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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance Committing to Cooperation with Food Industry to Nourish an At-Risk World**

SOURCE U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance (USFRA)

LINCOLN, Neb. -- The U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance (USFRA) is igniting efforts to connect the agriculture and food industries to solve one of humankind's greatest challenges: How to nourish an unprecedented population while protecting and enhancing the world in which we all live.

"There is no 'or' in this equation. We must grow and raise healthy foods to feed billions of people and we must do so in a way that positively contributes to the environment," said Erin Fitzgerald, CEO, USFRA. "There is no other sector that can provide nourishment for our communities while drawing down carbon into our soils and enhancing ecosystem services like the food and agriculture sector."

According to American Farmland Trust, agricultural land in the United States disappears at a rate of 175 acres per hour due to business and residential expansion. That loss of land, combined with climatic changes and a growing global population, is forcing farmers and ranchers to protect and optimize the environment while increasing the amount of food they produce per acre.

"We are proud to carry the responsibility of being a trusted source for food," said Chip Bowling, USFRA chairman and a seventh-generation farmer from Newburg, Md. "But farmers and ranchers need the support and collaboration of food makers and industry stakeholders to advance existing technologies and management practices."

"Our future is dependent upon contagious collaboration between the food and agriculture value chain," added Fitzgerald. "I'm urgently asking all innovators, food makers, nonprofit groups and financial institutions to join us as we create a strategic roadmap to meet these challenges of the next decade."

In early June, nearly 100 top leaders across agriculture, technology, NGOs, finance and investment, and food companies gathered at a 1400-acre farm an hour outside Washington, D.C., to discuss the urgency of the issues and collaborate on a vision. The Honor the Harvest Forum, created by USFRA and The Aspen Institute, featured working sessions among stakeholders that centered on the ability of agriculture to draw down greenhouse gases and adapt to a changing climate, while growing shared value across the food chain.

"It was such an honor to help plan and be part of Honor the Harvest Forum hosted by USFRA and The Aspen Institute," said Anne Meis, USFRA Secretary and District 1 Board Member of the Nebraska Soybean Board. "It is exciting to be part of this unprecedented gathering of national leaders in agriculture, food, government, research and conservation to discuss how farmers and ranchers can be

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part of the solution to environmental issues. Fittingly, we met on a farm outside of Washington, D.C. This was only the beginning and the real work continues."

Studies have found that farming and ranching will play a critical role in solving climate change issues. Agricultural soils have the capacity to draw down and store carbon through the photosynthesis process. Through climate smart agriculture practices, farmers and ranchers can optimize for production, improve resiliency, minimize fertilizers and other inputs, improve water use and quality, all while storing carbon for future generations.

"This idea that agriculture provides solutions to some of the biggest problems humanity faces is not something new," said A.G. Kawamura, former Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. "It's something that needs to be re-thought through and more importantly re-communicated that we're all in this together."

In the coming months, the leaders who attended Honor the Harvest will be outlining a path forward to a more sustainable food system, and define how food systems could look in 2030.

"We can have a lot of strategies," said Christine Daughtery, Vice President of Sustainable Agriculture & Responsible Sourcing, PepsiCo. "We clearly need vision. But at the end of the day, we need to roll up our sleeves and we need to get the work done."

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The Nebraska Soybean Board in conjunction with the National Biodiesel Board were the exclusive providers of biodiesel transportation for the Honor the Harvest Forum.

About U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance: The USFRA represents farmer and rancher-led organizations, and food and agricultural partners, with a common vision to further our global sustainable food systems. We believe farmers uniquely contribute to nourishing our planet, people, and natural resources. Our focus is creating a proactive collaboration between the best minds in food, agriculture, science, and technology to co-create solutions that will result in environmental, social, and economic sustainability. Learn more at www.usfarmersandranchers.org.

About the Nebraska Soybean Board: The nine-member Nebraska Soybean Board collects and disburses the Nebraska share of funds generated by the one-half of one percent times the net sales price per bushel of soybeans sold. Nebraska soybean checkoff funds are invested in research, education, domestic and foreign markets, including new uses for soybeans and soybean products.

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