



2026 Final Program

Louisiana
Agricultural Technology & Management
Conference
February 11-13, 2026

Paragon Casino Resort
711 Paragon Place
Marksville, LA 71353



*Sponsored by the
Louisiana Agricultural Consultants Association
www.laca1.org*

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Exhibit Set-up <i>Mari Center Exhibit Area</i>
7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration <i>Arsene-Belazaire Ballroom Foyer</i>
8:25 - 10:30 a.m.	Pre-Conference Workshop <i>Chiqui Ballroom</i> <i>On-Boarding for New Agricultural Professionals (Agenda attached)</i>
10:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Coffee Break sponsored by ICL Growing Solutions <i>Chiqui Ballroom Foyer</i>
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Pre-Conference Workshop (con't) <i>Chiqui Ballroom</i> <i>On-Boarding for New Agricultural Professionals (Agenda attached)</i>
12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.	Luncheon sponsored by BASF Technical Presentation - Brad Guice <i>Mari Center Stage Side</i>
1:00 - 1:05 p.m.	Opening General Session <i>Arsene-Belazaire Ballroom</i> Moderator: Scooter LaCoste, 2025 LACA President Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance
1:05 - 1:30 p.m.	LSU AgCenter Leading Innovation Matt Lee, Senior Vice Chancellor, LSU AgCenter (<i>Invited</i>) Dean, LSU College of Agriculture
1:30 - 1:40 p.m.	Emerging Technologies - ICL GROWING SOLUTIONS AJ Foster
1:40 - 2:15 p.m.	New Industrial Gypsum By-Product Program for Louisiana Agriculture Kenneth Gravois, LSU AgCenter Joey Breaux, Louisiana Dept of Agriculture and Forestry
2:15 - 2:25 p.m.	Emerging Technologies - CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE Hunter Bowman
2:25 - 2:45 p.m.	Networking and Advocating: Why Advocacy Matters Richard Fontenot (<i>invited</i>) LA Farm Bureau Federation
2:45 - 3:10 p.m.	Legislative Issues Affecting Louisiana Agriculture Joe Mapes LA Farm Bureau Federation
3:10 - 3:30 p.m.	Refreshment Break sponsored by LACA <i>Mari Center Exhibit Area</i>
3:30 - 4:20 p.m.	Awards Moderator: Ashley Peters, LACA Scholarship Committee Chair Scholarships County Agent Award Hall of Fame Award



Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Opening General Session (con't)

Arsene-Belazaire Ballroom

4:20 - 4:30 p.m.

Ray and Dorothy Young Endowment Graduate Student Award

Stephanie Ramos, Recipient

LSU College of Agriculture, Dept of Plant Pathology & Crop Physiology

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

4:30 - 4:40 p.m.

Emerging Technologies - VALENT USA

Chris Meador

4:40 - 5:00 p.m.

Navigating Economic Uncertainties in Farm Country

Brian Hilbun, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness LSU AgCenter

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

LACA Business Meeting

Arsene-Belazaire 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. Broken Wheel Brewery & Bistro is within 2 miles of Paragon, as well as La Petite Affair Café which comes highly recommended, but has limited hours (Tues-Friday breakfast and lunch until 2 p.m. and dinner on Friday until 8 p.m.)

Thursday, February 12, 2026

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast sponsored by CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE

Technical Presentation(s)

Mari Center Stage Side



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

Registration

Arsene-Belazaire Ballroom Foyer

Multi-Crop Session

Arsene-Belazaire Ballroom

Moderator: Boyd Padgett

8:00 - 8:20 a.m.

Increased Use of Liberty Herbicide

Tom Barber, University of Arkansas

8:20 - 8:30 a.m.

Emerging Technologies - Syngenta Crop Protection

Trevor Newkirk



8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Drone Sprayer Application

Kam Harper

Macon Ridge Specialty Drone Services

9:00 - 9:10 a.m.

Emerging Technologies - BASF Corporation

John Godwin

9:10 - 9:15 a.m.

Emerging Technologies - Helena Agri-Enterprises

Michael Kenty

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Multi-Crop Session (cont'd) *Arsene-Belazaire Ballroom*

9:15 - 9:40 a.m. **Using Cereal Rye (and/or Triticale) as a Cover Crop**
James Hendrix, LSU AgCenter

9:40 - 10:00 a.m. **Root-Knot and Reniform: Key Nematode Challenges for Louisiana Agriculture**
Tristan Watson, LSU AgCenter

10:00 - 10:30 a.m. **Refreshment Break sponsored by SYNGENTA CROP PROTECTION**
Mari Center Exhibit Area

10:30 - 10:35 a.m. **Emerging Technologies - Superior AgriSprays**
Chaz Hebert

10:35 - 10:55 a.m. **Wheat Variety Selection for Yield and Disease Resistance**
Noah DeWitt, LSU AgCenter

10:55 - 11:00 a.m. **Emerging Technologies - ADAMA**
Jason Meier

11:00 - 11:25 a.m. **Options for Controlling Ragweed Parthenium**
Stephen Ippolito, LSU AgCenter

11:25 a.m. - 12:00 noon **Introduction and Update on Agriculture in the Legislature**
State Representative Rhonda Butler, District 28
Member of House Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. **Luncheon sponsored by HELM CROP SOLUTIONS**
Technical Presentation(s) Tim Ford, Ben Runge
Mari Center Stage Side

 **Soybean Session**
Arsene-Belazaire Ballroom
Moderator: Rogers Leonard

1:00 - 1:30 p.m. **Intensive Management for High Yielding Soybeans**
Bobby Golden, Simplot Grower Solutions

1:30 - 1:35 p.m. **Emerging Technologies - Tiger-Sul Products**
David Annis

1:35 - 1:55 p.m. **Soybean Diseases and Fungicides Update**
Boyd Padgett, LSU AgCenter

1:55 - 2:15 p.m. **Management of Redbanded Stink Bug: Update**
Jeff Davis, LSU AgCenter

2:15 - 2:40 p.m. **Utility of Bolt Technology in Louisiana Soybean Production**
Donnie Miller, LSU AgCenter



Thursday, February 12, 2026

Soybean Session (cont'd) *Arsene-Belazaire Ballroom*



2:40 - 2:45 p.m. **Emerging Technologies - Simplot Grower Solutions**
Ben Lawrence

2:45 - 3:20 p.m. **Soybean Management**
Part 1: On-Farm Strategies to Reduce Deer Damage
Part 2: Optimizing In-Season Potassium Applications
David Moseley, LSU AgCenter

3:20 - 3:25 p.m. **Emerging Technologies - Progeny Ag**
Carter Banks

3:25 - 3:30 p.m. **Emerging Technologies - KOCH Agronomic Services**
Cullen Minter

3:30 - 4:00 p.m. **Refreshment Break sponsored by VALENT USA**
Mari Center Exhibit Area

4:00 - 4:25 p.m. **Delphacid Update**
Tyler Musgrove, LSU AgCenter

4:25 - 4:45 p.m. **Abiotic Diseases**
Felipe Dalla Lana, LSU AgCenter

4:45 - 4:50 p.m. **Industry Update: ADAMA**
Jason Meier

4:50 - 4:55 p.m. **Industry Update: Gowan USA**
Craig Sandoski

4:55 - 5:00 p.m. **Industry Update: KOCH Agronomic Services**
Cullen Minter

5:00 - 5:30 p.m. **Perennial Grasses, Etc.**
Connor Webster, LSU AgCenter

5:30 - 5:35 p.m. **Industry Update: Horizon Ag**
Corey Connor

5:35 - 5:40 p.m. **Industry Update: BASF Corporation**
Connie Ware

5:40 - 6:00 p.m. **Secondary Diseases**
Felipe Dalla Lana, LSU AgCenter



Thursday, February 12, 2026

Sugarcane Breakout Session I

Arsene/Belazaire Ballroom
Moderator: Scooter LaCoste



4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Brown Stripe, Yellow Leaf, Mosaic, and Yellow Canopy Syndrome
Andre Gama, LSU AgCenter

4:30 - 4:50 p.m.

Potassium, Fertilizer Adjuvants, Utrisha, Billet Planting Nutritionals
Rich Johnson, USDA-ARS

4:50 - 5:10 p.m.

Introduction / Isolation of Brownstripe Pathogen
Krishna Puri, USDA-ARS

5:10 - 5:30 p.m.

Broflanilide and Imidacloprid Seed Treatments, Vantacor Adjuvant Evaluation
Hannah Penn, USDA-ARS

5:30 - 5:50 p.m.

Billet Planting Research
Andre Gama, LSU AgCenter



5:50 - 5:55 p.m.

Industry Update: BAYER
Kyle Fontenot

5:55 - 6:00 p.m.

Industry Update: ASIDO
Macon Lafoe / Lee Rivenbark

Cotton Breakout Session

Hall of Chiefs
Moderator: Hank Jones

4:00 - 4:20 p.m.

Implementing Vertento into Cotton Pest Management Plans
Dawson Kerns, LSU AgCenter

4:20 - 4:40 p.m.

OVT and Core Block Update
Shelly Kerns, LSU AgCenter

4:40 - 5:10 p.m.

The Cotton Jassid: What We Learned and Management in 2026
Isaac Esquivel, UF/IFAS

5:10 - 5:30 p.m.

Tarnished Plant Bug Thresholds in ThryvOn Cotton
Dawson Kerns, LSU AgCenter

5:30 - 5:35 p.m.

Industry Update: Phylogen
Derek Scroggs



5:35 - 5:40 p.m.

Industry Update: Gowan USA
Lance Schmidt

5:40 - 5:45 p.m.

Industry Update: BAYER
Kyle Fontenot / Sammy Soignier

5:45 -5:50 p.m.

Industry Update: KOCH Agronomic Services
Cullen Minter

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Cotton Breakout Session (cont'd)

Hall of Chiefs

5:50 - 5:55 p.m.

Industry Update: ICL Growing Solutions
AJ Foster

5:55 - 6:00 p.m.

Industry Update: HELM Crop Solutions
Tim Ford



Friday, February 13, 2026

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.



Breakfast sponsored by BAYER
Technical Presentation(s)
Mari Center Stage Side



Corn Breakout Session
Hall of Chiefs
Moderator: Harold Lambert

8:00 - 8:25 a.m.

Little Details on High Corn Yields
Trent Williams, Producer

8:25 - 8:45 a.m.

Managing Glyphosate-Resistant Johnsongrass in Louisiana Corn Production
Prashant Jha, LSU AgCenter

8:45 - 9:05 a.m.

Corn Leafhopper in Louisiana
Dawson Kerns, LSU AgCenter

9:05 - 9:25 a.m.

Intro on Using the App for Corn Disease
Shelly Kerns, LSU AgCenter

9:25 - 9:50 a.m.

Updates on Sulfur Fertilization and Biochar Application in Corn
Brenda Tubana, LSU AgCenter

9:50 - 9:55 a.m.

Industry Update: Nutrien Ag Solutions
Wade Walker

9:55 - 10:00 a.m.

Industry Update
TBA

Sugarcane Breakout Session II
Arsene/Belazaire Ballroom
Moderator: Kenneth Gravois

8:00 - 8:25 a.m.

Sugarcane Ripener Research, Experimental Ripeners
Al Orgeron, LSU AgCenter

8:25 - 8:55 a.m.

Sugarcane Herbicide and Weed Control Research
Matt Foster, LSU AgCenter

Friday, February 13, 2026

Sugarcane Breakout Session II (cont'd)
Arsene/Belazaire Ballroom



8:55 - 9:30 a.m.	Grower Mill Reports - Pol, Brix, Purity, Fiber, and Sediment/Core Lab Fundamentals of Sampling and Testing Lance Weber, M.A. Patout & Sons Craig DeGravelle, Raceland Raw Sugars
9:30 - 9:50 a.m.	West Indian Cane Fly/Aphid Yield, Threshold, and Disease Vector Research Overview Blake Wilson, LSU AgCenter
9:50 - 9:55 a.m.	Industry Update: BASF Corporation Marc Grabert
9:55 - 10:00 a.m.	Industry Update: Simplot Grower Solutions Ben Lawrence
Rice Breakout Session II <i>Chiqui Ballroom</i> Moderator: Dennis Fontenot	
8:00 - 8:20 a.m.	Stem Borers Blake Wilson, LSU AgCenter
8:20 - 8:45 a.m.	Variety Development for Delphacid Resistance Adam Famoso, LSU AgCenter
8:45 - 9:05 a.m.	Split Stem in Rice Scott Greenwalt, Nutrien Ag Solutions
9:05 - 9:10 a.m.	Industry Update: Nutrien Ag Solutions Scott Greenwalt
9:10 - 9:15 a.m.	Industry Update: RiceTec Joe Pankey
9:15 - 9:20 a.m.	Industry Update: Belchim USA TBA
9:20 - 9:25 a.m.	Industry Update: Gowan USA Lance Schmidt
9:25 - 9:45 a.m.	Hoja Blanca Disease Madison Flasco, LSU AgCenter
9:45 - 9:50 a.m.	Industry Update: Syngenta Crop Protection Trevor Newkirk



Friday, February 13, 2026

Rice Breakout Session II (cont'd) *Chiqui Ballroom*

9:50 - 9:55 a.m. **Industry Update: FMC Corporation**
Lawson Priess

9:55 - 10:00 a.m. **Industry Update: Nichino**
David King

10:00 - 10:30 a.m. **Coffee Break sponsored by LACA**
Mari Center Exhibit Area 

10:30 - 11:00 a.m. **General Session**
Arsene-Belazaire Ballroom
Moderator: Richard Griffing, 2026 LACA President

11:00 - 11:05 a.m. **State Climatology Update**
Jay Grymes
Louisiana State Climatologist
GOHSEP / LOSC / LSU AgCenter   

11:05 - 11:10 a.m. **Emerging Technologies - Atticus**
Brandon Sheridan

11:10 - 11:15 a.m. **Emerging Technologies - BAYER**
Kyle Fontenot

11:15 - 11:45 a.m. **Chronic Wasting Disease / Feral Hog Bait Status Update**
Luke Stamper, LSU AgCenter

11:45 - 11:55 a.m. **Introduction of New LSU AgCenter Professionals**
Mike Salassi, Executive Associate Vice President for Agriculture - LSU AgCenter
Director - Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station

11:50 a.m. - 12:00 noon **Adjournment**
Richard Griffing, 2026 LACA President 

Recertification
LDAF Personnel 

Audio/Visual Equipment and Facilitators provided by



2026 LATMC Program Planning Committee

Richard Griffing, Chair

Crop Focused Sub-Committees

<u>Corn (Grain Sorghum)</u>	Harold Lambert Chris Ward
<u>Cotton</u>	Hank Jones Rogers Leonard
<u>Rice</u>	Richard Costello BD Fontenot
<u>Soybean</u>	Richard Griffing Ashley Peters
<u>Sugarcane</u>	John Beatty Mark Smith Blaine Viator
<u>Wheat</u>	Noah DeWitt Steve Harrison Boyd Padgett

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Special Thanks to our 2026 Sustaining Members (con't)

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