



2026 Final Program

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

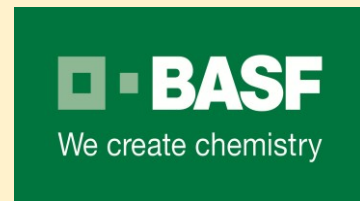
Paragon Casino Resort
711 Paragon Place
Marksville, LA 71353



*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**
Mari Center Exhibit Area
- 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Registration**
Arsene-Belazaire Ballroom Foyer
- 8:25 - 10:30 a.m. **Pre-Conference Workshop**
Chiqui Ballroom
On-Boarding for New Agricultural Professionals (*Agenda attached*)
- 10:30 - 10:45 a.m. **Coffee Break** sponsored by **ICL Growing Solutions**
Chiqui Ballroom Foyer
- 10:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon **Pre-Conference Workshop (con't)**
Chiqui Ballroom
On-Boarding for New Agricultural Professionals (*Agenda attached*)
- 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. **Luncheon** sponsored by **BASF**
Technical Presentation - Brad Guice
Mari Center Stage Side
- 1:00 - 1:05 p.m. **Opening General Session**
Arsene-Belazaire Ballroom
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 (*Invited*)
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 (*invited*)
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**
Mari Center Exhibit Area
- 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

syngenta



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
<i>Mari Center Exhibit Area</i> |
| | Rice Breakout Session I
<i>Chiqui Ballroom</i>
Moderator: Rustin Gilder |
| 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: Phytogen

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

Chiqui Ballroom

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



General Session

Arsene-Belzaire Ballroom

Moderator: Richard Griffing, 2026 LACA President

10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

State Climatology Update

Jay Grymes
Louisiana State Climatologist
GOHSEP / LOSC / LSU AgCenter



11:00 - 11:05 a.m.

Emerging Technologies - Atticus
Brandon Sheridan

11:05 - 11:10 a.m.

Emerging Technologie - BAYER
Kyle Fontenot

11:10 - 11:15 a.m.

Emerging Technologies - FarmMind
Colin Raby

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

Special Thanks to our 2026 Sustaining Members

ADAMA

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

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