



March 12, 2026
Raising Nebraska
Grand Island, Nebraska
All times listed below are in Central.

2026 Nebraska Sorghum Symposium

– DRAFT AGENDA –

- 10:00 AM** **Welcome**
- 10:05 AM** **Nebraska USDA Farm Service Agency Update**
- Hilary Maricle, Nebraska State Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency (invited)
- 10:25 AM** **Sorghum Agronomics and Production**
- Brent Bean, Ph.D., director of agronomy, United Sorghum Checkoff Program
 - Sara Sexton-Bowser, Ph.D., managing director, Center for Sorghum Improvement
 - James Schnable, Ph.D., professor, Dept. of Agronomy & Horticulture, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 11:20 AM** **Break**
- 11:35 AM** **Innovating Food Products with Sorghum**
- Clint White, communications director, United Sorghum Checkoff Program
- 12:05 PM** **Lunch and Learn: Sorghum Cooking Demonstration**
- Nazim Khan, CEC, WCEC, WCMC, executive chef, Bryan Health
- 1:05 PM** **Break**
- 1:15 PM** **Livestock Feeding Systems and Sorghum Utilization**
- Jeffrey Jackson, alfalfa & forage specialist, CROPLAN
 - Mary Drewnoski, beef systems extension specialist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 2:05 PM** **National Sorghum Producers Update**
- Amy France, chair, National Sorghum Producers
- 2:20 PM** **Supporting Rural Communities**
- Ben Smith, field operations manager of the corn belt region, Farm Rescue
- 2:40 PM** **Break**
- 2:55 PM** **Market Development & Export Opportunities**
- Samantha Redfern, manager of global programs, U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council
 - Jacki Fee, president, Renewable Fuels Nebraska
 - Zach Simon, director of ingredient utilization & pet food, United Sorghum Checkoff Program
- 3:45 PM** **Keynote Address**
- Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen
- 4:05 PM** **Nebraska Sorghum Update/ Closing Comments**
- Kristine Dvoracek-Jameson, executive director, Nebraska Sorghum
- 4:15 PM** **Reception**



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2026 Nebraska Sorghum Annual Banquet

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| 5:00 PM | Reception |
| 5:30 PM | Opening Remarks |
| 5:35 PM | Dinner |
| 6:00 PM | Keynote Speaker <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Nicolas Cafaro La Menza, Ph.D., assistant professor, Dept. of Agronomy & Horticulture, University of Nebraska-Lincoln |
| 6:30 PM | Award Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2025 NSP Yield Contest Winners- Service to Industry- Service to Sorghum- Scholarship Recognition- Corporate Sponsor Recognition- Board of Directors Recognition |
| 7:00 PM | Closing |