

The St. Louis AgriBusiness Club is honored to have US Secretary of Agriculture, Ed Schafer, speaking at our Thursday, October 9th Luncheon Meeting!

When: Thursday, October 9th Luncheon Meeting & Professional Development 11 a.m. Networking(starting ½ hour earlier) 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Meal and Program

Speaker: Ed Schafer, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

Ed Schafer was sworn in as the 29th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on January 28, 2008. Secretary Schafer brings a record as an innovative two-term governor of North Dakota to USDA along with extensive private sector experience as both an entrepreneur and a business executive. Schafer served as North Dakota's governor from 1992 to 2000 and made diversifying and expanding North Dakota's economy, reducing the cost of government and advancing agriculture his top priorities in office. He worked to normalize trading relations with China and develop that nation as an export market for North Dakota farm products. He also led efforts to upgrade North Dakota's communications infrastructure and make high-speed voice and data networks available to farmers, ranchers and rural businesses. To expand the state's job base, he encouraged the growth of value-added agricultural industries such as pasta and corn sweetener manufacturing. Schafer was elected chair of the Republican Governors Association in 2000 and that same year he co-founded and co-chaired the Governors Biotechnology Partnership to increase public understanding and support for the benefits of agricultural biotechnology. He has had a lifelong interest in conservation and helped arrange the U.S. Forest Service's May 2007 purchase of the 5,200 acre Elkhorn ranch in North Dakota. The site was where Theodore Roosevelt had his home and operated a cattle ranch in the 1880s. Born and raised in Bismarck, North Dakota, Schafer graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and earned an MBA from the University of Denver in 1970. He and his wife, Nancy, have four children and eight grandchildren.



Program: Update from the USDA and the Secretary's office including: Farm bill and CRP update, biofuel initiatives, China trade, food safety, urban agricultural education, and future USDA forecast.

Sponsors: Monsanto, Bunge, CoBank, and Missouri Dairy Association

Where: Plaza I & II rooms, Doubletree Hotel at Westport, 1973 Craigshire Road, St. Louis, MO 63146(formerly the Holiday Inn where we had meetings in the past)

RSVP: By Oct 6th, email your reservation to: stlouisagclub@yahoo.com or call Amy Kolweier, secretary, at (314) 292-2371 to reserve your meal. No-shows will be invoiced.

Luncheon and Professional Development Registration -

\$25 which can be paid at the door(cash or checks payable to the St. Louis AgriBusiness Club) or by credit card online at <http://www.stlouisagclub.org/meetingform.html> If you do RSVP and you find out by Wednesday afternoon or early Thursday morning that you cannot attend, please contact Dean Dittmar on his cell phone - 618.604.1622, so that you will not be invoiced.