

WELCOME

Craig Hill

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Craig Hill

Iowa Farmer

Well, I'm Craig Hill, an Iowa farmer, president of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, and on behalf of myself, our Iowa Farm Bureau Board of Directors, our 100 county Farm Bureaus, and over 150,000 farm families that live across this state that belong to the Iowa Farm Bureau, I want to welcome you, this amazing crowd – over a thousand people are here today. This is just very remarkable, an Ag Roundtable, an Iowa Hunger Summit making new gains in attendance.

And, you know, I can't think of a more noble goal than striving to feed a hungry world. As always, it starts here, right here in Iowa, with us in Iowa. And this is an Ag Roundtable and a Hunger Summit that provides us an opportunity, an opportunity to assemble to discuss the challenges, to learn, to focus, and to find a path toward progress in finding a time when no one feels hunger.

It's also a time to honor, honor those that have done so much, those champions among us. And there's going to be many champions here on this stage in just few minutes, but another champion is our Ambassador Quinn. He has done a remarkable job in leading all the activities toward the Borlaug legacy and the World Food Prize.

It's also a time to honor and recognize those that are going to do in the future what has been done in the past. That's why Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Farm Bureau Financial Services want to support and are proud to support and sponsor this day, the many events that are coming ahead. It's been nearly a century ago since the county Farm Bureaus were being formed as they organized, and the Iowa Farm Bureau organized a century ago on the eve of our centennial. It was to organize, advance and improve in every possible way the agricultural interests of this great state of Iowa, the commonwealth of Iowa and the commonwealth of this nation through the united activities of our county Farm Bureaus. And we strive for that each and every day – both educationally, socially, economically we seek improvement at the Iowa Farm Bureau.

It's a grassroots-led organization, as you can see. It's a farmers led by farmers, and we provide a broad members and a grassroots united unity. The Iowa Farm Bureau shares a common goal of increasing productivity to feed the growing population while using fewer limited resources and also providing for environmental stewardship. Iowa farmers find beauty in growing things. In Iowa, the state of Iowa, on a per-square-mile basis, no one produces more than Iowa on a per-square-mile basis as a state or as a nation around the globe. In Iowa we live the Borlaug legacy.

The people all over the world, without exception, want their families to enjoy nutritious and abundant food. They want a healthy living. They want good government. They want educational opportunities, and they want a quality of life. And I submit to you, all these things

are based on a foundation of a strong, healthy and productive agriculture. And with that, I'm going to turn this back over to Ambassador Quinn. Thank you so much.