

Producers - Processors - Policy Makers - Future Ag Leaders



AGRIFUTURE

Growing the future of Ag today

AGRIFUTURE 2011 CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 16-18, 2012

LARAMIE WYOMING

HILTON GARDEN INN



CONFERENCE SUMMARY GUIDE

WHAT IS OUR AGRIFUTURE?

Agriculture is rapidly changing with advances in technology and a growing world population.

An industry as old as the land itself, and its lifestyle and economic viability must be cultivated just as carefully as the land that yields our crops and livestock.

In order to address our “agrifuture” we must measure, discuss and tackle the most pressing ag issues of the present.

As part of this effort, the following subjects were addressed during the AgriFuture 2012 conference in Laramie, WY from October 16-18, 2012.

- **What is the future of Ag?**
- **What are the challenges facing Ag?**
- **What are the innovative ways to meet those challenges?**

Please enjoy this summary of the conference and we hope you find it usefull as a reference tool.



Introduction

JASON FEARNEYHOUGH



The future of the agriculture industry is bright. Yet again, this is incredibly apparent to me after attending and participating in AgriFuture 2012 in Laramie, Wyoming. As many of you know, AgriFuture started as a dream of mine after years of discussions with young people, agriculture industry folks and others throughout the world and I couldn't be happier with how this idea has materialized over the last three years and how it continues to grow. Like the first conference in Evanston and the other two years in Laramie, the main goal of AgriFuture 2012 was to bring people together. Yet again, attendance was up and we brought numerous young people, producers, industry members, and decision makers together to discuss and map the future of our industry. This group brought remarkable ideas and insight on how we can collectively get through some of the challenges we all face today in order to reach the immense potential of agriculture. Through incredible speakers, small group dinners, productive brainstorming sessions, a beautiful setting in Laramie, and meaningful conversations, we took another positive and important step toward the future and health of our industry.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of those involved with putting this conference together. Their hard work made AgriFuture an event to remember and provided an great stepping stone to the possibilities we all know are out there. I would also like to thank the speakers for taking the time to come and present during the conference. They offered all in attendance some new ways to look at the industry challenges and provided innovative ideas that could be taken home, implemented and built on. And finally, I would like to thank those who attended AgriFuture . The interaction between heads of agencies, industry and students was something I was very excited to see. Along with this, the breakout sessions provided a forum for equal footing and valuable input from everyone participating. This type of dialog doesn't happen often and it helped move the discussions forward in a constructive and impactful way through unique perspectives.

I am proud to say that AgriFuture 2012 was a success. I think it's safe to say that all who attended benefited from the conference in one way or another. We can all take the valuable information gathered from the conference and start moving agriculture toward the bright future ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Fearneyhough".

Jason Fearneyhough
Director, Wyoming Department of Agriculture