

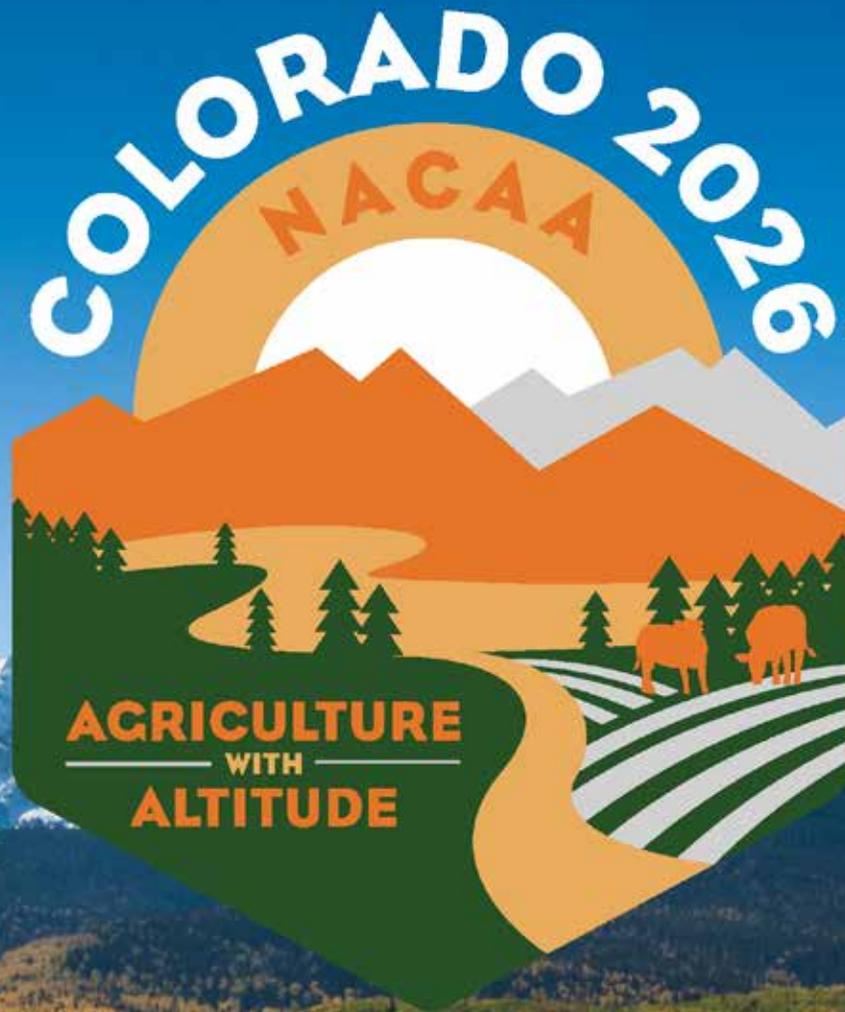
The County Agent



A publication of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents

Volume LXXXVII • No.1 • April, 2026

6584 W. Duroc Road • Maroa, IL 61756 • (217) 794-3700



President's Corner

Rising to New Heights

One quote that captures the spirit of all county agents comes from Pat Riley: "Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better."

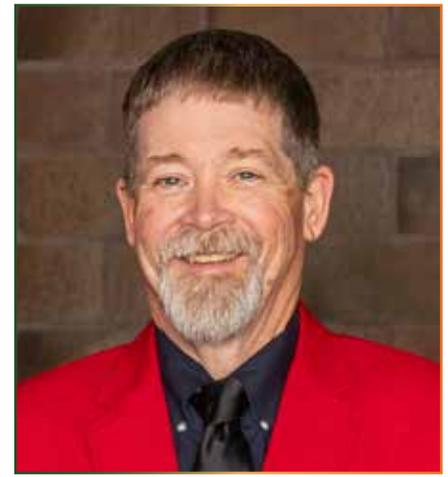
As we gather in Denver, the Mile High City, we are reminded that our work as county agents continually challenges us to reach new heights in service to our producers and communities. The AM/PIC provides an opportunity to reflect on our programs, share innovative ideas, and strengthen the relationships that make Extension successful. By learning from one another and exploring new strategies, we can return to our counties rejuvenated and prepared to deliver impactful, research-based programs.

This meeting will have a format somewhat different from past AM/PICs. In Denver, we will begin on Wednesday with the Welcome to Colorado meal and Inspirational Session and conclude on Sunday with tours and a farewell dinner. This schedule allows participants the flexibility to arrive early for a weekend in Denver or extend their stay to explore more of Colorado.

The Ag Agents in Colorado have spent the past four years developing an outstanding program that complements our top-notch professional development opportunities. The inspirational address will be delivered by renowned animal scientist, professor, author, and autism advocate, Dr. Temple Grandin. The capstone speaker will be Michele Payn, a nationally recognized agriculture advocate and founder of Cause Matters Corp. In addition, the program features presentations from experts at Colorado State University, the USDA, and other leaders in the field.

Colorado agents have also organized fifteen unique touring opportunities, ranging from traditional agricultural operations to innovative enterprises, such as whiskey production. And yes, there may even be a friendly debate over which green chili is the best. With so many options, there is something for everyone.

Alongside over ninety professional development sessions, we will recognize outstanding individuals for their achievements as Distinguished Service Award winners, Achievement Award winners, and Hall of Fame inductees.



*2025-2026 NACAA President
JJ Jones*

We encourage you to make plans now to join your fellow county agents in Denver for what promises to be an engaging and rewarding AM/PIC. This meeting offers far more than professional development hours—it is an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, gain new ideas, celebrate the accomplishments of our peers, and return home energized for the work ahead. Whether you arrive early to enjoy a weekend in the Mile High City or stay afterward to explore more of Colorado, the time invested will strengthen both your professional growth and the impact you have in your county. We hope you will take advantage of this outstanding program and be part of an event designed to help all of us continue striving for excellence in Extension.



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President: JJ Jones

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NACAA Committee Workshops to be held Virtual Pre AM/PIC

NACAA's committee structure forms the backbone of our organization. We encourage all members to get involved as State Chairs, Regional Vice Chairs, and eventually as National Committee Chairs throughout their careers.

Committee Workshops are a perfect opportunity to gather more input from all NACAA members -not just those who attend the AM/PIC. These workshops are open to **ALL NACAA** members. Do you have interest in what type of programming a committee may be planning for the upcoming year, or have interest in giving your input? This is the perfect opportunity to learn more about each committee and share your ideas and suggestions for the future direction of each committee.

Below is the schedule of the upcoming Committee Workshops along with a direct Zoom link to join in the discussion. No registration is required.

4/17/2026

Leadership & Administrative Skills Committee Workshop - 1:00 PM EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88620001414?pwd=cEK8mW98WuJOzMEUA6oWEEDx8JYUbn.1>

4/17/2026

Communications Committee Workshop - 3:00 PM EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85973579022?pwd=vzChVPglqGvRmpzHDV6t173sCOhTuD.1>

4/24/2026

Agricultural Economics & Community Development Committee Workshop - 1:00 PM EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82530535114?pwd=zoVlwwDMiObyuuRt45Nra1TriAWbYY.1>

5/1/2026

Agricultural Issues Committee Workshop - 1:00 PM EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87079173187?pwd=sxBINcc9blleoKul6aYt2q0ByPtMHd.1>

5/1/2026

Horticulture & Turfgrass Committee Workshop - 3:00 PM EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85223135880?pwd=M1IG3pNbQXeN2gvxiA33oyb4bBJ4pY.1>

5/8/2026

Sustainable Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee Workshop - 1:00 PM EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87207764817?pwd=RUYIGGjSfZlzVJlybEpauEsGBzShJd.1>

5/8/2026

Early Career Development Committee Workshop - 3:00 PM EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86437960877?pwd=7t0oiP3jfcOdxk9T2YVcoogZwoWXgv.1>

5/15/2026

Teaching & Educational Technologies Committee Workshop - 1:00 PM EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89546714365?pwd=BDEp2tT1bVvyqylisW5XsK2Vr3T42g2.1>

5/15/2026

Animal Science Committee Workshop - 3:00 PM EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89846451473?pwd=YL7kGP7kMLzqC4arOu6mYOsQWXKNCB.1>

6/5/2026

Scholarship Committee Workshop - 1:00 PM EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89468933056?pwd=Mlg4Yju6rbkHGslYS2Y6dok1ID0tOL.1>

6/5/2026

Research and Educational Posters Committee Workshop - 3:00 PM EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87127924966?pwd=DIk9coROMYeLspSQi3IBHWAhg7udFp.1>

6/12/2026

4-H & Youth Programming Committee Workshop - 1:00 PM EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82447737933?pwd=9RYBbUr7LcvJOLfJKlrUA7bbm4Wjpx.1>

6/12/2026

Agronomy & Pest Management Committee Workshop - 3:00 PM EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89404791026?pwd=qPyODoQZEUKsTuQrHyBCbfl5Yzo3je.1>

6/26/2026

Recognition & Awards Committee Workshop - 1:00 PM EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83479427911?pwd=5Hu2O80dCn8okrRaoti9MbiiBfW98R.1>

6/26/2026

Search for Excellence Committee Workshop - 3:00 PM EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81857313997?pwd=bY5DIgnGFpKyVuhrv8s3g87bL18a8D.1>

Welcome to Denver!

Welcome to Denver, Colorado, for the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference. The Colorado Ag Agents Association is honored to host colleagues from across the country in our state's capital, the vibrant city known as the "Mile High City," so named because it sits exactly one mile above sea level. Over the past four years, Colorado agents have worked hard to plan and develop a conference program that we hope will provide valuable learning opportunities, meaningful professional connections, and an enjoyable experience for everyone in attendance. We are excited to showcase our state, share ideas with fellow Extension professionals, and spend the week learning and growing together as we continue advancing the work we do in service to our producers and communities.



Kurt Jones
2026 AM/PIC Chair

In keeping with recent trends, this year's meeting will feature a few changes. We will begin on Wednesday and conclude on Sunday. We have returned to the traditional five-day format, simply shifted within the week. While this adjustment will impact the scheduling of States' Night Out and the scholarship auction, it will not affect the quality of these events.

All conference activities will take place in a single location, eliminating the need to move between hotels. The downtown Sheraton also offers convenient access to a wide variety of restaurants and shops, all within easy walking distance.

The fifteen tours offered provide something for everyone. From traditional agricultural production to more innovative, non-traditional experiences, these tours showcase the full breadth of what Colorado has to offer.

The conference will conclude with a farewell dinner at the National Western Center Legacy Building. Unwind at the Legacy Building by exploring the Wilson Art Gallery, which showcases the National Western's permanent Western art collection and dive into the region's ranching and agriculture history at the Wold Family Heritage Center. Or, relax in in the Orr Western Lounge or the scenic Coors Family Western Terrace with sweeping views of the grounds and the Rockies.

We are excited to host you and make this year's meeting one that informs, inspires, and connects us all.

Welcome to Colorado Dinner

The Welcome to Colorado dinner will be held Wednesday, July 8 from 4:30-6:30pm in the Sheraton Downtown Denver - Plaza Foyer, Concourse Level. Enjoy a meal inspired by the products we raise at altitude, from the plains to the peaks. Live music will set the mood for a fantastic week! Our Colorado Comfort Dinner will feature pork green chili, Colorado Pale Ale chicken with peach demi, charred corn cheddar tamales, salad, Yukon Gold mash with whiskey gravy and dessert.

Opening Ceremony (featuring Dr. Temple Grandin)

The 2026 NACAA Opening Ceremony will be held at the Sheraton Denver Downtown at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, July 8. The Opening Ceremony will include a presentation of the colors, a welcome from our Colorado team, remarks from President JJ Jones, and a truly remarkable keynote speaker, Dr. Temple Grandin.

Temple Grandin is a Distinguished Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. Facilities she has designed for handling livestock are used



Dr. Temple Grandin

by many companies around the world. She has also been instrumental in implementing animal welfare auditing programs that are used by McDonalds, Wendy's, Whole Foods, and other corporations. Temple has appeared on numerous TV shows such as 20/20 and Prime Time. Her books include: Thinking in Pictures, Livestock Handling and Transport and The Autistic Brain. Her books *Animals in Translation* and *Visual Thinking* have been on the New York Times Bestseller List. Temple was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in September 2017, in 2022 was named a Colorado State University Distinguished Professor, and in 2023 was inducted into the Colorado Authors' Hall of Fame.

Welcome First Timers!



The 2026 NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC) First Timer Committee and Early Career Development Committees invite you to attend the 111th NACAA AM/PIC in Denver, Colorado. If this is your first time attending an AM/PIC, be sure to attend the First Timer Orientation and the First Timer Luncheon.

The First Timer Orientation/Social is being held on Wednesday, July 8 from 2:30 pm - 4:30 p.m. and we will meet in the Sheraton Downtown Plaza Concourse. The orientation will help to introduce you to other new(er) Agricultural Extension professionals from across the nation. You will learn more about the National Association and how it can help you be successful in your career. You will also have an opportunity to meet and engage with other First Timers to network and possibly form lasting friendships to encourage and enhance your future NACAA AM/PIC experiences.

The First Timers Luncheon is Thursday, July 9 and will be featuring senior NACAA members to speak on their experiences within NACAA, and the value it has brought to their career.

Registering and attending a national conference can be very confusing and downright intimidating. As a first timer, you can ask questions and check with colleagues or watch the NACAA 365 webinar on attending an AM/PIC as a First Timer to learn more. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPxE8KyuQqM>. This webinar was produced a couple of years ago, but it will give you an idea of what the structure of the AM/PIC is. If you have any questions, please contact a First Timer Committee member or AM/PIC planning committee member. Your Colorado First Timer Contact is Elaina Michael, elaina.michael@colostate.edu. We hope you have a spectacular experience in Colorado!

Tradeshow/Exhibits



The Colorado County Agricultural Agents Association is looking forward to providing an outstanding trade show featuring businesses, non-profit organizations, and resources that support Extension nationwide. Visit the Plaza Exhibit Hall on the Concourse Level of Sheraton Denver Downtown (below the main lobby in Plaza Building right outside the main ballroom) starting the afternoon of Wednesday, July 8. The Trade Show will remain open through Friday afternoon, July 10. In addition to the trade show vendors, the poster session, and a snack bar will be in the Plaza Exhibit Hall. For more information on the Trade Show, including how to purchase a booth space, please contact Dani Wesolowski at dani.wesolowski@colostate.edu.

Saddle Up for State's Night Out in Denver (Thursday, July 9)

Dust off your boots and gather your crew — State's Night Out is ridin' into downtown Denver. This is your chance to hit the town as a state, share a good meal, swap stories, and celebrate the hard work that brought you here. Denver's got no shortage of spots where you can kick back after a full day of learning, but remember: groups of any size will need to make reservations ahead of time! Restaurants fill up fast when hundreds of Extension folks roll into town, so don't wait to stake your claim. We've rounded up a list of great dinner options to help you plan your evening, but feel free to branch out and use your web tools to find the perfect spot. Mosey on over to the link below for a starter list of restaurants: <https://coloagents.org/denverampic2026/#restaurants> Round up your colleagues, choose your destination, and get ready for a night of good food, good company, and Colorado style hospitality. Denver's ready for you — let's make it a night worth remembering!

Scholarship Auction (July 9)

The Scholarship Auction will be held on Thursday night following State's Night Out in the Plaza Ballroom of the Sheraton. Be sure to join us for the silent and live auction.



Dinner & Block Party at Spur Campus (July 10)



Take a short ride to the CSU Spur Campus, located just north of I-70 near the National Western Complex. The block party experience includes a number of interactive features as well as the opportunity to chat with CSU and community partners at tables throughout the campus. Be sure to check out the Temple Grandin Equine Center, urban agriculture at the Green Roof and much more! Sample food prepared in the teaching and culinary center.

Honoring CSU's agricultural roots - CSU Spur is in Denver, but its reach and impact are statewide. As a free public offering of a university system, CSU Spur strives to connect urban and rural communities by bringing awareness and appreciation of the food system, water, and health to a broad audience, engaging the next generation in various careers, and creating innovation to serve rural communities.

CSU Spur is a part of the evolution of education and focuses on investing in the development of the next generation. Through its urban location, CSU Spur creates connections and appreciation for rural communities in Colorado and will continue to work to honor CSU's rural and agricultural roots.

Transportation: Shuttle buses are available and the RTD light rail train runs from Union Station in downtown Denver to just north of the campus.

Saturday, July 11, General Session to Feature Capstone Speaker Michele Payn, CSP



Michele Payn, CSP, connects the people and science of food and farming as principal of Cause Matters Corp. She is known for being a community catalyst, a passionate advocate for global agriculture - and antagonizing people into action. Michele has worked with farmers in more than 25 countries and raised millions of dollars for 4-H & FFA. She is the author of four books, the new *Science Story Speak*, IPPY gold medalist *Food Bullying*, IPPY bronze medal winner *Food Truths from Farm to Table, No More Food Fights!*. Michele's degrees are in Agricultural Communications and Animal Science from Michigan State University. She has earned the Certified Speaking Professional designation, awarded to less than 10% of professional speakers globally. She resides with her 'city slicker' husband and cow-loving daughter on a small farm in central Indiana. She enjoys Registered Holsteins, the MSU Spartans, and creating a wildflower venue. Michele connects conversations around the food plate at www.causematters.com and on social media with @mpaynspeaker.

Educational Breakfast/Luncheon Opportunities

Digital Crop Monitoring Innovation



Science For A Better Life

**Educational Breakfast sponsored by
Bayer CropScience
Thursday - July 9
6:45 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.**

Bayer Crop Science is a committed leader in delivering innovative solutions that combine genetics, traits, crop protection chemistries, agronomic recommendations & digital solutions to help our customers manage risk, drive profitability, and deliver food for a growing global population. Our unmatched innovation pipeline is set to drive growth, with more new product launches in the next 10 years across crops, than we've done in the previous 20 years. Today's presentation will highlight Bayer's innovation in the Crop Monitoring Digital space with a special focus on Bayer's Climate Field View. Learn how this system works and how it is used to monitor crop development throughout the season.

Presenter:

Dr. Jim Hruskoci has been with Bayer CropScience for 10 years, serving as the Technical Service Scientist for the Southern San Joaquin Valley of California. He works with all of the crops grown in the southern San Joaquin Valley, including Citrus, grapes, tree nuts, tomatoes, cotton, and assorted other fruit, vegetable and broad acre crops.

Prior to this position he was the Technical Service Horticulturist over the western United States for Scotts Miracle-Gro based in Orange County, CA. This follows a 28 year career with Cooperative Extension where his focus was on the broad acre and major horticulture crops. Jim received his B.S., and M.S. degrees in Horticulture and Agronomy from Iowa State University, and his Ph.D from the University of Nebraska.

Beyond the Fence Line: Navigating the Intersection of Ag and Infrastructure



**Educational Lunch sponsored by
Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance
Saturday, July 11
11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

Productivity and safety go hand-in-hand. For the farmers and ranchers you serve, understanding what's underground is a critical component of modern land management. The Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance (PASA), in partnership with the NACAA, is committed to making damage prevention a seamless part of every producer's routine.

Join us for an educational lunch to discuss the real-world impact of utility strikes on agricultural operations. We will share new resources specifically designed for Ag Agents to help your producers avoid injury and the crippling financial costs of infrastructure damage. Come learn how this national public awareness initiative supports your mission of extending knowledge and changing lives in the agricultural community. Seating is limited to 150.

Distinguished Service Awards Banquet

The annual awards banquet on Saturday, July 11, will celebrate the hard work of our Achievement Award and Distinguished Service Award winners, recognize the dedication of our national board, and reveal what is planned for Sept. 12-16, 2027, in Saint Paul, MN.



Farewell Dinner - SUNDAY

The professional improvement tours will wrap up at the National Western Center. Before or after dinner there will be an opportunity to browse the



Wold Family Heritage Center and Wilson Art Gallery in the new Legacy Building. We'll enjoy a buffet and cash bar as well as live entertainment. The menu features Colorado beef and Colorado-grown vegetables. While dining on the fourth floor of the beautiful new National Western Center Legacy Building you'll have a stunning view of the Denver skyline on one side, and on the other side a birds-eye view of the Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Livestock Center arena. Transportation to the Sheraton Denver Downtown will be provided after dinner.

NACAA Professional Development Opportunities: Funded by Auction Donations

Most of us can name a professional development experience that changed our work, something we brought home and used right away. That's what the NACAA Educational Foundation professional development scholarships are built for: advanced degrees, graduate credits, tours, seminars, research, and specialized training that strengthens what we deliver back home.

One of the biggest engines behind those scholarships is the AM/PIC Scholarship Auction. It's part fundraiser, part "state pride showcase," and part friendly competition to see what sparks the bidding wars. But it only runs smoothly when we know what's coming before we arrive.

Please help us build a strong auction by submitting your donation in advance using the [Jotform](https://form.jotform.com/260564837336161) (one form per item). <https://form.jotform.com/260564837336161>

You can donate whether you're attending AM/PIC or sending an item with a colleague. Submitting early lets us build the catalog and promote items ahead of time in ways that raise more for the Education Fund. And there's a bonus: if you donate an auction item, the final bid amount counts toward your scholarship fund vestment.

June scholarship applications are open
June cycle (applications due June 1): to apply in this round, members must have been vested by July 2, 2025 (the

end of the previous year's AM/PIC). A \$100 vestment qualifies you to request up to \$1,500. A \$200 vestment (an additional \$100



contribution) qualifies you to request in the \$1,501-\$3,000 range (though no more than \$1,500 can be awarded in any single request).

Your study or training must start before the next scheduled AM/PIC (September 12, 2027, in St. Paul), and it cannot be initiated until the scholarship is approved (July 15, 2026).
December cycle (applications due December 1): this cycle is the better fit when your activity starts after January 20th and before the next AM/PIC. For December applications, members must be vested by July 12, 2026 (the end of the current year's AM/PIC). Applicants are typically notified by January 20, and (except for a formal educational class that begins in early January) no professional development activity can take place before notification by the National Chair.

If professional development is on your plan this year, get your application moving. If you want to help keep that opportunity strong for NACAA members across the country, donate an item, and please submit it through the Jotform by July 6th so we can build an auction that's organized, well-promoted, and genuinely fun.

Hope to see you all in Denver!

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact your regional Vice Chair. The regional Vice Chairs are:

North Central, Sandra Stuttgen – sandra.stuttgen@wisc.edu
Southern, Kathryn Holmes – kathryn_holmes@ncsu.edu
Northeast, Xuan Wei - xuanwei@umd.edu
Western, Brooke Latack- bclatack@ucanr.edu

Additional Luncheon Opportunities

Thursday, July 9, 2026 (11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.)

First Timer Luncheon

Search For Excellence in 4-H & Youth Programming

Search For Excellence in Crop Production

Search for Excellence in Ag Awareness

Administrators Luncheon
(for State Program Leaders and State Extension
Administrators)

Friday, July 10, 2026 (11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.)

Search For Excellence in
Young Beginning & Small Farmers Luncheon

Search For Excellence in
Consumer or Commercial Horticulture

Search For Excellence in
Livestock Production Luncheon

Communications/Poster Awards Luncheon (Invite Only)

Search For Excellence in
Farm and Ranch Business Management

Saturday, July 11, 2026 (11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.)

Search For Excellence in
Sustainable Agriculture

Search For Excellence in
Environmental Quality, Forestry and Natural Resources

Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance (PASA) Educational Luncheon

All SFE Luncheons will be limited to 50 participants and
Award Winners (primary applicant) will get first preference.

PASA luncheon on Saturday will be limited to 150
participants.

2026 Pre-Tour Opportunities

Horticulture and Turfgrass Committee Pre-Tour

This pre-tour offers a blend of sustainable horticulture research, examples and practices, a behind the scenes look at professional sports turfgrass management, and elite public gardens, and extension facilities that bring the community together for a wide variety of public education. This tour will be an engaging and unforgettable experience in the heart of Colorado.

Day One – Research, Innovation, and Gardens

The Horticulture and Turfgrass Pre-tour begin at 8 am on July 6th, so it is important to arrive in Denver, Colorado on July 5, 2026. Please make sure to include this early arrival in your hotel reservation request. We will be staying at the Sheraton Downtown Denver (conference hotel) for the Pre-Tour.

Denver is at the base of the Rocky Mountains and called the Mile High City because it is over one mile above sea level!

The high elevation can cause some issues like headaches and dizziness. To prevent that from happening be sure to drink a lot of water early in the morning and continue to drink 9-15 glasses of water throughout the day. The Colorado Agents have also purchased sunscreen to protect everyone from sunburn since we will be closer to the sun than in most other parts of the country.

Our first stop on July 6th will be the Colorado State University Agricultural Research, Development and Education Center (ARDEC South) in Fort Collins,



a 65-acre research site that includes 54 irrigated farmable acres and 10 Certified Organic acres. Attendees will tour the Horticultural Field Research Center, greenhouse facilities, and seven hoop houses, gaining insight into applied research that supports both commercial horticulture and sustainable production systems.

We will then travel to the Plant Growth Facilities at Colorado State University, a premier resource for plant science research and education. The facility features advanced greenhouses, growth and biocontainment chambers, and a conservatory showcasing an extensive collection of tropical and desert species. Among its notable specimens is the rare “Corpse Flower” (*Amorphophallus titanum*), which bloomed last year after eight years of dormancy. Lunch will be enjoyed onsite at Ram Country Meats before a guided tour of the facilities with Tammy Brenner.

In the afternoon, we will visit The Gardens on Spring Creek in Fort Collins. These gardens highlight the natural beauty and resilience of native and regionally adapted plants. Emphasizing sustainable landscapes, they feature low-maintenance perennials ideal for wildscaping plants that attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and native bees while remaining deer resistant. Dinner will follow at Fuzzy’s Taco Shop before returning to the hotel.



Day Two – Elite Turf and Public Gardens

Day two, July 7th, begins with travel to Englewood to visit the Denver Broncos Training Center with Grounds Superintendent Ryan Newman.



Discussion topics will include managing professional athletic fields to optimize both player safety and performance, utilizing soil heating systems to extend the growing season, and strategies for maximizing the longevity and performance of a USGA-specification field system.

After the professional turfgrass management stop, we will tour the world-class public horticulture at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Spanning 24 acres, the gardens feature globally diverse plant collections, including the Steppe Garden, which features native plants from various steppe regions including Central Asia South Africa and South America. We will also visit the iconic Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory. A walking loop of approximately one hour allows participants to

experience a range of landscapes and plant diversity. Following lunch, we will tour the neighboring Denver Zoo, exploring the integration of zoological and botanical design in an urban setting. Before returning to the Sheraton, the day will conclude with dinner at the Poke Bowl and tour of the Colorado State University facility and grounds, a satellite campus in Denver. The Spur is an Extension focused, public campus in Denver that connects urban and rural communities by bringing awareness and appreciation of the food system, water, and health to a broad audience engaging the next generation in various careers and creating innovation to serve rural communities. Highlights will include the green roof, hydroponics, greenhouse and growth chamber-controlled environments <https://csuspur.org/>.

Registration Fee: \$100

Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Pre-Tour

The Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee would like to invite you to join us on July 7th for a full-day immersive tour exploring the intersection of environmental science, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy in Colorado’s dynamic mountain and foothill landscapes. This guided experience offers exclusive access to two pioneering research sites, Fraser Experiment Forest and Jack’s Solar Garden, where science meets stewardship.



Nestled in 23,000 acres of subalpine terrain, Fraser Experimental Forest is a living laboratory established in 1937 to study how forest management affects water yield. Today, it hosts cutting-edge research on water quantity and quality, silviculture, riparian habitats, sediment transport, invasive species, insect dynamics, soil health, and climate change. Participants will tour active research plots and watershed monitoring stations, gain insights into how forest ecosystems are managed and studied across a range of scales from the small plot to the hillslope and basin.

Jack’s Solar Garden is a nationally recognized agrivoltaics site where solar energy and agriculture coexist. This family-owned farm partners with leading institutions, including the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Colorado State University, and



the University of Arizona, to research how solar panels can enhance crop production and land use. Visitors will explore the solar array, learn about crop cultivation under the panels, and hear about training programs for young farmers. The tour emphasizes innovation, community impact, and the future of sustainable land management.

Registration Fee: \$160, which includes your bus transportation for the day, snacks on the bus, entry fee to the sites, and lunch.

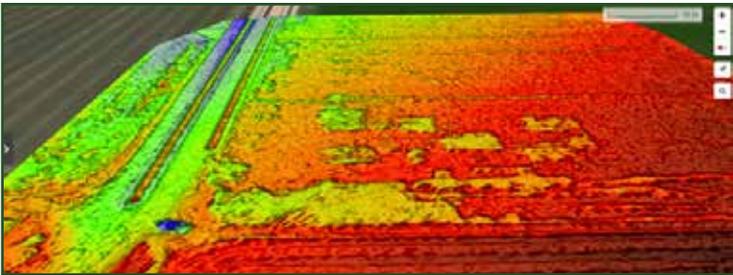
**CHECK OUT OUR
WEB SITE
WWW.nacaa.com**

**For the latest news & information
regarding NACAA meetings,
membership database updates,
award submissions/recognition,
NACAA Supporters and the list
goes on...and on...and on!**

2026 Super Seminar Opportunities - July 11

Using Drones in Crop Production and Pest Management

Agronomy Committee Super Seminar



Plant counts/acre? Measuring plant heights? Spreading beneficial insects? Applying pesticides and/or fertilizer? Yes, drones can do all this and more!

A super seminar on using drones in crop production and pest management will be held Saturday afternoon July 11 during the 2026 NACAA AM/PIC. Information will be presented on:

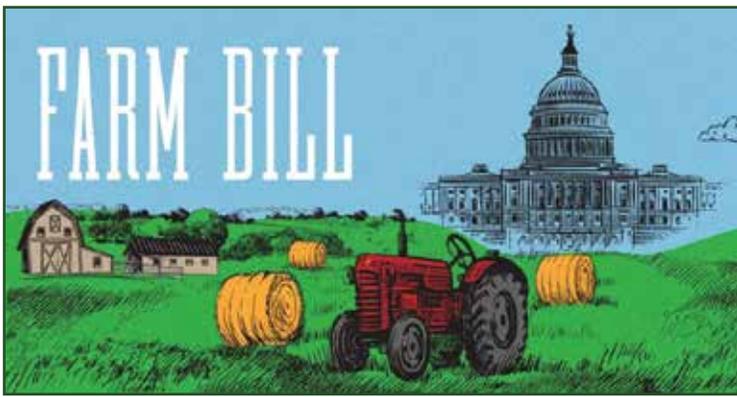
- Requirements to operate a drone, with additional regarding pesticide application via drones.

- Data on interactions on drone heights/speeds/nozzles and relationship to pesticide efficacy
- Crop sensing, plant counts, monitoring, insect releases, and much more!

Might even have several newer drones for you to see! Hope to see you there.

From Farm Bill to Front Porch: Turning Policy into Practical Guidance for Every Clientele Group *Agricultural Economics & Community Development Committee Super Seminar*

This hands-on Super Seminar equips county agents to translate the new Farm Bill and related federal/state policy updates into clear, actionable guidance for the diverse audiences we serve. We begin with an accessible briefing on core provisions and implementation timelines, then connect policy to Extension's funding model and public value so agents can confidently explain "how we're funded and why that matters" when meeting with producers, partners, and local officials. In structured breakouts, agents



build audience-specific products—message maps, one-page explainer sheets, and FAQ scripts—for cattle, row crop, specialty crop, and homeowner/urban audiences. We close by sharing the best templates across groups, aligning on consistent statewide messaging, and committing to a 90-day outreach plan with ready-to-use materials.

Session 1 – The 2024/25 Farm Bill: What Changed & Why It Matters (30–45 min)

Speaker: Nathan Hulinsky

Session 2 – Where Extension Fits: Funding, Mandates & Our Value Proposition (15–30 min)

Speaker: Nathan Hulinsky

Session 3 – Breakouts by Audience (45–60 min)

Facilitators: Mixed team of agents + recorder.

Session 4 – Synthesis & Debrief (30–45 min)

Panel: Facilitators + moderator synthesize takeaways, templates, and action steps.

Native Plant Master - How Colorado Works with Native Plants Horticulture & Turfgrass Committee Super Seminar



Deryn Davidson, Horticulture, Colorado State University and Master State Gardener, as well as the Native Plant expert from the Denver Botanical Gardens, will give a presentation on the Native Plant Master Gardener Program

and the various Native Plants in the Denver Botanical Gardens.

The mission of the Native Plant Master Program is to educate the Colorado public about native plants and to foster stewardship, sustainable landscaping and management of weeds that threaten native ecosystems. The first session covers botanical characteristics of plant families and species, identification using a botanical key, scientific names, and stewardship of native plants. The next session covers ecological relationships, including non-native species, noxious weeds, and relationships with wildlife, pollinators and other plants. The third session includes a written field exam on material from the first and second sessions. Human uses, including the use of natives for sustainable landscaping, ethnobotanical and other human uses. The exam is conducted on the trail where they are asked to identify living specimens and provide additional information.

The Denver Botanical Gardens showcase native plants that are well adapted to all of the variables of the Colorado climate. The plants enhance the biodiversity and contribute greatly to sustainability. There are native plantings that have not received supplemental water in more than 20 years, which inspires gardeners to find regionally appropriate and sustainable garden ideas.

Many gardens feature exclusively native plants in naturalistic settings while other gardens contain at least a few native growing happily along with traditional garden favorites plus plants from similar climates around the world.

Introduction to Beekeeping for the Cooperative Extension Agent

Presenters:

Felder, J. Keith, University of Georgia

Vu, Amy Trang, University of Florida

Interest in beekeeping has increased tremendously in recent years due to demand for locally produced foods and expanded pollination needs. Technological advances in honey bee disease and parasite control along with changes in methodology add to the demand for information. Client inquiries concerning beekeeping directed to extension agents has increased in parallel with the surge in interest. This has created a dilemma in satisfying information requests with sound, research based information as comparatively few extension agents are well versed in apicultural matters. In addition, budget constraints have forced many land grant universities to minimize extension apicultural programs as personnel retire. In many states



such cuts have broken the critical agent-specialist link in the information dissemination process. Most land grant institutions do have resource materials available; however, agents without beekeeping experience find it difficult to sort through unfamiliar terminology in an effort to provide useful information to the client. This Super Seminar will provide a two hour, four part framework of basic working information to the Extension agent with little to no working knowledge of beekeeping.

Session 1: Rules, Regulations, and Resources

Overview of state and local regulations related to beekeeping.
Regulations on bee commerce and trade.
Identification of resources available for beekeepers (government agencies, local organizations, online platforms, etc.).
Guidance on accessing and utilizing these resources effectively.

Session 2: Honey Bee Biology

Basics of honey bee biology: lifecycle, roles within the colony, behavior, and communication.
Importance of understanding honey bee biology for effective beekeeping practices.
Discussion on nutrition needs of honey bees and its impact on colony health.

Session 3: Agent Engagement and Common Questions

Strategies for building relationships with local beekeepers and beekeeping associations.

Importance of networking and leveraging local expertise.
Most common questions asked by new beekeepers and how to address them effectively.

Session 4: Advanced Beekeeping Topics

Challenges faced by beekeepers in the second year and beyond.
Introduction to managing mite infestations and understanding veterinary drugs for honey bees.
Overview of new technologies and vaccinations in the beekeeping industry.

Importance of queen bee management for colony success and productivity.
Each section will involve a combination of presentations, interactive discussions, and Q&A sessions to ensure engagement and understanding among the participants. Handouts and resources will be provided for further reference. Additionally, practical demonstrations or videos may be incorporated to enhance learning where applicable.

Sound Advice: How to start and Grow and Extension Podcast Teaching & Educational Technologies Committee Super Seminar

Podcasting is one of the fastest-growing outreach tools in Extension education, allowing agents to connect with diverse audiences far beyond their geographic reach.

This Super Seminar will feature a panel of Extension professionals who have launched successful agricultural podcasts, reaching thousands of listeners with applied research and real-world stories from the field.



Participants will gain actionable insights into the technical, creative, and strategic sides of podcasting — from microphones to message, from editing to engagement.

The panel will highlight best practices for outreach impact, analytics tracking, and integrating podcasts into existing Extension communication plans. Attendees will leave equipped with a step-by-step roadmap to start (or improve) their own Extension podcast, complete with real examples of what works — and what doesn't.

Much like the TET's video production super seminars of the past, this super seminar will have a panel of experienced speakers, a show and tell portion where folks can get their hands on podcasting equipment from small to large budgets, and as always, multiple giveaways will be made available, where participants will have a chance to win the equipment to so they can start their own podcast.

111th Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

MONDAY, JULY 6

8:00 am – Horticulture/Turfgrass Pre-Tour

TUESDAY, JULY 7

8:00 am – Pre-Conference Tours (Horticulture/
Turfgrass, Sustainable Ag/
Natural Resources

8:00 am – 5:00 pm NACAA Board Meeting

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm Registration/Scholarship auction
item drop off

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

8:00 am - 12:00 pm NACAA Board Meeting (if needed)

8:00 am – 7:00 pm Registration

8:00 am – 7:00 pm Scholarship auction item drop off

8:00 am – 4:00 pm Life Member/Spouses Hospitality

9:00 am – 1:00 pm NACAA Educational Exhibits Set Up

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Scholarship Selection Committee

10:00 am – Noon Regional Directors/Vice Directors
Meeting

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Past National Board Luncheon

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm NACAA Poster Set-up

1:00 pm – 6:30 pm Commercial Exhibit Trade Show

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Leadership Academy

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Life and Spouse Member Welcome
and Orientation

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm First Lady's Reception (by invitation)

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm NACAA Educational Foundation
Annual Meeting and Board
of Directors Meeting

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm First Timer Orientation and
Reception

4:30 pm – 6:30 pm Welcome to Colorado Dinner
(Tickets Required)

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm State President Rehearsal for Flag
Ceremony

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm Parents Orientation for Sons and
Daughters Program (Meet & Greet)

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Opening Session

9:00 pm - 9:30 pm Ice Cream Social

9:30 pm - 11:30 pm Hospitality Rooms

10:00 pm Colorado Meeting

THURSDAY, JULY 9

6:45 am – 8:00 am Voting Delegates Breakfast
(invite only)

6:45 am – 8:00 am Bayer CropScience Breakfast
(Tickets Required)

7:00 am – 7:30 am Sons and Daughters Meet the bus

8:00 am – noon Scholarship auction item drop off

8:00 am – 4:00 pm Life Member/Spouse Hospitality

8:00 am – 7:00 pm Registration

8:00 am – 10:00 am NACAA Poster Judging

8:15 am – 10:30 am General Session

9:00 am – 4:30 pm Commercial and NACAA Educational
Exhibits Open

10:00 am – 11:30 am Life Members Business Meeting

10:30 am – 11:30 am Break

10:30 am – 11:30 am Meet the Authors Poster Session

11:45 am – 1:15 pm First Time Attendee Luncheon
(Tickets Required)

11:45 am – 1:15 pm Professional Improvement and
Search for Excellence Luncheons:
4-H, Crop Production, Ag Awareness
(Tickets Required)

11:45 am – 1:15 pm Life/Spouse Luncheon
(Tickets Required)

11:45 am - 2:45 pm Administrative Leaders Luncheon
and meeting (Tickets Required)

1:30 pm – 2:45 pm Trade Talk Sponsor Sessions

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm Life/Spouse Tours

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Regional Meetings and Candidate
Presentations

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm States Night Out

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Silent Auction and Live Auction
Preview

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Live Auction

10:00 pm Colorado Meeting

FRIDAY, JULY 10

7:00 am – 8:30 am	Achievement Award Recognition Breakfast (invite only)
8:00 am	Life/Spouse Tours leave
8:00 am – 2:00 pm	Registration
8:30 am – 11:30 am	Delegate Session
8:30 am – 11:30 am	Committee Oral Presentations:
9:00 am – 3:30 pm	Commercial and NACAA Educational Exhibits Open
9:00 am – 3:30 pm	NACAA Poster Session Open
10:00 am – 4:30 pm	Life/Spouse Activities (Workshops/Tours)
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Break
11:45 am – 1:15 pm	Communication/Poster Awards Luncheon (invite only)
11:45 am – 1:15 pm	Search for Excellence Luncheons: Young, Beginning or Small Farms/ Rancher, Consumer or Commercial Horticulture, Farm and Ranch Business Management, Livestock Production (Tickets Required)
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Committee Oral Presentations
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Commercial Exhibits close
4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	CSU SPUR Showcase / CCAA Dinner / Block Party
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	VIP/Donor Reception (invite only)
10:00 pm	Colorado Meeting

SATURDAY, JULY 11

7:00 am – 8:15 am	National Committee Members: Breakfast Recognition of Retiring Chairs, Vice Chairs and Special Assignments
7:30 am – 4:30 pm	Life/Spouse Activities (Offsite)
8:00 am – 2:00 pm	Registration
8:30 am – 10:15 am	General Session
10:15 am – 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am – 11:30 am	NACAA Policy Meeting
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Committee Oral Presentations
11:45 am – 1:15 pm	Search For Excellence Luncheons: Sustainable Agriculture Environmental Quality, Forestry and Natural Resources (Tickets Required)
11:45 am – 1:15 pm	Ag Pipeline Alliance Luncheon – (Tickets Required)

1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Super Seminars
#1 Using Drones in Crop Production
and Pest Management
#2 From Farm Bill to Front Porch:
Turning Policy into Practical
Guidance for Every Clientele Group
#3 Native Plant Master - How
Colorado Works with Native Plants
#4 Introduction to Beekeeping for
the Cooperative Extension Agent
#5 Sound Advice: How to Start and
Grow an Extension Podcast
NACAA Board Reception
Formal Picture Opportunity
DSA & AA Recipients, Hall of Fame
Recipients, NACAA Board Members,
Region Directors, Past Officers,
Special Assignments, Special Guests,
Council Chairs, Committee Chairs
and Vice Chairs Assemble
for Banquet
Annual Banquet (Tickets Required)
President's Reception
Colorado Meeting

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

9:15 pm – 11:00 pm

10:00 pm

SUNDAY, JULY 12

Tour Day (On-site registration closed)

6:30 am – 8:05 am

Breakfast (Tickets Required)

6:30 am – 9:00 am

Assemble for Professional
Improvement Tours

6:30 am – 5:00 pm

Professional Improvement Tours
(Tickets Required)

4:45 pm

Shuttle buses leave hotel for
Colorado Farewell Dinner for
non- tour participants.

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Farewell Dinner

10:00 pm

Colorado Meeting

MONDAY, JULY 13

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

NACAA Board Meeting

2026 NACAA AM/PIC Professional Improvement Tours

Water and snacks will be provided on all buses.

All tour participants should plan on having \$25 cash on hand during tour day for lunches/incidentals.

Tour 1: Veggin' Out in Northern Colorado

Join us on a tour of vegetable farms and see how Colorado grows, harvests and packs. Understand the challenges and opportunities Northern Colorado vegetable farms



face, technologies they utilize to save labor costs, crops they produce, and novel processing methods.

Tour 2: Look at CSU's Engaged Initiatives

Visit the CSU Fort Collins campus to learn about the College of Agriculture, our industry, and community engagement initiatives including Cam Academy, CSU



Trial Flower Gardens and the USDA Agricultural Genetics Preservation Research facility, the flagship lab and storage for the US.

Tour 3: Emerging Entrepreneurship Models in Food Supply Chains

We will start the day at the Northern Colorado Foodshed Farm at Las Flores near Fort Collins where we'll learn about projects that join public partners such as open lands and food banks with startup farms and food businesses.



We'll hear from farmers, value added food producers, and innovative marketing partners.

Tour 4: Touring the Food Animal System: Explore Colorado State University's Food Animal Production Facilities and the Global Food Innovation Center

This tour will take participants on an in-depth tour of the Global Food Innovation Center on CSU's campus, exploring how partnerships with the food industry led to the creation of a state-of-the-



art food innovation center with an education, research, and outreach mission. Additionally, participants will tour the livestock production units at CSU's Agricultural Research, Development, and Education Center (ARDEC). Situated just north of Fort Collins, these facilities are utilized extensively for hands-on instruction and outreach, as well as groundbreaking research in livestock behavior, nutrition, and sustainability. *Lunch is on the attendee in Old Town Fort Collins.*

Tour 5: Agricultural Innovations for Carbon Drawdown: Biochar, Bio-oil & Agrivoltaics

Join us for tours of innovative organizations bridging agriculture and economic decarbonization. We will visit a biochar/bio-oil production site



that creates a circular economy for farm and forestry waste streams. We will also tour an active agrivoltaics demonstration and education site that effectively combines renewable energy and specialty crop production. Lastly, we will tour the agrivoltaics research site at the CSU Spur campus.

Tour 6: Southern Colorado Fresh Produce Tour



Visit three Southern Colorado farms to learn about the assorted agriculture in the area and how different and similar farming practices impact the environment and the community. As Musso Farms we'll check out farm fields, explore irrigation, learn about Pueblo Chile, and have time for shopping at the produce stand. We'll talk with the owner at Emerge Aquaponics, and at Heckman Hollow Orchards we will learn about the orchard and its irrigation. *Lunch on the attendee at Musso's restaurant and farm stand. Options to purchase fresh produce and products as well*

Tour 7: Perennial Produce Tour: Orchards and Vineyards

Join us for tours of east slope fruit orchards and vineyards in the Canon City area. Stops include Colon Orchards, Third Street Apples, and wine tasting at the Winery at Holy Cross Abbey. *\$25 wine tasting fee will be added in registration.*



Tour 8: Colorado Natives: A Herbaceous Perspective Tour

Join the Native Plant Society to learn about Colorado native plants, how to identify them, which ones are edible and why they are so important to the ecosystem. This tour includes a 2-3 hour hike in the Red Rock Canyon Open Space.



Tour 9: What's Moo With Ewe? Livestock Tour

We will learn about a small scale raw dairy production at Larga Vista Ranch and a local beef cattle ranch, Brazil Cattle Co. We'll compare and contrast the two productions, their styles, operating issues, costs and more.



Tour 10: CSU Spur's Engagement and Innovation + Urban Food Systems

See Colorado State University's Spur campus in Denver with its focus on food, soil, water, and animal health research and innovation. Facilities support plant sciences, animal sciences, water management, and business development. This tour will add additional stops in the Denver metro area exploring urban food production and distribution.



Tour 11: Northern Colorado Traditional Colorado Cattle Business Tour

This tour will demonstrate the classic Colorado cattle business model. We'll visit JBS Kuner Feedlot, which is one of largest facilities in the United States at 100,000 head. Next, we'll tour Ochsner Land and Cattle, a direct-to-consumer beef business with a seed stock operation. Prominent breeds at this location are Limousin and Coyote Ridge Hereford. *Lunch generously sponsored by the Ohio Association of County Agricultural Agents.*



Tour 12: Urban Ranching Interactions and Diversification Activities



Join us for a workshop on urban ranching interactions. The SALT Craft Meat Market is dubbed as the local choice for the best meats in Castle Rock, connecting the community and local farms and ranches. We'll visit their storefront and restaurant on this stop. Our other stop will be a tour of the Cherokee Ranch and Castle where we'll learn about their Santa Gertrudis cattle operation and visit the 1450s Scottish-style castle that sits on the ranch homestead. These are two great examples of diversified operations with urban interfacing.

Tour 13: Colorado Sheep and Lamb Tour - Elevation to Plate

Participants will experience Colorado's sheep industry, highlighting high mountain grazing, lamb feeding and harvest



with sheep all staying in Colorado. We will visit with sheep ranchers, Cactus Hill Feedlot, Harper Lamb and Colorado Lamb Processors. This tour will highlight Sheep and Wool Production and its impact on the agriculture industry in Colorado.

Tour 14: Grains to Glass: Exploring Colorado's Grain Supply Chain



Join us for a behind-the-scenes look at Colorado's vibrant grain supply chain—from field to finished product. We'll begin at Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms, where participants will explore small-scale grain plots and learn about local efforts to reintroduce heritage and climate-resilient grains. Next, we'll visit Talnua, a Colorado distillery, that transforms these locally grown grains into award-winning spirits, highlighting how regional sourcing drives innovation and economic impact. Our third stop features Barber Foods, a regional distributor, connecting farmers, processors, and institutional buyers, showcasing how relationships and logistics shape a more resilient food system. The tour concludes at CSU Spur Food Innovation Center, where participants will engage in a hands-on sensory science experience, exploring how taste, aroma, and texture influence consumer perceptions and product development.

Tour 15: Whiskey's for drinking, Water is for fighting

Travel over the Continental Divide to see how the headwaters of the Colorado River Basin not only supply multiple states in the West, but how much of that water makes its way to Colorado's Front Range – its population corridor - and beyond via vast collection systems and underground tunnels. In a state where water is for fighting, we'll also stop at a Brewstillery and find out how some of that Colorado River water is turned into great tasting beer and spirits.



Welcome NACAA Life Members & Spouses to Colorful Colorado

From the Colorado County Agents Association (CCAA) I wish you a warm welcome to Colorado. I hope you enjoy your time in Colorado and will come to appreciate the message of the 2026 NACAA AM-PIC theme of "Agriculture with Altitude". We hope you enjoy our plans to highlight the agriculturally diverse eastern high plains and western slopes to the majestic altitudes of the Rocky Mountain Continental Divide. As you know, Colorado is the only state where all the water flows out.

I grew up as a 4-H member in west central Nebraska and graduated from CSU in 1980 with a degree in Animal Science/Industries Management. I worked in the farm/ranch industry for 20 years before starting my CSU Extension career in 2001 as the 4-H/Ag/Natural Resource Agent in Kiowa County, part of the seven southeast counties comprising the Southeast Extension Area. During that time, due to staff resignations and retirements, I also served as the interim agent in several of the other counties until new staff could be hired. I also coordinated the Southeast Colorado Bull Test, collecting and compiling performance data on multiple beef breed bulls, until it disbanded in 2010.

We sold our cow herd in 2002 due to drought. In 2003, my wife and I were finally able to purchase our own property in Kiowa County, and we built a straw bale house where we still reside with our small flock of Navajo Churro Sheep and a hodge podge of other critters.

Ironically, after graduating from college, both of our kids now reside in Nebraska along with our five grandchildren. In 2013, again due to staff resignation, I became the

Range and Livestock agent for the Southeast Area and split my office time between Crowley and Otero Counties, but maintaining my residence in Kiowa County. In August of 2018, I became the Southeast Area Director and began my introduction to more administrative duties and less programming.

2021 brought another change. Due to restructuring the CSU regional map, I was the Southeast Region director with administrative duties for eight of the counties in Southeast Colorado. Until 2022, when we were restructured again from six to five regions, I became the regional director for the Southern Region, stretching from the Kansas state line on the east to the Continental Divide on the west.

I retired at the end of March 2025 and now I get to spend more time at home doing the jobs that I did not get done before. And following my grandchildren in their sports, 4-H, FFA, and rodeo activities. I have remained active representing rural Colorado in a rural mental health group called the Coffee Break Project, the local cattlemen's association, and the Carnivore Conflict Resolution Group. I look forward to welcoming you to Colorful Colorado in early July 2026. 1986 was the last time the NACAA conference was in Colorado and before that it was 1946, so we are on a 40-year cycle apparently! Sorry Ski bums, probably no skiing in July, but we have plenty of other activities planned. Also, if you can, please bring rain.

Bruce Fickenscher, CSU Extension - Emeritus



*Bruce Fickenscher
CSU Extension - Emeritus*

Life Member & Spouse/Guest Program

Wednesday, July 8

- 8:00am – 4:00pm Life members and Spouses Hospitality Room
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm Life Members and Spouses Welcome and Orientation Welcome to Colorado hospitality and an overview of the week.

Thursday, July 9

- 8:00 am – 4:00pm Life members and Spouses Hospitality Room
- 10:00 – 11:30am Life Member Business Meeting
- 11:45 – 1:15pm Life member/Spouses Luncheon;

Keynote speaker – Brandee Gillham

Brandee and her cowboy husband serve as 4th-generation ranchers in Northeast Colorado, but her path into the family operation has been anything but a picture-perfect succession plan. Brandee left her career teaching collegiate anatomy to raise her four sons—one of whom now waits for her in heaven. She encourages other parents with the reminder that no time



invested in our children is ever wasted. She openly shares the hard-won lessons of stepping into a multigenerational ranch without the benefit of formal documentation, written agreements, or a clear transition strategy. When her father-in-law passed away unexpectedly—taking with him decades of knowledge and the details of handshake agreements—Brandee and her husband were left to rebuild the paper trail and preserve the legacy he intended to pass on.

In her talk, Brandee walks people through why succession planning matters, how to begin the process long before you think you need it, and what it takes to turn verbal understandings into written, legally sound documents. She offers practical insight into capturing lost knowledge, stewarding a 4th-generation operation, and navigating the emotional and spiritual weight of legacy.

Life Member / Spouses Tours

1:30 – 4:00pm

Tour #1 - MEOW Wolf



Meow Wolf Denver is an immersive playground that transports audiences of all ages to fantastic realms of story and exploration. Created by more than 300 collaborating artists, The Convergence is home to psychedelic mind-bending art throughout four worlds.

Tour #2 - History of Denver

Take your pick to explore the city on your own if you wish. These are some great tours right outside the doors of the Sheraton. Look over these opportunities and enjoy yourself! <https://historicdenver.org/tours-events/walking-tours/>. *Since this is a self-guided tour - YOU DO NOT NEED TO REGISTER FOR THIS - This is for information purposes only.*

Tour #3 - Denver State Capitol

Enjoy a short walk down the road to our state capitol. You can stop on the 13th step of the state capital to say, “you are truly a mile high at 5,280 feet above sea level”. After taking a picture of being a mile high, head into the state capitol and take a tour with house representative Dusty Johnson. You will learn about the history of the founders of Colorado and be able to see the city from the top of the golden dome.



Tour #4 - Denver U.S. Mint

The Denver Mint, established in 1862, is a branch of the U.S. Mint that produces coins for both circulation and numismatic purposes. It was originally an assay office, where gold and silver were measured and valued. The Mint has a rich history, including the production of gold coins like the \$20 Double Eagle and the first federal-issue coins in 1906. Today, the Denver Mint continues to mint a wide variety of coins, including circulating coins, mint sets, and commemorative coins, with the “D” mint mark indicating their origin.



Tour #5 - Buffalo Bill Museum

The Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave is one of the most popular cultural and historic attractions in the Denver and Golden metro areas. Over 80,000 guests tour the museum annually and half a million people visit the gravesite and enjoy the breath-taking views from the museum’s observation deck. Come learn about William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody, one of the most famous people of his time, and his Wild West show. See for yourself why he wanted to be buried on top of Lookout Mountain.



Friday, July 10

Workshop #1 - 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

If you want to relax a bit and take in the sites around the hotel. We will offer a few workshops for you. The first workshop will take you into the world of freeze drying. You will learn the science behind freeze drying, the best practices, and be able to sample multiple foods. This class will be offered by Jaci Wagner, CSU family and consumer science specialist from Logan County, CO.

Workshop #2 - 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Dive into the world of lifelong learning with our team from the CSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). This year marks 20 years since OLLI at CSU was endowed through the generous support of the Bernard Osher Foundation. In the two decades more than 1,400 learners participate each term. The classes are supported by CSU and the CSU Office of Engagement and Extension. You will learn about OLLI and the over 200 courses they offer along with a fun hands-on experience.



Tour #1 - Mount Blue Sky

8:00 am – 4:00pm
The Mount Blue Sky Scenic Byway is about a ninety-minute drive from Denver, but well worth it! You'll be driving on the highest paved road in North America, and as you might expect, the view from the top is simply incredible. This is one of the grandest panoramas in Colorado and much of the state is visible, from the



Never Summer Range in the north to the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in the south. A trip to the top is a journey that snakes and climbs through nearly 9,000 feet of elevation gain, from the high plains of Denver through five climate zones to the 14,264-foot summit of Mount Blue Sky, one of

54 peaks in Colorado that soar to 14,000 feet and above – the famous “fourteeners.” Along the way, be sure to keep an eye out for mountain goats!



After enjoying the time on top of the world, come back down for an afternoon of history in the heart of Georgetown and take a scenic train ride to the old mining town of Silver Plume.

Tour #2 - Denver Botanic Gardens

8:00am – 12:00pm
From the iconic dome of the Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory to the painterly waterlilies of the Monet Pool, Denver Botanic Gardens at York Street is a true



Denver landmark. Its extraordinary tropical plants, exotic blooms, rare and native species, and water displays across a 24-acre campus is a site not to miss out on.

12:00 – 1:30 pm Lunch
1:30 – 4:30 pm

Drive across town to the Chatfield Farms

Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms provides visitors with rustic chic charm in Littleton. Incredible views of the foothills and surrounding gardens. Chatfield Farms is set on 700 acres that includes an 1800s homestead, historical buildings and working farm. The location is nestled against the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and trees line the banks of Deer Creek, which run through the property. Two and a half miles of nature trails and numerous wildflower gardens create a natural paradise.



Tour #3 - Western History of Denver

8:00 am - 4:00 pm
National Western Complex, black western history museum, Western Museum, saddle shop/leather work.

National Western Stock Show and NWSS Complex

- Exchange Building (1898)
- Brand Board and Inspectors (1865)
- CCA (Oldest Cattleman’s Association in US, 1867)
- CCW (1941)
- NWSS (1906)
- Stadium Arena (built 1909)
- “Yards” and new facilities
- CSU SPUR



other fascinating Earth Science-related objects. Pass through our indoor cave and discover minerals that glow. Gaze at the sparkling Miss Colorado Crown containing over 600 gemstones and 21 diamonds. Transport yourself to Golden’s geologic past through our windows. Hike the Bob Weimer trail and visit authentic triceratops trackways. Marvel at our beautifully restored Irwin Hoffman mining murals. At Colorado Schools of Mines Museum of Earth and Science (1310 Maple St, Golden, CO 80401)



Lunch Noon – 1:00pm

- 4 Mile Historic Park (1859) [insert 4 Mile Park photo]
- Oldest standing structure in Denver
 - For groups of 10–25, a tour of the Four Mile House Museum with Q&A will be given by a knowledgeable docent, followed by a self-guided tour of the grounds. Group Tours are available by appointment only.
 - Open 10 AM – 4 PM
- Black American West Museum & Heritage Center

At 10:00 am head over to the Coors brewery. See and taste traditional brewing at the foot of the Rocky Mountains in the largest single-site brewery in the world! Since 1873 the Coors Brewery has thrived on a legacy of quality, innovation and customer service.

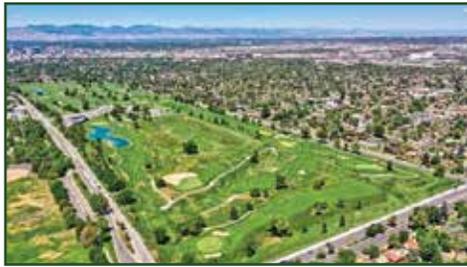


The Coors Brewery Tour showcases our history and passion for brewing in a 90-minute look at our malting, brewing and packaging processes. We also share old photos, neon signs, historical beer cans, bottles and memorabilia from our archives.

After enjoying the time at the brewery head into Golden for a meal and some shopping. The bus will head back to the hotel at 3:30pm

Tour #4 - City Park Golf Course

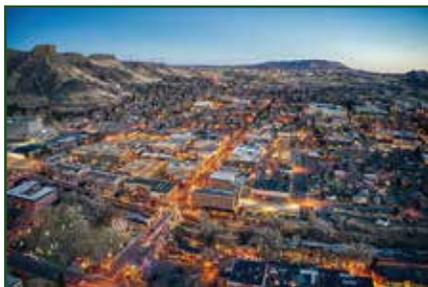
This tour is for those that want to play a round of golf in the mile high city. Take some time off and get out the clubs. The City Park Golf Course in Denver is an 18-hole, par-72 golf course located within a parkland setting. It features a historic layout with narrow fairways and sloped greens, offering views of the Denver skyline and Rocky Mountains. The course has been redesigned to improve playability while maintaining its classic look and feel. *Greens and cart fees will be at your expense.*



Saturday, July 11

Tour #5 - Coors / Golden, CO

8:00 am - 3:30 pm
Leave the hotel at 8:00am and head to the wonderful city of Golden. This city has many shops and activities to take in. Start off the day by taking in over 15,000 square feet of rocks, minerals, fossils and



Tour #1 - Rocky Mountain National Park / Stanley Hotel

Depart at 8:00am – Return at 4:30pm

Rocky Mountain National Park features more than 400 square miles of pristine natural wonders including some 150 lakes, 450 miles of streams, 72 mountain peaks over 12,000 feet in elevation and a plethora of pristine mountain landscapes ranging from dense conifer forests to high alpine tundra. Popular



hikes include the Adams Falls hike, a short 0.3-mile stroll to wonderful waterfalls; the Big Meadows Trail, which weaves through a sea of wildflowers and grasslands; and the Coyote Valley Trail hike in the Kawuneeche Valley.

Known for wildlife viewing, particularly on the park's west side. Moose can often be spotted wallowing in the wetlands along the Colorado River headwaters. Deer, elk and antelope are often seen grazing in the grasslands.

Immerse yourself in the rich story of the history of The Stanley Hotel! This 60-minute walking tour will introduce you to Mr. F.O. Stanley, his wife Flora, Stephen King, and other noteworthy visitors since 1909. The Stanley Hotel Historic Day Tour is a unique way to experience the hotel's history, architecture, folklore, and pop culture with a knowledgeable storyteller. Each tour offers you opportunities to explore, ask questions, and perhaps leave with a few stories of your own.



Tour #2 - Rocky Mountain National Arsenal (RMNA) / Air & Space Museum

Depart 8:00 am - Return 3:30 pm

Depart at 8:00am to the RMNA for a 11-mile wildlife drive with an auto tour in the vehicle (6550 Gateway RoadCommerce City,CO80022-4327)

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge is one of the largest urban refuges in the country with 15,000 acres. It is a sanctuary away from the hustle and bustle of busy urban life where time moves at nature's pace. With its expansive views, wildlife viewing opportunities, and recreation activities, it's easy to take a nature escape! established in 2004, in part, to protect our national symbol, the bald eagle. The land has a unique story - it has survived the test of time and transitioned from farmland to war-time manufacturing site, to wildlife sanctuary. It may be one of the finest conservation success stories and a place where wildlife thrives.



9:15am – Noon

After viewing the wildlife, it is time to try your hand at

fishing and archery. We will have all the equipment needed to have a fun experience at the lake and range. Work alongside expert fisherman from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife that will teach you how to fly fish or use a spin cast. If you are already an experienced angler, gear up and hit the lake. We will have our state 4-H shooting sports team members on hand to lead you.

12:15pm - 1:30pm Lunch at the Lowry Beer Garden (7577 East Academy Blvd. Denver, CO)

1:35pm Walk across the road to the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum (7711 E Academy Blvd, Denver, CO 80230)

Wings Over the Rockies is a diverse community organization dedicated to unlocking our visitors' dreams of flight through exhibitions, events and educational programming at two locations: Wings



Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum and Exploration of Flight. Each year these two locations welcome approximately 160,000 visitors representing all 50 U.S. states and 34 countries. Transferred from the United States Air Force to a group of volunteers in 1994, Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum is located in Hangar 1 of the former Lowry Air Force Base in eastern Denver, Colorado. Today, the museum boasts more than 100,000 square feet of exhibit space dedicated to displaying iconic aircraft, space vehicles, artifacts, military uniforms, and much more.

The bus will head back to the hotel at 3:30pm

Tour #3 - 16th Street Mall

If you are looking for a nice, relaxed day of shopping, this is the one for you. The 16th Street Mall is located in the heart of downtown Denver. Right outside



of the hotel that we are staying at. It is 1.25 miles long, it has FREE shuttle rides going end to end, giving you easy access to more than 250+ stores lining the street making it a favorite tourist destination. The 16th Street mall has been around for 30+ years, the street has just completed a 3 year remodel and is ready for you! *Since this is a self-guided tour - YOU DO NOT NEED TO REGISTER FOR THIS - This is for information purposes only.*

Tour #4 - Denver Zoo & Museum of Nature and Science

10:00 am - 12:30 pm arrive at the Denver Zoo and enjoy the sights of all the animals

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm –
Lunch under the pavilion at the Denver Zoo then walk over to the Museum of Nature and Science.

2:15 pm – 4:30 pm
Enjoy the sights of the Museum of Nature and Science



Sons and Daughters Program

Wednesday, July 8

5:30 – 6:00 PM - Join us at the Sheraton for a Sons and Daughters Program Meet and Greet. Each child will receive a T-shirt for each day including a water-wicking long-sleeved shirt for the Friday activities. Be sure to pack sunscreen, comfortable walking shoes, a towel, sunglasses or hat and a full water bottle. Snacks and extra water will be available on the bus.

Thursday, July 9

Meet at the bus pick up at 7:00 AM to travel to Colorado Springs for the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo that is the highest zoo in America, perched at a breathtaking 6,714 feet above sea level! With



sweeping mountain views, hands-on animal encounters, and a tram ride that feels like a safari in the sky, this isn't your typical zoo day! We will uncover all the wild surprises tucked into this one-of-a-kind attraction—and trust us, there's more than just altitude to get excited about.

Friday, July 10

Be ready at the bus pick up at 6:45AM. We know this is early, and we will have breakfast burritos for everyone as we load up. You will need your energy as we head to the mountains for a spectacular ride down some white water. We will join AVA rafting, as we tackle the waters of Clear Creek. After our morning fun, we will head to Idaho Springs for one of the best pizza places in Colorado for lunch.



Once we are filled up, we will head up the mountain to Georgetown to take a ride on the Georgetown Loop Train. We will arrive back at the hotel around 5:00pm

Saturday, July 11

On Saturday, we'll have a day of service and fun in Denver. The morning starts with a service project at the Sheraton from 8:00 – 10:00am. The



rest of the morning and afternoon will be spent at the 68-acre Elitch Gardens Theme and Water Park. This park has over 40 exciting rides for kids of all ages. At the end of the day we'll spend an evening together at the hotel with dinner and either a movie or magic show.

Transportation and Parking

Sheraton Denver Downtown 1550 Court Place, Denver, CO

Travel from DIA to Sheraton Hotel (conference location) Denver International Airport (DIA)

*Shuttle Service is not available from the Sheraton Hotel

- Via Vehicle
 - Roughly 45 minutes/ 22 miles – Get [Google Maps Directions](#)
 - Parking & Transportation Links from [DIA Airport](#)
 - Rental car nearby hotel – [Enterprise Rent-A-Car](#)
- Via Train/Walk/Bus Route
 - Roughly 1 hour – Get [Google Maps Directions](#)
 - from DIA -> take Train to Union Station (40 min) -> Walk to 17th & Market St (7 min) -> Catch Bus to Civic Center Station 16th St Drop (9 min) -> Walk to Sheraton Hotel (5 min)
 - [RTD Denver Public Transportation \(Rail & Bus\)](#)
 - [Denver Union Station \(Rail & Bus\)](#)
 - [Greyhound Bus Station \(Bus\)](#)
 - [Denver Amtrak STA \(Rail\)](#)

Travel from COS to Sheraton Hotel (conference location) Colorado Springs Airport (COS)

- Via Vehicle: Roughly 1 hour 45 minutes/ 80 miles – Get [Google Maps Directions](#)
- Via [Bustang](#) (Bus option from the Colorado Springs to Denver locations)

Travel from Northern Colorado to Sheraton Hotel (conference location)

- Via Vehicle: Roughly 1 hour / 51 miles – Get [Google Maps Directions](#)
- Via [Bustang](#) (Bus option from the Fort Collins or Loveland to Denver locations)

Public Transit

- Light Rail: A convenient option with various [“Park-n-Ride” lots](#) available throughout the metro area. Union Station is an easy mile walk away, or hop on the [16th Street FreeRide](#) to 16th Street and Tremont Pl.

Parking at the Hotel

- Self-parking at the Sheraton is available at a discounted rate of \$25/day.

Off-Site Parking Garages

- [Denver Pavilions/Tremont Lot](#) – 1518 Glenarm Place, Denver
 - Committee members have parked full size trucks here
- [410 Public Garage](#) – 1635 Tremont Place, Denver
- RV Parking Options will be shared at a later date

Find More Off-Site Locations

Use these platforms to find and book competitive rates in real-time. They will show both garages and open lots.

- [SpotHero](#)
- [ParkMobile](#)
- [ParkWhiz](#)
- [Park Chirp](#)



Attire

Denver weather can be quite varied even in July. Plan for hotter days, but potentially quick cool downs in the evening. *Be sure to bring a jacket/sweater, closed toed shoes, and pants in addition to seasonal summer attire in case of weather cooldowns.

High Altitude Preparation

<https://visitdenver.com/about-denver/resources/high-altitude-tips/>

- Drink water
- Monitor your alcohol intake
- Eat foods high in potassium
- Watch your physical activity
- Pack for sun
- Dress in layers
- Enjoy yourself!

REGISTRATION FORM

NACAA ANNUAL MEETING AND PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE

July 8 - July 12 - Denver, Colorado

Registration forms must be postmarked on or before May 15, 2026: Late fee is \$100 - Return ALL forms together.

Please fill out all forms completely. Enclose proper payment where needed. If registration is completed online and is made during the Early Bird Registration period (April 1- May 15) if paying by check - the check needs to be recieved by May 15, 2026 in order to be eligible for the Early-Bird Rate.

On-site Registration will be in the Sheraton Downtown Denver.

For Insurance Liability reasons -

Name Tags will be required at ALL EVENTS

(meal functions, bus trips,

conference sessions - everything).

NO EXCEPTIONS

SEND FORMS AND PAYMENT TO:

NACAA

6584 W. Duroc Road

Maroa, IL 61756

Phone: 217-794-3700 Fax: 217-794-5901 E-mail: exec-dir@ncaa.com

PARTICIPANT'S NAME

(Last)

(First)

(Preferred first name on tag if different from above)

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE - daytime () -

Cell Phone () -

(for emergency conference contact)

E-mail address

Confirmations will be sent electronically for everyone (unless you are without e-mail - it will then be mailed via U.S. Mail) - by no later than June 10, 2026.

Are you an NACAA Member (Active or Life) NO

Check your region: NC NE W S

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS - Please check below if you need special assistance during the meeting.

- Accessibility needs during the meeting
Dietary (Please contact the registration office at the above address prior to June 1st to make request or send a note with this registration).

If your spouse, child(ren), and/or guest is attending the conference, please complete:

SPOUSE NAME: (Last) (First)

GUEST'S NAME (Last) (First)

CHILDREN'S NAMES AND AGES (if attending):

Name Age

Name Age

Name Age

Name Age

LIFE MEMBER & SPOUSE/GUEST ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY - July 8, 2026

Life Member & Spouse/Guest Program Orientation (2:00 PM to 3:00 PM) # Plan To Attend

THURSDAY - July 9, 2026

Life Member Business Meeting (10:00 AM to 11:30 AM) # Plan To Attend

Life/Spouse Luncheon (Combined) (11:45 AM to 1:15 PM) # Plan To Attend

LIFE/SPOUSE/GUEST TOURS

Tour 1: MEOW Wolf (1:30 PM to 4:00 PM) # Plan To Attend

Tour 2: History of Denver (1:30 PM to 4:00 PM) # Plan To Attend

Tour 3: Denver State Capitol (1:30 PM to 4:00 PM) # Plan To Attend

Tour 4: Denver U.S. Mint (1:30 PM to 4:00 PM) # Plan To Attend

Tour 5: Buffalo Bill Museum (1:30 PM to 4:00 PM) # Plan To Attend

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

Workshop 1: The World of Freeze Drying (10:00 AM to 11:30 AM) # Plan To Attend

Workshop 2: CSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (2:00 PM to 3:30 PM) # Plan To Attend

Tour 1: Mount Blue Sky (8:00 AM to 4:00 PM) # Plan To Attend

Tour 2: Denver Botanic Garden/Chatfield Farms (8:00 AM to 4:30 PM) # Plan To Attend

Tour 3: Western History of Denver (8:00 AM to 4:00 PM) # Plan To Attend

Tour 4: City Park Golf Course (8:00 AM to 4:00 PM) # Plan To Attend

Tour 5: Coors/Golden, CO (8:00 AM to 3:30 PM) # Plan To Attend

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026

Tour 1: Rocky Mountain National Park/Stanley Hotel (8:00 AM to 4:30 PM) # Plan To Attend

Tour 2: Rocky Mountain National Arsenal/Air & Space (8:00 AM to 3:30 PM) # Plan To Attend

Tour 3: 16th Street Mall (As long as you desire) # Plan To Attend

Tour 4: Denver Zoo & Museum of Nature and Science (10:00 AM to 4:30 PM) # Plan To Attend

REGISTRATION FEE INFORMATION

Check ALL Blocks That Apply to You

Participant's Name _____

	Last Name		First Name		Total Fees to be Paid
NACAA Member	Agent Fee # Attending		Spouse/Guest Fee # Attending		
First Time Attending Member (5 yrs. or less) employed after 7/1/2021	(\$350.00 x _____)	+	(\$400.00 x _____)	=	\$ _____
Regular Member	(\$600.00 x _____)	+	(\$400.00 x _____)	=	\$ _____
Life Member	(\$400.00 x _____)	+	(\$400.00 x _____)	=	\$ _____
OTHERS					
Sons & Daughters	(\$400.00 x _____) <i>(participating in activities)</i>			=	\$ _____
Visitor	(\$600.00 x _____)	+	(\$400.00 x _____)	=	\$ _____
Univ. or USDA Administrator	(\$600.00 x _____)	+	(\$400.00 x _____)	=	\$ _____
Guest of NACAA President	(Waived x _____)	+	(Waived x _____)	=	\$ _____
National Donor/Exhibitors	(Waived x _____)	+	(Waived x _____)	=	\$ _____
Past National Board Luncheon (\$50 x No. of People _____)				=	\$ _____
Horticulture & Turfgrass (\$100 x No. of People _____)				=	\$ _____
Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Pre-Tour (\$160 x No. of People _____)				=	\$ _____
Tour 7: Perennial Produce: Orchards and Vineyards Tour: \$25 wine tasting (\$25 x No. of People _____)				=	\$ _____

PART-TIME ATTENDANCE

Number Attending Each Day: Sun ___; Mon ___; Tues ___; Wed ___
 Daily Fee (\$300 x No. of Days ___ x No. of People ___) = \$ _____

Attending only Saturday Night Banquet: (\$90 x No. of People ___)
 (Cost is already included in full registration - this is only for non-registrants or daily registrants) = \$ _____

Late Fee: Applies to all registrants listed above whose registration form and fees are postmarked after May 15, 2026 - \$100 per individual) = \$ _____

Facilities Fee (FOR ALL ACTIVE AND LIFE MEMBERS NOT REQUESTING LODGING):
 NACAA has initiated a facilities fee for this Conference. There is no fee if you book a hotel through NACAA on this registration form = \$ _____
 If you are an Active or Life Member and do not plan to stay at the contracted hotel for at least 1 night, a \$250 fee will be administered.

TOTAL FEES PAYABLE WITH REGISTRATION: (Make checks payable to NACAA) = \$ _____

REGISTRATION FORMS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED IF FEES ARE NOT PAID AT THE TIME OF REGISTERING (I.E. WAITING FOR SECONDARY FUNDING). IF A PERSONAL CHECK/COUNTY CHECK OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION IS NOT SENT WITH THE REGISTRATION - YOUR REGISTRATION WILL BE PLACED ON HOLD UNTIL THE MONIES ARE RECEIVED.

IF PAID BY CREDIT CARD:

___ MasterCard ___ VISA ___ Discover Card ___ American Express - No other cards will be accepted.

Person's Name on Credit Card _____; Expiration Date _____

Card Number _____; (List all 16 digits - 15 for AMEX) Security Code _____

Address of Credit Card Billing Statement if different than address given on Personal Information

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Signature _____

(IF CARD INFORMATION IS INCORRECT OR NOT ACCEPTED DURING THE CARD APPROVAL PROCESS, YOUR REGISTRATION WILL BE DELAYED)

CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY

There shall be a **75%** refund of registration fee when a request is made before June 22 (no later than 16 days before the AM/PIC begins). Between June 23 and July 7th (prior to the start of the AM/PIC) there shall be a **25%** refund. No refunds will be given if a request is made after the beginning of the AM/PIC. Appeals due to emergency will be handled on a case by case basis by the NACAA Board with a maximum of 90% reimbursed. **Requests must be made in writing** to NACAA, Attn: Scott Hawbaker, 6584 W. Duroc Road, Maroa, IL 61756 or e-mail to: nacaemail@aol.com. **Pre-Tours are non-refundable.** Refund for part-time attendance is the same, except there will be no refund for the banquet. Members and guests eligible for fee waivers will be refunded upon verification by the National Board of Directors.

PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT TOURS

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Participant's Name _____

Last Name

First Name

NOTE: If the spouse and children are participating in the same tour as the agent, please list the total number under the agent.

AGENT	Tour No.	# of people on Tour	SPOUSE/GUEST (If different from Agent)	Tour No.	# of people on Tour
1 st Choice	_____	_____	1 st Choice	_____	_____
2 nd Choice	_____	_____	2 nd Choice	_____	_____
3 rd Choice	_____	_____	3 rd Choice	_____	_____

LODGING INFORMATION

1. Reservations will be made directly with the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel

<https://book.passkey.com/go/NACAA2026ATTENDEES>

IF YOU PREFER TO CALL THE SHERATON TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION -

PLEASE CALL: 1-888-627-8405 - JUST REFERENCE NACAA

**The group rooms available at the NACAA group rate of
\$189/night (Single/Double) \$209 (Triple), \$229 (Quad)**

Final date to receive these rates is June 12, 2026.

All reservations made following June 12th - will be subject to the Sheraton's going rate.

2. Active and Life Members will be required to have a reservation for a minimum of 1 night. If no hotel reservation is submitted - a **Facilities Fee of \$250** will be charged to each Active and Life Member with no reservation. If registering on-line, you will have an option to list which agent you are rooming with - and will need to include a Hilton Anatole confirmation number in order to continue the registration process. Non Members (Spouses/Children/Guests) will not be charged the fee.

Sheraton Rate - \$189 (single/double) \$209/\$229 (triple/quad) , the sales tax rate is 8.00%.

Taxes and fees subject to change without notice. \$25/day self parking or \$35/day Valet Parking (subject to change)

If you are an Active or Life Member and you are sharing a room with another NACAA member - you must list the name for who the reservation is made under - and provide their confirmation number:

Are you an Active/Life Member and sharing a room with another member?

Yes No If yes - who's name is the room in? _____

Active/Life Members - Please Verify on this form your Sheraton Confirmation Number: _____

Since reservations are being made direct with the hotel - if you are looking for a roommate - please indicate this below - and following the May 15 deadline, NACAA will reach out to you with a list of other agents also looking. You can then make arrangements directly with the hotel, once a pairing is made (or you can go ahead and secure a room - then if a roommate is found - one of you can cancel one of the reservations.

Do you need assistance in finding a roommate? Yes No

(Male Female)

Special Notes to Registration Committee:

SON'S AND DAUGHTER'S PROGRAMS

See Program for Details

PARTICIPANT'S Name _____
Last Name First Name *Agent or Life Members name if not the same Last Name*

Son's and daughter's registration will be held at the main registration desk at the Northern Hotel. Activities will begin with the orientation meeting prior to the Opening Ceremonies, Wednesday, July 8th from 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM. Adult chaperones must be registered for the meeting. This year's program is designed for youth ages 8 - 18. Youth 7 and under may participate only if accompanied by a parent or guardian that is a paid registrant for the events. All costs are included in the registration fee, including lunch. NACAA is unable to provide day care services for children.

PLEASE LIST THE NAME, AGE, AND T-SHIRT SIZE (DESIGNATE YOUTH OR ADULT SIZE) OF YOUR CHILDREN ATTENDING THE PROGRAMS. A = Adult, Y = Youth; XL = extra large, L = large, M = medium, S = small, XS = extra small. Extra large is only available in adults and extra small only in youth. If your child needs a youth large T-shirt, write YL in the space provided.

		T-Shirt				T-Shirt		
(Name)	Age	Size	Height	(Name)	Age	Size	Height	
Child # 1 _____	_____	_____	_____	Child # 3 _____	_____	_____	_____	
Child # 2 _____	_____	_____	_____	Child # 4 _____	_____	_____	_____	

NOTE: Adults (with an Active/Spouse paid registration) are welcome to attend and will be asked to assist as chaperones. Adults must accompany their children ages 7 and under on any activity. Please list any adults who will chaperone. Only sons & daughters and adult chaperones will be eligible for a T-Shirt.

		T-Shirt			T-Shirt
(Name)	Age	Size	(Name)	Age	Size
Adult # 1 _____	_____	_____	Adult # 2 _____	_____	_____

Please indicate the child and adult number from the above list that will be attending Son's & Daughter's Program.

	# Youth	# Adults	Youth & Adult's Name (s)
<u>WEDNESDAY, JULY 8</u> MEET & GREET (ORIENTATION)	_____	_____	_____
<u>THURSDAY, JULY 9</u> CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN ZOO	_____	_____	_____
<u>FRIDAY, JULY 10</u> AVA RAFTING - CLEAR CREEK & GEORGETOWN LOOP TRAIN	_____	_____	_____
<u>SATURDAY, JULY 11</u> ELITCH GARDENS THEME & WATER PARK	_____	_____	_____
Farewell Party (Includes Evening Meal) (NOT ATTENDING DSA BANQUET)	_____	_____	_____

SON'S & DAUGHTER'S MEDICAL RELEASE FORM: Release form will be required for all youth participants. Please complete the document found online at: <https://www.nacaa.com/uploads/userfiles/files/2026%20Sons%20and%20Daughters%20Release%20Form%20Fillable.pdf> WITH THIS REGISTRATION FORM - OR E-MAIL TO: BRIAN KAILEY@COLOSTATE.EDU

IF YOU NEED ANY TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM OR HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PHYSICAL ACCESS PROVIDED, PLEASE CONTACT BRIAN KAILEY AT 970-522-3200, EXT. 2 - BY JUNE 15, 2026

Thank You - NACAA Sponsors/Donors



Science For A Better Life



Custom Agricultural Tours



INTERESTED IN VIEWING ALL AWARD WINNERS (STATE/REGIONAL/NATIONAL)?

GO TO....

<https://www.nacaa.com/award-winners>



Proceedings & Photos of the 2026 AM/PIC will be posted at the conclusion of the AM/PIC at

<https://www.nacaa.com/am-pics/denver-2026>

NOW'S THE TIME

TO REGISTER

JULY 8 - 12, 2026

DENVER, COLORADO



The County Agent

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
The County Agent - NACAA, 6584 W. Duroc Rd.,
 Maroa, IL 61756 - Attn: Scott Hawbaker

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE DATES



2026
 Denver, Colorado.....July 8-12

2027
 St. Paul, Minnesota.....September 12-16

2028
 Atlanta, Georgia.....August 6-10

2029
 Hershey, Pennsylvania.....September 17-20

Upcoming Issues of The County Agent Magazine

June, 2026	October, 2026	December, 2026
Open Topic	AM/PIC Recap	Awards/Committee Edition
Deadline for articles: May 15, 2026	Deadline for articles: August 15, 2026	Deadline for articles: November 20, 2026
Mail Date: June 10, 2026	Mail Date: September 1, 2026	Mail Date: December 28, 2026

April is National Safe Digging Month!



Celebrate by sharing a vital message:
 Contact 811 before you dig. It's a simple way
 to help farmers avoid costly downtime and
 protect their operations from
 underground hazards.

Request Free Farm & Ranch Safety Guides!
 Email Whitney@AligningChange.com



More resources at www.PipelineAgSafetyAlliance.com