

## Iowa State University to Host 2014 Urban-Ag Academy July 17-19, 2014

Policy makers, both rural and urban, will have the opportunity to gain an understanding of the benefits of agriculture in urban economies and the issues faced by rural constituencies at the [Urban-Ag Academy Conference](#), taking place at Iowa State University July 17-19

With the change in the rural-to-urban makeup of the population and their legislative bodies, the conference creates an environment for interactive problem-solving and the exchange of ideas related to agriculture, animal production, energy, conservation, ag education, and new technologies.

Legislative bodies across the country are becoming more urban and inclusive of more minority groups-- this is a drastic change from just a few decades ago, and many policy discussions continue to take shape around urban and rural interests. Through the Urban-Ag Academy, in partnership with Iowa State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, legislators have the ability reach beyond their traditional audiences to collaborate with fresh faces, conduct educational outreach, and collaborate on solutions of mutual concerns.

The Urban-Ag Academy was launched by [Representative Helen Miller](#) (Webster County) in 2011 to engage and bring leaders together to learn about agricultural and rural policy making in state legislative bodies. With regard to agriculture, Miller serves as Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Committee and is a member of the Iowa Advisory Council for Agricultural Education. Nationally, Miller serves as the Agriculture Policy Committee Chair of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, Chair of Women In Government (representing the 1788 female state legislators) and is a member of State Agricultural and Rural Leaders Inc.

**Did you know?** The Iowa State Chapter is hosting the [IAAS](#) (International Association of students in Agricultural and related Sciences) [World Congress](#) this month. The conference is an opportunity for students from around the world who are studying various aspects of food systems to engage in and learn about the diverse and complex agricultural systems in the American Midwest. With an expected 100 participants, the conference will be composed of local farm and agricultural facility tours, lectures from researchers and practitioners, workshops, and a company expo. Iowa State University's agriculture programs are consistently ranked highly and its agriculture research facilities are abundant.