



## **National Ag Day 2016**

On March 15, the Agriculture Council of America (ACA) welcomed leaders from national agricultural associations, congressional members and student representatives from FFA, 4-H, AFA, the Consortium and Student NAMA to our nation's capital in celebration of National Ag Day.

The day began with over 100 student delegates delivering the message of Ag Day to members of Congress and their staffs. A Mix-and-Mingle Luncheon followed at the Russell Senate Building with the following John Deere Outstanding Young Farmers were in attendance.

This year featured a new event; a newsmaker breakfast at the National Press Club, co-hosted by AAEA and Farm Credit.

During lunch, Senator Cory Gardner also spoke to those in attendance and was honored to be a part of celebrating agriculture. He has a strong legacy in agriculture growing up in a rural agricultural community learning the family business selling farm implements. The event also featured comments by John Deere Outstanding Young Farmer, Chad Garone.

In the evening, the Celebration of Ag Dinner, emceed by Orion Samulson, featured John Deere chief economist, JB Penn. Acting Deputy Secretary Mike Scuse welcomed the group. The National Essay Contest winner, Christina O'Brien, was also on hand to read her winning essay.

The National Pork Board and National Pork Producers Council provided the pork for dinner. Esteemed chef Mark Salter, Robert Morris Inn, prepared the meal.

This year's celebration was energized and impassioned. Morale was high, and events were well attended, with more than 75 at the breakfast, 350 at the luncheon and 150 at dinner.