



## U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture

A transatlantic exchange program on the role of agriculture for a sustainable economy and society

October 2022 to September 2024

The U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture, a two-year exchange project initiated by the Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with implementing partner, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, aims to **promote transatlantic dialogue on common challenges for the field of agriculture and rural regions and pave the way for a more sustainable agricultural future.**

Agriculture is of critical importance for the economy, society, the environment and for the future. The sector plays a major role, both in protecting natural resources and mitigating climate change as well as promoting the development of rural regions and social and political cohesion. As major importers and exporters of agricultural products, both Germany and the United States are central to shaping a sustainable agricultural future. However, longstanding conflicts, misunderstandings, and stereotyping in the field of agriculture prevent the U.S. and Germany from assuming a joint global leadership role under the umbrella of the transatlantic partnership, when they should be natural partners given many shared challenges and their time-honored relationship.

By bringing together stakeholders from relevant regions on both sides of the Atlantic, the forum addresses precisely these challenges and invests in transatlantic exchange in rural communities. **The two-year project (2022-2024) consists of two cohorts of 16 participants each, who will come together for virtual and in-person exchange.** The project is primarily geared toward involvement of farmers, with several other key agricultural stakeholders from academia, research, and business joining the groups. In addition to addressing the social, economic and political relevance of agriculture for rural areas, each program year will focus on specific regions, agricultural sectors, and a core theme:

- The first cohort, which will focus on **climate**, will engage participants active in **arable farming in eastern Germany and the U.S.' Corn Belt**. This group will meet in-person in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois in June 2023.
- The second cohort, which will focus on **digitalization** as the core topic, will bring together participants active in **cattle and dairy farming from northwestern Germany and the Northeastern U.S.** This group will meet in-person in Kiel, Schleswig-Holstein in 2024.





This project will form sustainable transatlantic networks, strengthen transatlantic relations in rural regions and the agricultural sector and reduce stereotypes and prejudices. At the same time, innovative solutions for a sustainable rural and agricultural future will be developed through the exchange of experience and the development of policy recommendations. The development and publication of policy recommendations is a central part of the U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture project. The participants of each exchange round jointly develop recommendations for the national (German/EU & U.S.) and transatlantic levels based on their personal experiences, expertise, and opinions as well as the lessons-learned and ideas from the joint discussions and site-visits during the program itself. The broader public will engage in the topics and be involved in this important dialogue through a final virtual or hybrid event, social media communications and publications.

**Table 1: Overview of core topics and regions**

Year	Topic	Region Germany	Region USA	Location of Meeting
2022-23	Climate	East (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Brandenburg, Saxony-Anhalt, Saxony, Thuringia)	Corn Belt (Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio)	Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA
2023-24	Digitalization	Northwest (Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony)	Northeast (Maine, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland)	Kiel, Schleswig-Holstein, Deutschland

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