2000 Cotton Leadership Program.

He was recognized by The University of Arizona's Alumni Association in 2012 with the "Bear Down Achievement Award" and by the U of A's College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences in 2018 with their Alumni Achievement Award. He also is an advisor to The Arizona FFA Foundation Board of Directors and serves on the Alpha Pi of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity alumni board.



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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DIRECTOR'S IMPACT AWARDS

PRESENTATION BY PAUL BRIERLEY

DIRECTOR'S AGRICULTURE RESEARCH & EDUCATION ENABLER AWARD

DIRECTOR'S AGRICULTURE LEGACY AWARD

DIRECTOR'S AGRICULTURE IMPACT AWARD

DIRECTOR'S AGRICULTURE VISIONARY AWARD

Director's Distinguished Career of Service to AZDA & the Agriculture Industry Award



NETWORKING BREAK

NAVIGATING CHANGE TOGETHER: INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVES

**Panel Moderator and President of the Arizona Farm Bureau
John Boelts**



John and his wife Alicia own and operate Desert Premium Farms along with their partners Kent and Jenny Inglett, where they grow winter vegetables, durum wheat, cotton, melons, sudangrass seed and various other crops, in Yuma County, Arizona.

In addition to keeping busy farming, John was appointed by Governor Doug Ducey to serve Arizona agriculture on the Arizona Department of Agriculture's Advisory Board where he also served as chairman. He was appointed by Governor Katie Hobbs to serve on the Arizona Reconsultation Committee. John has served the industry twice as Yuma County Farm Bureau's President, as 2nd vice-president for Arizona Farm Bureau from 2013-2017, and from 2017-2024 as 1st vice-president. Since 2024 John has been serving as the President of Arizona Farm Bureau. John is a past Chairman of the AFBF Labor Committee and past Chairman of AFBF's Food Safety Issue Advisory Committee. John is also a graduate of the 2 year long American Farm Bureau Partners in Advocacy Leadership Program.

John and Alicia enjoy community outreach through Ag in the Classroom, have been featured on "America's Heartland", the "Dr. OZ Show" and participated in several media campaigns to promote agriculture. They have three children: Andrew (21), Matthew (19) and Daisy (18). When they're not busy farming, John and Alicia enjoy supporting their children in their many educational and extracurricular activities, traveling with family and boating on the Colorado River.



Vice President - Global Marketing

Scott Fryer

Scott Fryer joined American Pistachio Growers in 2023 as The Global Vice President of Marketing. He has over 15 years experience marketing for various food products, like pistachios, raisins, milk, and ice cream, driving growth for all companies he has worked for. Over the past 2 years at American Pistachio Growers, Scott has helped lead the strategic efforts to determine the path to grow demand of American pistachios, including understanding key markets and barriers that exist.



Senior Director of Federal Government Affairs for Western Growers

Jonathan Sarager



Jonathan Sarager is the Senior Director of Federal Government Affairs for Western Growers (WG). Jonathan has been advocating for WG members in Washington, DC for seven years in the areas of labor, food safety, and pesticides. He participates on the Agriculture Workforce Committee steering committee and is the chairman of the IR-4 Commodity Liaison Committee. Jonathan spent several years on capitol hill including at the Senate Judiciary Committee where he worked on DACA, H-2A, and EB-5 legislative efforts. He also worked on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and in an Arizona congressional office. He earned a BS degree from Arizona State University, and a JD from Texas Tech University. Jonathan is originally from Phoenix, Arizona and now lives in Northern Virginia with his wife and three boys.



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