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Will Trump and Brexit kill global agricultural trade?

Global agricultural trade is facing disruption and uncertainty due to the election of Donald Trump, and the decision by the UK to leave the European Union. This means increased risks for Australian agriculture, which depends heavily on export markets.

Two international speakers will discuss these issues at the forthcoming Australian Farm Institute Agricultural Roundtable Conference, which will be held in Sydney on November 9th and 10th.

Alison Capper is chair of the UK National Farmers Union Horticulture and Potatoes Board. In this capacity Ali has been heavily involved in charting a post-Brexit course for UK farmers and will talk about how this environment is changing perspectives on how to be competitive in global trade.

“The EU and the UK are both very valuable markets for Australian agriculture, and Australia has already initiated trade negotiations with the EU to obtain better access to that market for Australian agricultural exports.” explained Mick Keogh, Executive Director of the AFI.

“But we might soon face the dilemma of having to decide between the EU and the UK markets as a priority in future trade negotiations, and given the size of the EU market, the logical response could be for Australian farmers to ignore the UK.”

Ali’s experience in understanding and dealing with some of the changes likely to occur as the UK withdraws from the common European market will provide some very useful insights to guide future business decisions by Australian agricultural exporters and policy-makers.”

An American perspective will be provided by Bob Young who has been the Chief Economist at American Farm Bureau Federation since 2003. Bob will explain how US agriculture and trade is likely to be impacted by the Trump administration.

“One of the biggest trade agreements that Australia has ever been involved in, the Trans Pacific Partnership, has already been effectively torpedoed by the Trump administration.” said Mick Keogh.

“While it is still unsure how this will be resolved and what other impacts on trade will flow from President Trump’s decisions the one thing that is certain is that we are in for a period of disruption and uncertainty. Bob will be talking about how American farmers are responding to this uncertainty and what the implications might be for Australian markets and trade relationships”.

The Australian Agricultural Roundtable conference is being held at the International Convention Centre Sydney on the 9th and 10th of November. As well as the two keynote speakers a full program of presentations will address the themes of decentralisation, the future agricultural workforce, energy policy and corporate investment in agriculture.

A program is available to download [here](#).

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