



2026 Preliminary Program

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

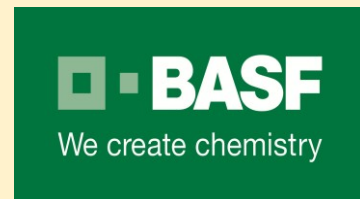
Paragon Casino Resort
711 Paragon Place
Marksville, LA 71353



*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(s)
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**
TBA
- 1:40 - 2:00 p.m. **New Industrial Gypsum By-Product Program for Louisiana Agriculture**
Kenneth Gravois, LSU AgCenter
Joey Breaux, Louisiana Dept of Agriculture and Forestry
- 2:00 - 2:10 p.m. **Emerging Technologies**
TBA
- 2:10 - 2:50 p.m. **Networking and Advocating: Why Advocacy Matters**
Richard Fontenot / Andy Brown (*invited*)
LA Farm Bureau Federation
- 2:50 - 3:10 p.m. **Legislative Issues Affecting Louisiana Agriculture**
Joe Mapes
LA Farm Bureau Federation
- 3:10 - 3:40 p.m. **Refreshment Break** sponsored by *TBA*
Mari Center Exhibit Area
- 3:40 - 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

TBA

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.

The Broken Wheel Brewery, and Habibi's Lebanese Cuisine are just a couple of the restaurants within one mile of Paragon.

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

TBA

9:10 - 9:15 a.m.

Emerging Technologies

TBA

9:15 - 9:20 a.m.

Emerging Technologies

TBA



Thursday, February 12, 2026

Multi-Crop Session (cont'd)

Arsene-Belazaire Ballroom

- 9:20 - 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**
TBA
- 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**
TBA
- 11:00 - 11:25 a.m. **Options for Controlling Ragweed Parthenium / Desiccant Alternatives to Paraquat**
Steven Ippolito, LSU AgCenter
- 11:25 a.m. - 12:00 noon **A Louisiana Producer's Perspective on President Trump's Farmer Bridge Assistance Program**
Meryl Kennedy, Kennedy Rice Mill (*Invited*)
- 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. **Luncheon** sponsored by **HELM AGRO**
Technical Presentation(s)
Mari Center Stage Side
- 1:00 - 1:20 p.m. **The Use of Liberty Herbicide in Soybeans**
Tom Barber, University of Arkansas
- 1:20 - 1:25 p.m. **Emerging Technologies**
TBA
- 1:25 - 1:45 p.m. **Soybean Diseases and Fungicides Update**
Trey Price and Boyd Padgett, LSU AgCenter
- 1:45 - 2:05 p.m. **Management of Redbanded Stink Bug: Update**
Jeff Davis, LSU AgCenter
- 2:05 - 2:30 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*



2:30 - 2:35 p.m.

Emerging Technologies
TBA

2:35 - 3:05 p.m.

Soybean Management
Part 1: On-Farm Strategies to Reduce Deer Damage
Part 2: Optimizing In-Season Potassium Applications
David Moseley, LSU AgCenter

3:05 - 3:10 p.m.

Emerging Technologies
TBA

3:10 - 3:30 p.m.

Intensive Management for High Yielding Soybeans
TBA

3:30 - 4:00 p.m.

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



Rice Breakout Session I
Chiqui Ballroom
Moderator: Rustin Gilder

4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Delphacid Update
Tyler Musgrove, LSU AgCenter

4:30 - 4:50 p.m.

Abiotic Diseases
Felipe Dalla Lana, LSU AgCenter

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
Tim Walker

5:35 - 6:00 p.m.

Secondary Diseases
Felipe Dalla Lana, LSU AgCenter

Sugarcane Breakout Session I
Arsene/Belazaire Ballroom
Moderator: Scooter LaCoste

4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Sugarcane Herbicide and Weed Control Research
Matt Foster, LSU AgCenter



Thursday, February 12, 2026

- 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. **West Indian Cane Fly/Aphid Yield, Threshold, and Disease Vector Research Overview**
Blake Wilson, LSU AgCenter
- 5:50 - 5:55 p.m. **Industry Update: BAYER**
TBA
- 5:55 - 6:00 p.m. **Industry Update**
TBA
- Cotton Breakout Session**
Hall of Chiefs
Moderator: Jay Frantom
- 4:00 - 4:20 p.m. **Plinazolin Insecticide**
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. **Cotton Jassid Biology/ID, Observations from the Past, and Current Control Recommendations**
Isaac Esquivel, UF/IFAS
- 5:10 - 5:30 p.m. **Update on 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**
Craig Sandoski
- 5:40 - 5:45 p.m. **Industry Update: BAYER**
TBA
- 5:45 -5:50 p.m. **Industry Update**
TBA
- 5:50 - 5:55 p.m. **Industry Update**
TBA
- 5:55 - 6:00 p.m. **Industry Update**
TBA



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 Stunt Disease/Corn Leaf Hopper Update
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
TBA

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.

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

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.

Billet Planting Research
Andre Gama, LSU AgCenter

9:50 - 9:55 a.m.

Industry Update
TBA

9:55 - 10:00 a.m.

Industry Update
TBA



Friday, February 13, 2026

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 - 9:15 a.m.

Split Stem in Rice

Scott Greenwalt, Nutrien Ag Solutions

9:15 - 9:20 a.m.

Industry Update: RiceTec

Joe Pankey

9:20 - 9:25 a.m.

Industry Update: Belchim USA

Dennis Long

9:25 - 9:30 a.m.

Industry Update: Gowan USA

Craig Sandoski

9:30 - 9:50 a.m.

Hojo Blanka Disease

Madison Flasco, LSU AgCenter

9:50 - 9:55 a.m.

Industry Update: Syngenta Crop Protection

Trevor Newkirk

9:55 - 10:00 a.m.

Industry Update: FMC Corporation

Lawson Priess

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Refreshment Break *sponsored by TBA*

Mari Center Exhibit Area

General Session

Arsene-Belazaire Ballroom

Moderator: Richard Griffing, 2026 LACA President

10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Jay Grymes

Louisiana State Climatologist

LA GOHSEP / Louisiana State University

11:00 - 11:05 a.m.

Emerging Technologies

TBA

11:05 - 11:10 a.m.

Emerging Technologies

TBA

11:10 - 11:15 a.m.

Emerging Technologies

TBA

Friday, February 13, 2026

- 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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