

## **Agriculture and Clean Energy Summit**

September 15, 2009  
Las Cruces, New Mexico

### **SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES**

#### **Brodie Ayers**

Brodie Ayers is the Renewable Energy Development Specialist for the Rocky Mountain Framers Union.

Brodie is a former United States Navy Officer and veteran of the conflict in Afghanistan. Over the last year and half, since his return to the intermountain west, Brodie has been working in renewable energy development. He has installed PV, Solar Thermal panels and Small Wind turbines, volunteered to help Veterans find green-jobs, worked with the Department of Energy tracking solar and wind research and development grants, and interned with Colorado's Governor's Energy Office.

Brodie has a B.S. in Aeronautical Science from Rocky Mountain College in Billings, MT, and graduated with a Commercial Pilot's License. Brodie is currently pursuing a Masters Certificate in Geographic Information Systems from the University of Denver.

#### **Senator Jeff Bingaman**

Jeff Bingaman grew up in Silver City in a family with deep New Mexico small town roots. His father was a science professor at Western New Mexico University, and his mother taught in the public schools. He graduated from high school in Silver City. After graduating from Harvard University, he earned a law degree at Stanford. There he met fellow law student Anne Kovacovich. After graduation, they married and returned to New Mexico, where they both practiced law, and their son, John, was born.

Jeff was elected New Mexico Attorney General in 1978. In 1982, he won election to the United States Senate, and in 2006, was re-elected to serve a fifth term.

#### **Jimmy Daukas**

Jimmy Daukas has been with American Farmland Trust (AFT) since 1997 managing national policy campaigns, as well as handling senior project management, communications and development responsibilities. Currently, Daukas directs AFT's new Agriculture & Environment Initiative helping farmers and ranchers improve water quality and combat climate change while maintaining an economically viable agricultural sector. AFT is engaging agriculture in developing new policy solutions, creating ecosystem service markets and conducting on-farm demonstrations. Daukas manages this \$2 million initiative that includes federal policy campaigns and field projects in the Chesapeake Bay, Upper Mississippi River, Ohio River Basin, California, Washington and New York.

Prior to this effort, Daukas oversaw AFT's campaign to transform U.S. agriculture policy in the 2008 Farm Bill to provide a better safety net, enhance conservation, improve rural development and expand access to healthy foods.

Daukas has a bachelor's in economics from Middlebury College and an MBA and MPM (masters of public management) from the University of Maryland. He lives with his wife and two sons in Takoma Park, MD.

### **Joel Brown**

Joel Brown is a rangeland ecologist at the Jornada Experimental Range. He is assigned to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Soil Survey Center in Lincoln, NE. His current activities include research and development of land classification systems (Ecological Site Descriptions), carbon sequestration on rangelands (Chicago Climate Exchange Technical Advisory Committee, DOE Southwest Sequestration Partnership Grant PI), and grazing land ecology. His professional experience includes 5 years as an NRCS Field and Area Range Conservationist in Kansas, 5 years as California NRCS State Rangeland Specialist, 5 years as CSIRO (Australia) Project Leader and Senior Principal Research Scientist, 5 years as NRCS Global Change Leader and Cooperating Scientist with the ARS Jornada Experimental Range. His formal education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture/Botany from Fort Hays State University (KS), a Master's Degree in Grazing Ecology from Texas A&M University and a Ph.D. in Shrubland Ecology from Texas A&M University.

### **Representative Joseph Cervantes**

Representative Joseph Cervantes - State House - District: 52

- Bachelor of Arts in Architecture 1983 - University of New Mexico
  - Presidential Scholar and General Honors Program
- Master of Architecture 1985 - California Polytechnic State University
- Juris Doctorate 1991 - University of New Mexico School of Law
  - Law Review
  - National Moot Court, and Mock Trial Teams

Shareholder of Cervantes Law Firm, P.C. - Law firm emphasizing civil and commercial litigation and trials, insurance defense, construction defect and personal injury litigation, government, administrative and regulatory law, land use and zoning, real estate and contracts.

### **COMMUNITY AND CIVIC ACTIVITIES**

- State Representative, New Mexico Legislature 2001-present
- Doña Ana County Board of County Commissioners 1999-2001
- New Mexico First 1992-Present - Board of Directors 2000-2004
- Leadership New Mexico 1999-2000 - Board of Directors 2000-2004
- Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance Bd. of Directors 1999-2001
- Las Cruces Metropolitan Planning Organization 1999-2001
- Doña Ana County Extraterritorial Zoning Authority 1999-2001
- American Legion Boys Nation and Boys State Programs

### **Kenneth Miyagishima**

Ken Miyagishima was born in Biloxi, Mississippi in 1963. He is of both Japanese and Mexican descent. He has lived in Las Cruces since 1971. He attended public schools and in 1985 graduated from New Mexico State University with degrees in finance and real estate. In 1984 – while still attending NMSU – Ken began his insurance and financial services business, which he still owns today.

Ken has achieved many milestones in his distinguished career in public service:

- 1992 –First elected to public office; County Commissioner - Dōna Ana County.
- 1996 –Re-elected as County Commissioner - District 4 - Dōna Ana County.
- 1998, 1999 & 2000 – Voted “Best County Commissioner” in readers’ poll.
- 2001- Elected to Las Cruces City Council - City Councilor, District 6.
- 2002 – Recipient: Commander's Award for Public Service, Department of the Army, March 1, 2002.
- 2005 - Re-elected as City Councillor - District 6.
- 2007 – Graduated: FBI Citizen's Academy, Las Cruces Resident Agency.
- 2007 – Elected Mayor of Las Cruces, New Mexico.
- 2007 – Following his election as Mayor, Ken became only the second person in Dōna Ana County's history to have been elected both: Chairman of the Dōna Ana County Commission and the Mayor of Las Cruces.

Ken is married to former judge Susana Chaparro – between them they have two children. Michael attends NMSU pursuing a degree in criminal justice. Danielle attends Oñate High School and was recently named an All-American Scholar At-Large Award Winner.

### **Andy Olsen**

Andy Olsen is a Senior Policy Advocate responsible for field organizing and constituency building for ELPC’s Farm Bill – Clean Energy Development program. Mr. Olsen managed the Governor’s Alternative Fuels Task Force and led several collaborative renewable energy efforts in Wisconsin. He has served as a Dane County Supervisor, Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission member, and as the Board President of RENEW Wisconsin. *M.S., Energy Analysis & Policy, University of Wisconsin, 1996; B.A., Economics, Northwestern University, 1983.*

### **Curtis Sayles**

Curtis Sayles is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation ag producer residing near Seibert, CO. Mr. Sayles returned to the family farm in 1980 after college and a short stint working as an Ocean Engineer for Brown & Root in Houston, Texas. Curtis and his wife started independently farming in 1987 growing their farm to its current 5,000 acres (owned and leased). They have three girls, one of who has recently married into another farming family.

The Sayles’ began no-till in 1996 and moved to continuous crop no-till in 1999. Currently they raise winter wheat (seed, red and white varieties), dryland corn, sunflowers and prozo millet. They are currently experimenting with canola and safflower in anticipation of bio-diesel demand. To balance their operation they also have a small all-natural beef feedlot.

### **J.E. “Ed” de Steiguer**

Dr. Ed de Steiguer is professor of natural resource economics and policy in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment, the University of Arizona. He also holds courtesy appointments in the Department of Agricultural Resource and Economics, and the Office of Arid Land Studies. Previously, Ed was employed as an economist and policy analyst with the USDA Forest Service. He has held faculty appointments at Texas A&M University, North Carolina State University, L’Ecole Nationale du Genie Rural des Eaux et des Forêts and Duke University. Ed served as Deputy Program Manager of the Forest Service’s Southern Global Change Program. He is a member of the Executive Committee for the University of Arizona’s Global Change Graduate Interdisciplinary Program. In 2001, he was named a Fellow in the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy where he researched the Kyoto Protocol. In 2006, he published a book from the University of Arizona Press titled *The Origins of Modern*

*Environmental Thought.* Among his research interests is the production of carbon offsets from rangelands.

### **Gary Teague**

Gary Teague and his wife, Laura, own and manage Teague Diversified, Inc., a diversified cattle feeding operation in Fort Morgan, Colorado. In addition to finishing cattle, they develop or breed heifers for ranches around the country. The feedlot operation is just a small part of their total business. They lease several ranches from absentee owners. They also run stockers on various crops including wheat, rye, turnips, alfalfa, and grass - some of which they produce on their own farms. They also have a sow operation, farrowing sows and marketing feeder pigs and replacement females to producers across the country. They also produce high quality compost from the manure resulting from their operations, and market it wholesale to Colorado Front Range entities.

Gary acquired his undergraduate degree in Animal Science at Texas A & M, and continued his education in a Master's program at Colorado State University in Beef Cattle Management. Laura received her bachelor's from Colorado State University and continued her education with a Master's program in Bovine Reproductive Management, also from CSU. It was through these programs that they acquired many of their contacts, and they value these experiences very much.

Gary grew up on a small diversified farming operation in Texas. Laura is from a family of teachers, but with close roots to farming. They have a 12-year-old daughter, Shelby; an 11-year-old son, Tucker; and a 10-year-old daughter, Charlee Jo.