



December 29, 2011

Minister to attend U.S. agriculture summit

Increasing ag-food opportunities through engagement with key U.S. legislators

Edmonton... Evan Berger, MLA for Livingstone-Macleod and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, is attending the Legislative Agricultural Chairs Summit and the State Agricultural Rural Leaders board meetings in Washington D.C., January 4-7.

The annual event brings together U.S. state legislative chairs, provincial ministers and elected officials to discuss agriculture issues. Berger will promote Alberta's agricultural and agri-food industry and participate in discussions on trade issues.

"With the current political and economic climate in the U.S. it's important that we continue to develop key relationships with U.S. state leaders" said Berger. "It is critical that we are engaged in discussions that impact Albertans, our agriculture industry and relations with our largest trading partner, the U.S."

This year's summit deals with priority agriculture issues including the U.S. Farm Bill, growing world food demand, food safety and traceability efforts, and updates on the U.S. Food Modernization Act. While in Washington, D.C., Berger will also meet with key U.S. industry representatives.

Alberta will host dinner meetings with U.S. legislators and will co-host the summit's Canadian delegation with the Canadian Consulate-General and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, along with a Summit breakfast event. Total costs for these events and Berger's expenses are estimated to be \$6,550.

For more information about the Legislative Agricultural Chairs Summit, please visit:

http://www.agandruralleaders.org/LAC/2012/2012_LAC.shtml

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Background: Evan Berger itinerary

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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Evan Berger itinerary

Wednesday, January 4

- Travel to Washington D.C.

Thursday, January 5

- Attend briefings and meetings with key industry and government stakeholders.
- Attend Canadian delegation briefing meeting co-hosted by the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta.

Friday, January 6

- Co-host Government of Canada and Government of Alberta breakfast.
- Attend Legislative Agricultural Chairs Summit presentations and breakout sessions.
- Attend Legislative Agricultural Chairs dinner.

Saturday, January 7

- Attend Legislative Agricultural Chairs Summit presentations and breakout sessions.
- Depart Washington D.C.

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