



# NEW HORIZONS FOR THE AGRICULTURAL CARBON MARKET

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 | WASHINGTON, DC AND VIRTUAL

## Speaker Bios

(Alphabetized by last name)

### Thomas Blackburn, SustainCert

Thomas Blackburn is the Head of Business Development & Partnerships at SustainCert and has over 12 years of experience in corporate sustainability strategy, science-based targets, and carbon credits. He started his career as a carbon credit project developer in SE Asia focusing on renewable energy, energy efficiency, water and forestry. Thomas spent 3 years in New York as a corporate sustainability consultant with EcoAct/Atos and has been working with SustainCERT on carbon certification and verification for over 3 years.

### Dan Blaustein-Rejto, Breakthrough Institute

Dan Blaustein-Rejto is the Director of Food & Agriculture at the Breakthrough Institute. His work examines how public policy can support environmentally and socially beneficial agricultural innovations. Dan serves as a judge for the XPRIZE Feed the Next Billion competition and has served as a reviewer for Nature Food, Environmental Research Letters, and other journals.

### Michael Boccadoro, Dairy Cares

Michael Boccadoro has served as the executive director of Dairy Cares since its inception 20 years ago and is a leading national expert on sustainable dairy production. He specializes in public affairs consulting and has distinctive expertise in the areas of environmental, climate, natural resources, and sustainability management. Boccadoro is also the president of West Coast Advisors, responsible for overseeing the firm's climate and sustainability practices. Additionally, Boccadoro serves as executive director of the Agricultural Energy Consumers Association and the California Creamery Operators Association.

### Robert Bonnie, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Robert Bonnie is the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation at USDA. Prior to joining USDA, Bonnie was at Duke University first as a Rubenstein Fellow and later as an Executive in Residence at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions working on conservation and environmental issues in rural America. In 2020, Bonnie also worked with the Bipartisan Policy Center on its Farm and Forest Carbon Solutions Initiative. Bonnie was Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment at USDA from 2013 to 2017, and a senior advisor to Secretary Tom Vilsack from 2009 to 2013. Prior to joining USDA, Robert was vice president for land conservation at Environmental Defense Fund where he focused on developing incentives to reward stewardship on private lands.

### Spencer Chase, Agri-Pulse

Spencer Chase has been the Managing Editor of Agri-Pulse since 2018. Chase joined Agri-Pulse in 2014 as an Associate Editor, covering a wide range of farm policy issues. Since then, he has contributed to the company's website and weekly newsletter as well as increased the quality and quantity of Agri-Pulse's audio and video product offerings. He was promoted to Deputy Managing Editor in 2017 and began assisting in management functions for the company's editorial staff. He is a member of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting and serves as the organization's east region vice president.

## **Chuck Conner, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives**

Chuck Conner was named President and CEO of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives in January 2009, and he brings more than 25 years of experience in national and state government and agricultural trade associations to the position. Prior to joining NCFC, Conner served as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a position that he had held since 2005. From August 2007 to January 2008, Conner served as both USDA Acting Secretary and Deputy Secretary, helping to shape the Administration's agricultural, trade and immigration policies.

## **Jacqui Fatka, Agri-Pulse**

Jacqui Fatka joined the staff at Agri-Pulse nearly one year ago after nearly two decades of writing about agricultural and policy issues for the Farm Progress family of publications including Feedstuffs and Farm Futures. She grew up on a diversified crop and livestock operation in southwest Iowa where her father and brother still farm. While in college, she interned with the Iowa Pork Producers Association as their legislative intern in Sen. Chuck Grassley's office. She also currently serves as the executive secretary – treasurer of the North American Agricultural Journalists. Fatka currently lives in rural central Ohio with her husband and three children.

## **Suzy Friedman, World Wildlife Fund**

Suzy Friedman is the Senior Director for Food Policy at WWF, where she leads the organization's policy efforts to enable agriculture to be net zero by 2040 and support the economic viability of producers and communities. Before joining WWF, Suzy served as Vice President for Policy at the National Alliance for Forest Owners. Between 2001 and 2020, she played a lead role in the Environmental Defense Fund's work to build resilience and sustainability of the U.S. agricultural system. Suzy serves on the Board of Directors of Leading Harvest, which provides sustainable agriculture assurance programs.

## **Dan R. Glickman, Former Secretary of Agriculture**

Dan R. Glickman served as the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture from March 1995 until January 2001. In addition, Glickman, a member of BPC's Farm and Forest Task Forces and chair of APCO Worldwide's International Advisory Council, is the former executive director of the Aspen Institute Congressional Program. Previously, he was chairman of the Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. and the director of the Institute of Politics at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He also served as a partner and senior advisor to the law firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in Washington, D.C. Prior to becoming the secretary of agriculture, Glickman represented the 4th Congressional District of Kansas for 18 years in the House of Representatives, serving as a member of the House Agriculture committee and chairman of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over federal farm policy issues.

## **Lesley Jantarasami, Bipartisan Policy Center**

Lesley Jantarasami is the Managing Director of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Energy Program and leads their research and policy efforts on sectoral decarbonization strategies and standards, including focus areas on nature-based climate solutions, clean electricity policy, and natural gas' role in the energy transition. She brings over 12 years' climate policy experience at the state and federal levels, having previously worked at the Oregon Department of Energy on climate initiatives and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on greenhouse gas regulations in the transportation and power sectors.

## **Sasha Mackler, Bipartisan Policy Center**

Sasha Mackler is the Executive Director of the Energy Program at the Bipartisan Policy Center. Prior to leading the Energy Program, he spent nearly 10 years in the private sector, first as vice president of Summit Power Group's carbon capture business and then overseeing market development activities for Enviva. Earlier in his career, Mackler played a key role in BPC's first project as the Research Director at the National Commission on Energy Policy (NCEP). He subsequently launched BPC's energy innovation portfolio. Prior to his work with NCEP, he was an analyst in the Clean Air Markets Division at the Environmental Protection Agency.

### **Darrin Monteiro, California Dairies, Inc.**

Darrin Monteiro is the Vice President of Sustainability & Member Relations for California Dairies, Inc. He manages CDI's sustainability team that develops and maintains key sustainability metrics throughout the supply chain, from the farm to the customer. Additionally, he engages with customers, identifying and securing value-add opportunities on behalf of CDI and member-owners. Darrin also manages the CDI field team and government relations. He started his career on his family farm, Monteiro Bros. Dairy. Prior to joining CDI, Darrin worked for the USDA – Farm Service Agency.

### **Paul Myers, Athian**

Athian is led by founder and CEO Paul Myer, an accomplished technology leader who has built multiple Software as a Service (SaaS) companies in the network security and data analytics marketplaces. Myer most recently founded California-based Veracity Industrial Networks, a cybersecurity platform for the industrial networks that operate our critical infrastructure, including the power grid, manufacturing, and petrochemical sectors.

### **Daniel Peerless, Nestlé**

Daniel Peerless is the Global Sustainable Sourcing Lead for Dairy, Meat, Poultry and Eggs with Nestlé. As part of the ESG Climate and Sustainable Sourcing team, he oversees responsible sourcing standards and reporting within the Nestlé global supply chain and coordinates work to reduce emissions on the farms that produce ingredients for Nestlé products. Before joining Nestlé in 2021, he was a member of the environmental research team at Dairy Management Inc., the national dairy checkoff program.

### **Jeff Simmons, Elanco Animal Health**

Jeff Simmons serves as president and chief executive officer of Elanco Animal Health. With 30 years of industry and life sciences experience, Jeff has spent the past 15 years as head of Elanco. Through his purpose-driven leadership, in 2018, Jeff navigated the company's separation from Eli Lilly and Company, culminating with Elanco's listing on the New York Stock Exchange as an independent, public company. Additionally, in 2020, Jeff guided the acquisition of Bayer Animal Health, deepening Elanco's pet health business and bringing an equal balance between pets and livestock.