

Blach-Tom-Spring-Conf

SPEAKERS

John Herath, Randy Blach, Kip Tom

John Herath 00:00

The U.S. Meat Export Federation Spring Conference in Kansas City will feature an impressive lineup of speakers, including CattleFax CEO Randy Blach, who will update USMEF members on the U.S. cattle industry's herd rebuilding efforts.

Randy Blach 00:12

We all know we've been fighting drought for a number of years and things are starting to turn. Last year was a better year for moisture, and we're seeing a slowdown in cow slaughter. We're seeing the number of heifers placed on feed slow down. It looks like we have more people to at least have the intent to start holding a few more heifers back. So there's some positive things developing there if this weather situation will continue to cooperate. Obviously, we've been going through a situation that as these supplies shrink, prices have gotten higher, but the market continues to incentivize people to make cattle better. Higher grading cattle - continue to stay focused on high quality cattle in our production systems. And I don't think that's going to change based on the price signals we're seeing.

John Herath 00:56

Also addressing the conference will be Kip Tom, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations for Food and Agriculture.

Kip Tom 01:03

As a farmer and someone that my income comes from sales of crops, I understand that we can't live in a protectionist bubble. We need to make sure that we have sales going on around the world. And I know this audience already gets this. But we need to look beyond the borders of the United States and look around the world on what's going on with trade, consumption patterns, and what are the risks we could potentially face. I'll speak to that. I'll get into what hunger looks like around the world and why food security is national security. I'll talk a little bit about some of the geopolitical risks associated with our industry and that trade around the world. I'll talk a little bit about the EU Green Deal, the farm to fork initiative, proposition 12 here in the United States. Finally, I'll probably wrap up a little bit more on what this consumption looks like for the animal protein sector going into the future.

John Herath 01:54

For more on the conference, please visit [USMEF.org](https://usmef.org). For the U.S. Meat Export Federation, I'm John Herath.