Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance Rallies to Move Produce Priorities Forward

Farm Bill Now Rally unites agriculture groups in push for action on bill

WASHINGTON, DC – The Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance (SCFBA) will join hundreds of agriculture industry allies on Wednesday, September 12 at a rally in Washington, DC to urge Congress to pass a new Farm Bill before the current law expires on September 30. Organized by the Farm Bill Now Coalition, the event will feature remarks from Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., chairwoman of the Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee; Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan. Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minn., ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture; and Rep. Kristi Noem, R-S.D. on the importance of passing a Farm Bill. The rally will be held at 11:00 am at the Capitol Reflecting Pool in Union Square.

David Masser, president and COO of Keystone Potato Products in Pennsylvania, will take the podium on behalf of the SCFBA to emphasize the importance of Farm Bill-funded research initiatives on specialty crops. “Research funded by the 2008 Farm Bill has helped producers fight pests and diseases that threaten to destroy crops and has helped improve their food safety programs,” he said. “As a farmer, I would never plant in the spring and leave the crop to rot in the fall. With the programs developed in the 2008 Farm Bill just beginning to see results, it would be just as irresponsible to stop their momentum. Many programs – such as research – cannot be turned on and off like a light switch; these long-term projects must continue uninterrupted in order to fully bear fruit.”

Other invited speakers, representing operations of all sizes and the full spectrum of commodity groups, will highlight the broad implications of the 2012 Farm Bill on trade, energy, conservation, jobs and the economy.

“The Farm Bill Now rally will be an important opportunity to unite the agriculture community and send a message that action is necessary,” said Robert Guenther, SCFBA secretary and United Fresh senior vice president of public policy. “Now is the time for growers, shippers, packers, processors, wholesalers, retailers and anyone else involved in the supply chain to call their senators and representatives and let them know that this bill is a priority.”

For more information on the Farm Bill Now Rally, please contact Brittany Jablonsky or visit www.FarmBillNow.com.

###
The Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance is a national coalition of more than 120 organizations representing growers of fruits, vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, nursery plants and other products. The alliance was established to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop agriculture and improve the health of Americans by broadening the scope of U.S. agricultural public policy. For more information, visit www.strongeragriculture.org.