

Illinois FFA Agenda July 13-16, 2026
Washington, D.C. Experience



Monday, July 13

Travel & Overview

Dress: FFA gold polos, IL Corn polos

10:00 – IL Corn metros to DCA airport

(Ashley, Jim, Lyndi)

11:10 – FFA Flight arrival time

Southwest Flight WN-2569 8:15 departure time **11:10 Arrival time**

Metro to Hotel: *Westin Washington DC Downtown, 999 9th St. NW, Washington, DC 20001*

Check in to hotel & bell check luggage

1:00 -5:00 – Welcome Meeting

Room 106 in the Dirksen Senate Office Building (Rules and Administration Hearing Room)

NO CELL PHONE PHOTOS ALLOWED

Schedule Overview & Odds-N-Ends (1:00)

Ashley, Lyndi & Jim, IL Corn

Political “Lay of the Land” (2:00-2:45)

David Beaudreau, David Crow, Jay Vroom,
DC Legislative and Regulatory Services (DCLRS)

“From the Farm to the Hill: Careers, Policy, and the Power of Advocacy” (3:30)

Speaker Pannel:

- Billy Dwyer – Legislative Assistant, Congresswoman Robin Kelly (D) IL-02
- Aleksi Knepp- Legislative Assistant, Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski (D) IL-13
- Emma Freebairn – Manager of Industry Relations: Administration, U.S. Grains Council and past FFA Intern (TBD)

5:00-6:00 – Dinner at Union Station

6:00-9:00 – Old Town Trolley Tour of Washington D.C.

Pick up location: In front of Union Station

Drop off location: The Westin Washington DC Downtown, 999 9th St. NW, Washington, DC 20001

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Tuesday, July 14

Agency Visits

Dress: FFA Official Dress, IL Corn Business Dress

7:00 – **Visit NCGA's registration desk located near *Potomac Ballroom***

7:00 - **NCGA Breakfast in hotel – Meet your IL Corn team!**

Westin Hotel "Potomac Ballroom Salon 2-3"

8:30-9:30 - **Meeting with U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council**

Cary Sifferath, Vice President USGC

20 F St NW #900, Washington, DC 20001

10:00-12:00 - **USDA Staff addresses the group**

Various USDA Staff Members TBD

USDA, Whitten Bldg 1400 Jefferson Dr. SW, "Press/Media Room" – 107A

- 10:00-10:30- Farm Production & Conservation Deputy Under Secretary, Brooke Appleton
- 10:30-11:00- National Institute of Food and Agriculture - Director Dr. Jaye Hamby
- 11:00-11:30- Riley Pagett, COS for TFFA
- 11:30-12:00- Kathryn Zook or Maya Patel (re: 45Z)

12:00-1:30 - **Lunch at National Museum of American History**

"Eat at America's Table" Café

2:00-3:00 **Meeting with John Deere Government Relations**

801 17th Street NW

Ashley Antoskiewicz, Sr, Mgr., Global Gov't Affairs

3:30-4:30 **Meeting with Marquis RE: Ethanol policy and new uses**

Westin Hotel Meeting Rm 2

Peter Laudeman, Director of Federal Gov't Relations

Break

6:30-8:30 – **Illinois Networking Supper at Clyde's of Gallery Place**

707 7th St. NW, Washington DC, "Piedmont Room" on 2nd floor, straight ahead from stairs

Arrive- 6:30 | Seated- 7:00 | congressional visit prep meeting- 8:00

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Wednesday, July 15

Corn Congress & Hill visits

Dress: FFA Official Dress / IL Corn Business Dress

7:00-7:45 – **NCGA Corn Congress Breakfast**

Westin Hotel Ballroom level

7:45-12:30 – **Corn Congress**

Westin Hotel “Potomac Ballroom”

** First break of Corn Congress: Meet up front for group photo with IL Corn directors

Meet your IL Corn Team member / Staff at the established meeting location ~45min prior to first congressional meeting.

(Time variable) **Lunch in Longworth Cafeteria**

Basement of Longworth HOB

5:30 – **End of Hill visits:** Board member will get FFA back to hotel.

Evening Free

Thursday, July 16

Capitol Hill and travel

Dress: FFA Official Dress, IL Corn Business Dress / Casual dress for travel

7:00 – 8:00 **IL Corn/Illinois FFA Breakfast**

Westin Hotel Meeting Room 8-9

---Recommend checking out of hotel room and bell-check luggage---

9:00 – Finish Congressional visits with your team

9:45 – 11:15 U.S. Capitol Tours Meet outside of one of these offices:

Rep. Mary Miller’s office: 352 Cannon HOB (15 people max)

Rep. Darin LaHood’s office: 503 Cannon HOB (15 people max)

Return to Hotel (ASAP)

12:30 Metro to DCA airport

3:35 – FFA Flight Departure

Southwest Flight

3:35 departure time