



# 2025 FINAL Program

Louisiana  
Agricultural Technology & Management  
Conference  
February 12-14, 2025

Paragon Casino Resort  
711 Paragon Place  
Marksville, LA 71353



*Sponsored by the  
Louisiana Agricultural Consultants Association  
[www.laca1.org](http://www.laca1.org)*

## Wednesday, February 12, 2025

7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

### **Exhibit Set-up**

*Mari Center Exhibit Area*

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### **Registration**

*Arsene-Belzaire Ballroom Foyer*

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

### **Pre-Conference Workshop**

*Chiqui Ballroom*

- **Commercial Applicator Recertification Requirements: New Regulations and Recertification Criteria**  
Joe Ingrao, LDAF
- **Pesticide Safety, Pesticide Labeling, and WPS**  
Bryan Gueltig, LSU AgCenter

10:30 - 10:50 a.m.

### **Coffee Break** *sponsored by* ICL Growing Solutions

*Chiqui Ballroom Foyer*

10:50 - 11:30 a.m.

### **Pre-Conference Workshop**

*Chiqui Ballroom*

- **Federal and State Regulatory Update: LA Pesticide Law and How It Affects Agricultural Consultants**  
Joe Ingrao / Lyndon Leonards, LDAF

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

### **Luncheon** *sponsored by* BASF

*Technical Presentation(s)*

Albre Brown

*Mari Center Stage Side*



1:00 - 1:05 p.m.

### **Opening General Session**

*Arsene-Belzaire Ballroom*

Moderator: Chris Ward, 2024 LACA President

**Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance**



1:05 - 1:35 p.m.

### **ESA Workplan and Implementation of the Strategies: Background, Current Status, Timelines**

Ashlea Frank, Compliance Services International (CSI)

1:35 - 2:05 p.m.

### **ESA Workplan and Implementation of the Strategies: In Practice as a Consultant, Applicator - Field Level**

Leah Duzy, Compliance Services International (CSI)

2:05 - 2:20 p.m.

### **Q/A ESA Speakers**

2:20 - 2:25 p.m.

### **Emerging Technologies**

AMVAC - Darrin Malone

2:25 - 2:35 p.m.

### **Emerging Technologies**

CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE - Hunter Bowman

2:35 - 3:15 p.m.

### **LA Farm Bureau: Policy and Regulations Updates**

Richard Fontenot, President / Andy Brown, Managing Director of Commodity and Public Policy

3:15 - 3:25 p.m.

### **Q/A LA Farm Bureau Speaker**

## Wednesday, February 12, 2025



### Opening General Session (cont'd)

Arsene-Belzaire Ballroom

3:25 - 3:45 p.m.

**LSU AgCenter/LSU College of Agriculture Updates**  
Matt Lee, LSU AgCenter Vice President and Dean of COA

3:45 - 4:15 p.m.

### AWARDS

Presiding: Ashley Peters, LACA Scholarship Committee Chair

**LACA Scholarships**

**Hall of Fame** (Presented by: Hank Jones)

(Award Recipients, please stay for photo ops following presentations)

4:15 - 4:25 p.m.

**Ray and Dorothy Young Endowment Graduate Student Award**

Schyler Lee, Recipient

(Award Recipient, please stay for photo ops following presentations)

4:25 - 4:55 p.m.

**Refreshment Break sponsored by FMC**

**Mari Center Exhibit Area**



An Agricultural  
Sciences Company

4:55 - 5:00 p.m.

**Emerging Technologies**

KOCH AGRONOMIC SERVICES - Cullen Minter

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**LACA Business Meeting**

Arsene-Belzaire Ballroom

(All member categories are invited to attend)

Evening on your own...Paragon restaurants will be open for your convenience. It is recommended that reservations be made ahead of time if dining at Legends.

The Broken Wheel Brewery, Stephen's Heads or Tails, Habibi's Lebanese Cuisine, and La Petite Affaire Café are just a few of the restaurants within one mile of Paragon.

## Thursday, February 13, 2025

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.

**Breakfast sponsored by CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE**

**Technical Presentation(s)**

Hunter Bowman / Derek Scroggs

Mari Center Stage Side



7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Registration**

Arsene-Belzaire Ballroom Foyer

**Multi-Crop Session**

Arsene-Belzaire Ballroom

Moderator: Harold Lambert

8:00 - 8:30 a.m.

**Fertilizer Use Strategies for Louisiana Field Crops**

Brenda Tubana, LSU AgCenter

8:30 - 8:35 a.m.

**Emerging Technologies**

SYNGENTA CROP PROTECTION - Trevor Newkirk

**Thursday, February 13, 2025**

**Multi-Crop Session** (cont'd)

*Arsene-Belzaire Ballroom*



8:35 - 9:05 a.m.

**Sprayer Drones: Drift Management and Efficacy**

Randy Price, LSU AgCenter  
James Villegas, LSU AgCenter

9:05 - 9:15 a.m.

**Emerging Technologies**

FMC - Lawson Priess

9:15 - 9:45 a.m.

**Survey of Nematode Species by Crop and Parish**

Tristan Watson, LSU AgCenter

9:45 - 10:05 a.m.

**Wheat Double-Cropping and Variety Selection for Yield and Disease Resistance**

Noah DeWitt, LSU AgCenter

10:05 - 10:10 a.m.

**Emerging Technologies**

NUTRIEN - Wade Walker

10:10 - 10:40 a.m.

**Refreshment Break** sponsored by

SYNGENTA CROP PROTECTION

*Mari Center Exhibit Area*



10:40 - 11:00 a.m.

**Double Dipping: Conservation Compliance in Herbicide Strategies**

James Hendrix, LSU AgCenter

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**PANEL: What Does Weed Control Look Like without Dicamba?**

Donnie Miller / Daniel Stephenson, LSU AgCenter

Kaelin Saul, BASF

Kyle Fontenot, BAYER

Jonathan Siebert, CORTEVA

Trevor Newkirk, SYNGENTA CROP PROTECTION

Richard Costello / Blaine Viator, Independent Crop Consultants

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

**Luncheon** sponsored by SIMPLOT

*Technical Presentation(s)*

Bruce Jones / Chris Main / Ben Lawrence

*Mari Center Stage Side*



**Soybean Session**

*Arsene-Belzaire Ballroom*

Moderator: Mark Smith

1:00 - 1:20 p.m.

**Stink Bug Control in Soybean in the Absence of Acephate/  
Stink Bug Insecticide Resistance Test Kits**

Jeff Davis, LSU AgCenter

1:20 - 1:30 p.m.

**Emerging Technologies**

BAYER - Davy Mize

**Thursday, February 13, 2025**

**Soybean Session** (cont'd)

*Arsene-Belzaire Ballroom*



- 1:30 - 1:50 p.m.      **Addressing the Many Challenges of Cercospora Leaf Blight Management Through Collaborative Research**  
Sara Thomas-Sharma, LSU AgCenter
- 1:50 - 2:10 p.m.      **Cover Crop and Residual Herbicide Interactions for Weed Management**  
Jha Prashant, LSU AgCenter
- 2:10 - 2:30 p.m.      **Evaluating Repellents to Mitigate Deer Damage in Soybean: A Collaborative On-farm Effort**  
David Moseley, LSU AgCenter
- 2:30 - 2:35 p.m.      **Emerging Technologies**  
BELCHIM USA - Dennis Long
- 2:35 - - 2:55 p.m.      **Machine Learning Vision for Crop Insect Monitoring**  
Ivan Grijalva, LSU AgCenter
- 2:55 - 3:05 p.m.      **Emerging Technologies**  
BASF - Kaelin Saul
- 3:05 - 3:10 p.m.      **Emerging Technologies**  
HELM AG - Tim Ford
- 3:10 - 3:30 p.m.      **Development of Biological and Chemical Materials that Enhance Soybean Tolerance to Biotic and Abiotic Stresses**  
Jong Ham, LSU AgCenter
- 3:30 - 4:00 p.m.      **Refreshment Break** *sponsored by VALENT USA*  
*Mari Center Exhibit Area*
- 3:30 - 4:00 p.m.      **Rice Breakout Session I**  
*Chiqui Ballroom*  
Moderator: Earl Garber
- 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.      **Rice Stem Borer Ecology and Management: What We've Learned in 25 Years of Research**  
Blake Wilson, LSU AgCenter
- 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.      **Challenges in Rice Water Weevil Management with Insecticidal Seed Treatments**  
Tyler Musgrove, LSU AgCenter
- 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.      **Current Weed Management Topics in Rice**  
Connor Webster, LSU AgCenter



**Thursday, February 13, 2025**

**Rice Breakout Session I** (cont'd)

*Chiqui Ballroom*

5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

**Industry Technical Updates**

BASF - Connie Ware  
FMC - Lawson Priess  
GOWAN - Craig Sandoski  
HORIZON AG - TBA  
RICETEC - Joe Pankey  
SYNGENTA CROP PROTECTION - Trevor Newkirk



**Sugarcane Breakout Session I**

*Arsene/Belzaire Ballroom*

Moderator: Blaine Viator

4:00 - 4:20 p.m.

**Sugarcane Herbicide and Weed Control Research**

Matt Foster, LSU AgCenter

4:20 - 4:40 p.m.

**Billet Planting Research**

Andre Gama, LSU AgCenter  
Paul White, USDA-ARS (collaborator)

4:40- 5:00 p.m.

**Optimizing Detection of Sugarcane Diseases, Brown Stripe, Damping-off Syndrome, and Rust**

Andre Gama, LSU AgCenter

5:00 - 5:20 p.m.

**Application of Vantacor as a Systemic Treatment with Spring Fertilizer, Diaprepes Root Weevil, IPM Strategic Plan Workshop**

Hannah Penn, USDA-ARS

5:20 - 5:40 p.m.

**Mexican Rice Borer Scouting and In-furrow Insecticides**

Blake Wilson, LSU AgCenter

5:40 - 5:50 p.m.

**Introduction of New Sugarcane Pathologist, USDA-ARS**

Krishna Puri, USDA-ARS

5:50 - 6:00 p.m.

**Industry Technical Updates**

FMC - Lawson Priess  
BASF - Marc Grabert



**Cotton Breakout Session**

*Hall of Chiefs*

Moderator: Hank Jones

4:00 - 4:20 p.m.

**Incorporating Plinazolin into Cotton Insect Management Systems**

Dawson Kerns, LSU AgCenter

4:20 - 4:40 p.m.

**Cotton Variety Performance**

Shelly Kerns, LSU AgCenter

4:40 - 5:00 p.m.

**Beltwide Study on Biologicals**

Shelly Kerns, LSU AgCenter

## Thursday, February 13, 2025

### Cotton Breakout Session

*Hall of Chiefs (cont'd)*



5:00 - 5:20 p.m.

**Cotton Production Panel Discussion**  
*Speakers TBA*

5:20 - 5:45 p.m.

**A New Look at Cotton Varieties, PGRs, Technology and Breeding Advances: 1996-2024**  
Jay Mahaffey, BAYER

5:45 - 6:00 p.m.

**Industry Technical Updates**  
ASIDO - Macon LaFoe / Lee Rivenbark  
BASF - Thomas Dabbs  
BAYER - Kyle Fontenot / John Hand  
HELM AG - Tim Ford

## Friday, February 14, 2025

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.



**Breakfast sponsored by BAYER**  
*Technical Presentation(s)*  
Kyle Fontenot / Sammy Soignier  
*Mari Center Stage Side*



### Corn Breakout Session

*Hall of Chiefs*  
Moderator: Cecil Parker

8:00 - 8:30 a.m.

**Intrusion of the Corn Leafhopper into the US**  
Dawson Kerns, LSU AgCenter

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

**PANEL: Foliar Disease in Field Corn**  
Tom Allen, MSU  
Travis Faske U of A  
Trey Price, LSU AgCenter

9:00 - 9:20 a.m.

**Tissue Testing in Corn**  
Trent Roberts, U of A

9:20 - 9:40 a.m.

**Understanding and Overcoming Nutrient Deficiencies in Corn**  
Leo Vieira, LSU AgCenter  
Saulo Castro, LSU AgCenter (collaborator)

9:40 - 10:00 a.m.

**Industry Technical Updates**  
ASIDO - Macon LaFoe / Lee Rivenbark  
BASF - Kaelin Saul  
SYNGENTA CROP PROTECTION - Trevor Newkirk

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

**Refreshment Break sponsored by BELCHIM USA**  
*Mari Center Exhibit Area*



**Belchim USA**  
GROWING TOGETHER

**Friday, February 14, 2025**



## **Sugarcane Breakout Session II**

*Arsene/Belzair Ballroom*

Moderator: Kenneth Gravois

8:00 - 8:20 a.m.

**USDA-ARS Weed and Herbicide Research**

Alice Wright, USDA-ARS

8:20 - 8:50 a.m.

**Update on USDA Soil Fertility Research; Utrisha-N in Sugarcane**

Rich Johnson, USDA-ARS

8:50 - 9:10 a.m.

**Current Ripener Research**

Al Orgeron, LSU AgCenter



9:10 - 9:35 a.m.

**Commercial Yield Data on Newer Varieties**

Wilson Justice / Katie Richard, American Sugar Cane League

9:35 - 9:55 a.m.

**Sugarcane Nematode Research**

Tristan Watson, LSU AgCenter

9:55 - 10:00 a.m.

**Introduction of New LSU AgCenter Scientist (Sugarcane/Soybean)**

Saulo Castro, LSU AgCenter

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

**Refreshment Break** (BELCHIM USA)

*Mari Center Exhibit Area*

## **Rice Breakout Session II**

*Chiqui Ballroom*

Moderator:

8:00 - 8:20 a.m.

**Disease Management**

Felipe Dalla Lana, LSU AgCenter

8:20 - 8:40 a.m.

**Industry Technical Updates**

BELCHIM USA - Dennis Long

CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE - Hunter Bowman

ICL GROWING SOLUTIONS - AJ Foster

KOCH AGRONOMIC SERVICES - Cullen Minter

NUTRIEN - Scott Greenwalt



8:40 - 9:00 a.m.

**Advances in Understanding Host Resistance, Pathogen Races, and the Disease Cycle for Rice Diseases Caused by *Cercospora janseana***

Jonathan Richards, LSU AgCenter

9:00 - 9:20 a.m.

***Cercospora* Management**

Felipe Dalla Lana, LSU AgCenter

9:20 - 9:40 a.m.

**Comparison of Breeding Strategies for Simple and Complex Traits**

Adam Famoso, LSU AgCenter

9:40 - 10:00 a.m.

**Nitrogen Losses, Timings, and Management**

Ronnie Levy, LSU AgCenter



## Friday, February 14, 2025

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

**Refreshment Break** (BELCHIM USA)  
*Mari Center Exhibit Area*

### General Session

*Arsene-Belzaire Ballroom*

Moderator: Scooter LaCoste, 2025 LACA President

10:30 - 10:55 a.m.

**Louisiana Agriculture Update**  
Commissioner Mike Strain, DVM (*invited*)



10:55 - 11:00 a.m.

**Emerging Technologies**  
ASIDO - James Henderson

11:00 - 11:30 a.m.

**Legislative Update from Governor Landry's Office**  
Millard Mulé, Director of Policy



11:30 - 11:35 a.m.

**Emerging Technologies**  
TIGER-SUL - Kenneth Waters

11:35 - 11:40 a.m.

**Emerging Technologies**  
ADAMA - Jason Meier

11:40 - 11:50 a.m.

**Introduction of New LSU AgCenter Professionals**  
Mike Salassi, Executive Associate Vice President, LSU AgCenter

11:50 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**Adjournment**  
Scooter LaCoste, 2025 LACA President  
**Recertification**  
LDAF Personnel



*Audio/Visual Equipment and Facilitators provided by*



## **2025 LATMC Program Planning Committee**

Scooter LaCoste, Chair  
Dennis Burns  
Stacia Davis Conger  
Richard Costello  
Justin Dufour  
Rusty Elston  
BD Fontenot  
Kyle Fontenot  
Matt Foster  
Kenneth Gravois  
Bryan Gueltig  
Joe Ingrao  
Rich Johnson

Hank Jones  
Harold Lambert  
Rogers Leonard  
Boyd Padgett  
Rasel Parvej  
Carol Pinnell-Alison  
Trey Price  
Johnny Saichuk  
Derek Scroggs  
Mark Smith  
Tara Smith  
Blaine Viator  
Calvin Viator

James Villegas  
Herman Waguespack  
Tristan Watson  
Tim White  
Denise Wright

## ***Special Thanks to our 2025 Sustaining Members***

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**ASIDO**

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*Luncheon Sponsorship*

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*Special Thanks to our 2025 Sustaining Members (Con't)*

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*Special Thanks to our 2025 Sustaining Members (Con't)*

**ROVENSA NEXT**

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*Scholarship Sponsorship*



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