



Agricultural & Food Law Policy Briefing

May 6, 2026 | Washington, D.C. | *Agenda is in Eastern Time (ET)

Wednesday, May 6:

12:30 p.m.: Registration opens

1:00 – 1:15 p.m.: Welcome and Introduction

- Ted McKinney, CEO, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)

1:15 – 2:15 p.m.: “Four Corners” Congressional Update: Ag Trade, E-15, MAHA, Farm Bill, & Related Issues

- Fitzhugh Elder IV, Staff Director, U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- Mikayla Bodey, Policy Director, U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- Brian Sowyrda, Staff Director, U.S. House Committee on Agriculture
- Parish Braden, Staff Director, U.S. House Committee on Agriculture

2:15 – 2:45 p.m.: Litigation, Regulation, Adjudication: Perspectives on USDA, Trade, & Related Issues

- Judge Stephen Alexander Vaden, USDA Deputy Secretary

2:45 – 3:00p.m.: Break

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.: State of Play on The Hill: View from the Trenches

- Moderator: Harrison M. Pittman, Director, NALC
- Tara Smith, Executive Vice President, Torrey Advisory Group
- Morgan Ulmer, Principal, Cornerstone Government Affairs
- Ken Barbic, Principal/Chair of Food & Agriculture Group, Invariant
- Jessica Schulken, Chief Advocacy and External Affairs Officer, The Russell Group

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.: Ag Industry Litigation & Regulation Update

- Harrison M. Pittman, Director, NALC
- Elizabeth Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney, NALC
- Rusty Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney, NALC
- Brigit Rollins, Staff Attorney (Environmental Law), NALC
- Emily Stone, Staff Attorney (Food Safety & Food Labeling), NALC

Reception to follow until 6:30 p.m., location to be announced.