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**Iowa Governor Terry Branstad Named Distinguished Speaker  
for USDA's 2017 Agricultural Outlook Forum Plenary**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8, 2017 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the nation's longest-serving Governor Terry Branstad, Governor of Iowa, will share his views on the state of agriculture as the distinguished speaker for the 93<sup>rd</sup> Agricultural Outlook Forum "[A New Horizon: The Future of Agriculture](#)" held Feb. 23–24, 2017, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, VA.

Branstad served four gubernatorial terms from 1983 to 1999 and another term and a half since 2011. During his tenure as the state's chief executive, Branstad weathered some of Iowa's worst economic turmoil during the farm crisis of the '80s, while helping lead the state's resurgence to a booming economy in the '90s and returned to the Governor's office during a period of strong ag sector growth. In December, Branstad accepted the nomination from President Donald Trump to serve on the world stage as U.S. Ambassador to China and awaits U.S. Senate confirmation. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway will follow Governor Branstad to provide a keynote address for the morning plenary.

During the 2017 Agricultural Outlook Forum, Branstad joins other noted figures in the ag community from academic leaders, producers, processors, and policy makers, to government officials, both foreign and domestic, to discuss fundamental issues and topics facing the future of agriculture.

Forum information can be found at [www.usda.gov/oce/forum](http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum). To register go to [USDA 2017 Agricultural Outlook Forum Registration](#).

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