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League of Rural Voters To Hold 2007 National Rural Summit

Edwards, Clinton, Obama, Cox confirm participation in presidential candidate forum; Iowa Agriculture Secretary to open event

(10/19/07) MINNEAPOLIS—The League of Rural Voters (LRV) in partnership with the Main Street Project will be gathering rural leaders and policy advocates from across the nation for the 2007 National Summit on Agriculture and Rural Life to be held October 27 at the Scheman Education Center on the campus of Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Iowa Agriculture Secretary Bill Northey will open the day with a welcome and remarks beginning at 9 a.m. Throughout the day, national rural policy experts and leaders will participate in panel discussions on issues ranging from energy, food, and rural development policy to immigration and globalization.

An afternoon candidate forum, co-sponsored by Iowa Public Radio and Generation Engage, will begin at 1:20 pm and feature addresses from Democrats John Edwards, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama and Republican John Cox, with time for questions from the audience following each of their presentations.

Generation Engage, a leader in innovative youth civic engagement strategies, will bring remote audiences from Raleigh, NC and San Jose, CA directly into the candidate forum by using Apple's iChat technology, video cameras, large screen projection and a broadband link. By bringing rural youth from other key states, the candidates will have a chance to see and speak to the future of rural America, from coast-to-coast.

"This is a golden opportunity to bring to the rural issues and policy to the forefront and in front of audiences that will play an important role in determining the Presidential candidates in 2008, said Niel Ritchie, executive director of The League of Rural Voters. This non-partisan event is being organized to raise the visibility of rural policy issues to advance the vital conversation concerning the future of rural America."

To register or for more information, please visit the League of Rural Voters website at www.leagueofruralvoters.org

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The League of Rural Voters was founded in 1985 as a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the representation of rural people in the public policy making process. The League seeks to build awareness of the economic challenges facing rural communities while advocating for federal and state policies that focus government resources on education, health care and local and regional economic development.

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