

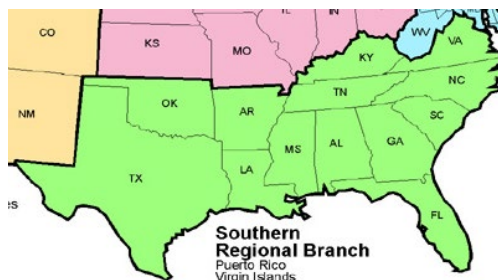
## 2026 Southern Branch ASA Annual Meeting

### Program



# ASA

American Society of Agronomy



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<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
Saturday, Jan. 31	<a href="#"><u>Student Mixer &amp; Industry Panel</u></a>	4:00-6:30 PM
Sunday, Feb. 1	<a href="#"><u>POSTER SESSION</u></a>	1:00-4:00 PM
	<a href="#"><u>SAAS GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING</u></a>	4:00-5:00 PM
	<a href="#"><u>SAAS OPENING NETWORK SOCIAL</u></a>	6:00-9:00 PM
Monday, Feb. 2	<a href="#"><u>COFFEE &amp; KEYNOTE</u></a>	8:00-8:40 AM
	<a href="#"><u>M.S. STUDENT ORAL COMPETITION</u></a>	8:55 AM – 12:00 PM
	<a href="#"><u>Ph.D. STUDENT ORAL COMPETITION</u></a>	1:25-4:00 PM
	<a href="#"><u>STUDENT QUIZ BOWL &amp; SOCIAL</u></a>	5:00 PM - UNTIL
Tuesday, Feb. 3	<a href="#"><u>'MISTAKES WERE MADE'</u></a>	7:55-8:25 AM
	<a href="#"><u>PROFESSIONAL ORALS</u></a>	8:25-9:30 AM
	<a href="#"><u>AGRONOMY BUSINESS MEETING, AWARDS</u></a>	10:00-11:00 AM

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026**

**Student Mixer & INDUSTRY PANEL: 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM**

**Free to all Grad Students!!!**

**Mix and Mingle with fellow students and Industry Reps from Drexel Chemical Company, Valent, Seiler GeoDrones, and more!**

*Sponsored by Drexel Chemical Company*

LOCATION: Distiller's Foyer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, OMNI

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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026**

**REGISTRATION: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

LOCATION: OMNI Louisville, Second Street Prefunction, Level Two

**POSTER SESSION: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

LOCATION: Prefunction, Level Two, OMNI

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION**

1. Evaluating Nitrogen-Sulfur Ratio as a Strategy for Improving Wheat Fertility Efficiency. **Clara Damman**, Chad Grote, and Justin Geis; Murray State University, Murray, KY
2. Source Sink Manipulation in Soybean to Understand Its Final Seed Size Determination Stage. **Pascal Niyomugabo**, Sudip Poudel, and Anuj Chiluwal; Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY
3. The Interaction of Planting Date and Tillage on Corn Grain Yield in South Georgia. **Stormie Rackley**, Alyssa Grace Salinas, and Michael J.W. Maw; Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Tifton, GA
4. Evaluating How Management Practices and Environmental Variables Influence Soybean Grain Yield. **Alyssa Grace Salinas**, Stormie Rackley, and Michael J.W. Maw; Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Tifton, GA
5. The Interaction of Nitrogen Rate and Seeding Rate on Fall-Planted Corn Yields. **Cedric Montgomery**, Stormie Rackley, Alyssa Grace Salinas, and Michael J.W. Maw; Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Tifton, GA
6. Seasonal Assessment of Tall Fescue Pasture Condition during Fall Transition Period. **Eden Myers**, Bethany Sobek, Isaac Lepcha, and Rachna Tewari; The University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN.
7. Relationship between Lime and Phosphorus Management on Soil Phosphorus Availability. **Harper Ritchey**, John H. Grove, and Edwin L. Ritchey; University of Kentucky, Princeton, KY.
8. A Geospatial Inventory of Center Pivots and on-Farm Water Storage Systems in the Black Prairie Region of Northeast Mississippi. **Marlee Theobald**, Sam Theobald, Mary Love Tagert, and Elliott Butler; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

**GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION – M.S. STUDENTS**

9. Yield Response of Different Corn Hybrids to Limited Irrigation in the Central High Plains. **Macie McPeak**, Sumit Sharma, Harsanjam Singh, and Mark Anthony Manatad Barbadillo; Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK
10. Evaluating the Impacts of Strip Tillage and Cover Crop Seeding Rate on Corn Emergence and Weed Suppression. **Eli Robb**, H. Pegram, J. Shutt, and J.I. Morrison; Mississippi State University, Tillatoba, MS
11. Assessing How Biochar Can Affect Soil Fertility and Sorghum Biomass in the Deep South. **Jacob Shutt**, E. E. Robb, H. B. Pegram, J. I. Morrison; Mississippi State University, MS
12. Evaluating Pre Emergence Herbicide Programs in Response to Soybean Planting Date. **Maddie Douglas**, Justin Calhoun, Gene Dave Spencer, Brittany Rhea, W. Paul O'Neal, Garrett Oswalt, Jason Bond, and Michael J. Mulvaney; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS.
13. Determination of Critical Nitrogen Dilution Curve in Soybean. **Prakriti Paudel** and Anuj Chiluwal; Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY
14. Identifying Optimal Planting Date for Different Maturity Groups of Soybean Cultivars in Kentucky. **Anjan Timilsina** and Anuj Chiluwal; Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY
15. Evaluation of Soil Properties with a Spectroradiometer. **Srijana Kandel** and Anuj Chiluwal; Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY
16. Soil Health and Carbon Storage in Livestock-Managed Pastures for Regenerative and Climate-Positive Agriculture. **Chandralekha Joga** and Iin P. Handayani; Murray State University, Murray, KY
17. Does Corn Production Benefit from Biological Products. **Mallie Rivenbark** and Amee Bumguardner; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
18. Assessing Seed Priming Strategies to Enhance Water Uptake in Plants Exposed to Salt Stress. **Mahima Gumadala**, Saoli Chanda, Sanku Datta Mudi, and Shad D. Nelson; Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX
19. Understanding the Genetic Variations for Yield and Its Related Components and Other Agronomic Traits in Sorghum Association Panel Under Southeastern U.S. Growing Conditions. **Janak Adhikari**, Manoj Kumar Reddy Sangireddy and Somashekhar M. Punnuri; Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, GA
20. Effects of Nitrogen Source on Vegetable Growth and Soil Water Properties. **Belinda Arnero**, Sanku Datta Mudi, Shad D. Nelson, Consuelo Donato, Agriculture, Agribusiness & Environmental Sciences, and Saoli Chanda; Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX
21. Growing Under Cover: NRCS Cover Crop Mix Influence on Cotton Productivity. **Amie Jones**, Lance Wortman, Marshall Corkern, John Snider, Phillip Roberts, Camp Hand, and Taylor Randell Singleton; University of Georgia, Tifton, GA
22. Quantify the Influence of Poultry Litter Application and Nutrient Management on Pre-Emergence Herbicide Efficacy in Southeastern Cotton Production. **Gurwinder Singh**, Nisith Nishank Purohit, Rakesh Kumar Ghosh, Rishi Prasad, and Aniruddha Maity; Auburn University, Auburn, AL
23. Effect of Cover Crop Management on Nutrient Availability in No-till Corn. **Emily Marsh** and Chad D. Lee, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

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24. Understanding Head Counts Effect on Yield in Winter Wheat. **Allie Mutter** and Chad D Lee; University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
25. Influence of Sampling Distance from the Crop Row on Select Soil Health Indicators in a Cotton Field. **Stephane Jean-Noël** and Dedrick D. Davis; Alabama A&M University, Normal, AL
26. Soil Responses as Affected by Tillage Practices: Soil Structure and Hydraulic Properties. **Durga Bastola** and Lin Handayani; Murray State University, Murray, KY
27. Influence of a Rhizobium Tropici-Derived Biopolymer on in-Situ Soil Water Retention. **Chidinma Njoku**, Emmanuel Oko, Stephane Jean-Noël, and Dedrick D. Davis; Alabama A&M University, Normal, AL
28. Kentucky Wheat Response to Sulfur Fertilizer Addition. **Matthew Fowler**, and John H. Grove; University of Kentucky, Princeton, KY
29. On-Farm Assessment of Soil Health in Annual Crop Fields and Perennial Hay Fields in Tennessee. **Mukesh Chaudhary**, Pooja Chaudhari, Jianwei Li, Resham Thapa, Philip Hinson and Krishna Bhandari; Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN
30. Cropping System Impacts on Soil Health in Tennessee: Evidence from Producer-Managed Fields. **Pooja Chaudhari**, Mukesh Chaudhary, Jianwei Li, Resham Thapa, Philip Hinson, and Krishna Bhandari; Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN
31. Field Evaluation of a Microbial Biopolymer for Enhancing Soil Aggregate Stability. **Owoola Oladokun**, Emmanuel Oko, and Dedrick D. Davis; Alabama A&M University, Normal, AL
32. Potassium Fertilizer Source and Split Application Efficacy in Cotton. **James Tuberville**; Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS

## GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION – Ph.D. STUDENTS

33. Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Blackbelt Soils of Mississippi. **Oluwafemi Oyedele**, Michael J. Mulvaney, Prakash Kumar Jha, Oluwaseyi E. Olomitutu, and John Wallace; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
34. Comparing Two Chamber Methods for Soil Gas Flux Quantification. **Nicholas Boogades**, Terry Gentry, and Katie L. Lewis; Texas A&M University, Lubbock, TX
35. Bacillus-Based PGPR Consortium Enhanced Soil Microbial Activity and Function in Soil Amended with Different Poultry Litters. **Felix Satognon**, Dexter B. Watts, Anthony Adesemoye, H. Allen Torbert, Rishi Prasad, Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, and Kim Mullenix; Auburn University, Auburn, AL
36. Effects of Potassium Application Timing and Seeding Rate on Soybean Growth and Development. **W. Paul O'Neal**, Justin Calhoun, J. Trenton Irby, William Maples, Vaughn Reed, Brendan A Zurweller, Garrett Oswalt, Brittany Rhea, and Maddie Douglas; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
37. Hybrid Bluegrass Breeding: Enhancing Forage Quality and Climate Resilience for Sustainable Grazing Systems. **Eric Luteyn** and Tim Phillips; University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
38. Can Soil Amendment with Biochar Alleviate Cotton Injury from Pre-Emergence Herbicides? **Nisith Nishank Purohit**, Rakesh Kumar Ghosh, and Aniruddha Maity; Auburn University, Auburn, AL
39. Deer on the Menu: How Simulated White-Tailed Deer Browsing Impacts Georgia Soybeans. **Venkata Lakshmi Siripurapu** and Nick J. Shay; University of Georgia, Tifton, GA

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40. Field Evaluation of a Rhizobium Tropici-Derived Biopolymer on Soil Microclimate and Water Storage. **Emmanuel Oko** and Dedrick D. Davis; Alabama A&M University, Huntsville, AL
41. Soil Enzyme Responses to Xanthan Gum Biopolymers in Green Bean Grown Alabama Soils. Erneste Havugimana, Jonathan Metuge, **Noella Rutayisire**, Jean Rugandirababisha, and Zachary Senwo; Alabama A&M University, Normal, AL
42. Row Orientation, Plant Density, and Mulch Effects on Weed Pressure and Cotton Yield in Alabama. **Mahboobeh Mollae** and Aniruddha Maity; Auburn University, Auburn, AL
43. Quantitative Trait Loci (QTL) Mapping for Protein Content, and Amino Acids in a Cowpea MAGIC Population. **Jean Paul Iyakaremye**; Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

### **PROFESSIONAL POSTER – CROPS**

44. Understanding Soybean Pod Dimension Under Varying Assimilate Supply Conditions. **Sudip Poudel** and Anuj Chiluwal; Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY
45. Effect of Biochar and Nitrogen Fertilization on Fatty Acid and Amino Acid Profiles of Soybean Seeds. **Deepak Khatri** and Anuj Chiluwal; Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY
46. Optimizing Soybean Plant Architecture for Higher Yield in Newly Developed Isolines for Stem Termination in Mississippi. **Ame Bumgardner**, Nacer Bellaloui, Michael J. Mulvaney, James R. Smith, Mallie Rivenbark, Dillon Horn, Doug Messer, and Oluwaseyi E. Olomitutu; Mississippi State University, Aberdeen, MS
47. Heat and Drought Responses of Glyphosate-Resistant and Susceptible Palmer Amaranth Lines. **Akanksha Sehgal**, Christopher Saski, and Sruthi Narayanan; Clemson University, Clemson, SC
48. Double-crop soybean response to simulated carryover from HPPD herbicides. **Nicholas Shay** and Venkata Lakshmi Siripurapu; University of Georgia, Tifton, GA
49. On-Farm Cotton Demonstration and Variety Performance in Mississippi. **Reece L. Oliver**, Brian K Pieralisi, William J. Rutland, Luke C. Noah, Grace Gough; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

### **PROFESSIONAL POSTER – SOILS**

50. Neutralizing Soil Acidity: Product Evaluation. **Edwin L. Ritchey**, John H. Grove, and Christopher D. Teutsch; University of Kentucky, Princeton, KY
51. Influence of Biochar and Nutrient Inputs on Vegetable Yield and Soil Quality. **Sanku Datta Mudi**, Saoli Chanda, and Francisco J Trevino; Texas A&M University - Kingsville, Kingsville, TX
52. Depth-Dependent Soil Water Status Dynamics during Soybean Canopy Development. **Dedrick D. Davis**; Alabama A&M University, Normal, AL
53. Soil Health Practicum for Undergraduate and Graduate Research Competitions: Students Promote Sustainability in Agriculture. **Iin P. Handayani**, Oliver Freeman, and Brian Parr; Murray State University, Murray, KY

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### **SAAS GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING: 4:00 – 5:00 PM**

**Guest Speaker: Brent Elrod, Chief of Staff at USDA-NIFA. He will discuss funding opportunities.**

LOCATION: Commonwealth 3, OMNI

### **SAAS OPENING NETWORK SOCIAL: 6:00 – 9:00 PM**

LOCATION: Tavern on Fourth – 427 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St.

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## **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

### **REGISTRATION: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

LOCATION: Second Street Prefunction, Level Two, OMNI

### **COFFEE & KEYNOTE: 8:00 – 8:40 AM**

**“Industrial Hemp Production in Kentucky”**

**R.C. ‘Bob’ Pearce, State Tobacco and Hemp Specialist, University of Kentucky**

*Followed by Door Prizes drawings for those present!!*

LOCATION: Olmsted 2, Level Two, OMNI

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### **GRADUATE STUDENT ORAL COMPETITION – SECTION 1 – M.S. STUDENTS**

LOCATION: Olmsted 2, Level Two

Moderator: Oluwafemi Oyedele, [oo174@msstate.edu](mailto:oo174@msstate.edu)

8.55 AM	Opening Remarks
9.00 AM	Best Management Practices for Assessing Nitrogen Fate and Leaching Losses in Corn Under Variable EC Zones. <b>Vikash Verma</b> , Lydia Bolton, Joel C. Love, Robert C Hochmuth, Shivendra Kumar and Sudeep Singh Sidhu; University of Florida, Quincy, FL
9.15 AM	Evaluating the F19 Hydric Soil Indicator in the Southern Piedmont Using Morphology, Hydrology, and Redox Potential. <b>Jason Wheatley</b> , Matthew R. Levi, Nandita Gaur, Aaron Thompson, Rhett Jackson, and Todd Rasmussen; University of Georgia, Athens, GA
9.30 AM	On-Farm Assessment of Soil Health in Dominant Annual Cropping Systems and Perennial Forage Systems in Tennessee. <b>Mukesh Chaudhary</b> , Pooja Chaudhari, Jianwei Li, Resham Thapa, Philip O. Hinson, Krishna Bhandari; Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN
9.45 AM	Comparing the Performance of a Seed Tube Optical Sensor and a Vision-Based Software Measurement System for Laboratory Evaluation of Corn Seed Singulation. <b>Matteo Listuzzi</b> , Wesley M. Porter, and Manuel Blaser; University of Georgia, Tifton, GA
10.00 AM	Soybean Performance across Maturity Groups and Planting Dates in Kentucky. <b>Anjan Timilsina</b> and Anuj Chiluwal; Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY



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10.15 AM	Break
10.30 AM	Comparative Assessment of Soil Health between Conventional and Conservation Cropping Systems in Tennessee. <b>Pooja Chaudhari</b> , Mukesh Chaudhary, Jianwei Li, Resham Thapa, Philip Hinson, Krishna Bhandari; Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN
10.45 AM	Unlocked Potential: Genotype By Environment Impacts on 5-Row Boll Production. <b>Lance Wortman</b> , Amie Jones, Marshall Corkern, John Snider, and Camp Hand; University of Georgia, Tifton, GA
11.00 AM	The Potential for Variable Rate Irrigation in Northeast Mississippi. <b>Sam Theobald</b> , Mary Love Tagert, and Tsz Him Lo; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
11.15 AM	Identifying the Optimal Timing for Supplemental Nitrogen Application to Enhance Soybean Seed Composition. <b>Manish Pandit</b> and Anuj Chiluwal; Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY
11.30 AM	UAV-Based Estimation of Nitrogen Content in Soybean Using Multispectral Vegetation Indices. <b>Susma Adhikari</b> and Anuj Chiluwal; Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY
11:45 PM	Adjourn

## GRADUATE STUDENT ORAL COMPETITION – SECTION 2 – M.S. STUDENTS

LOCATION: Olmsted 3, Level Two

Moderator: Oluwaseyi E. Olomitutu, [oeo20@msstate.edu](mailto:oeo20@msstate.edu)

8.55 AM	Opening Remarks
9.00 AM	Determining the Optimal Growth Stage of Overhead Irrigation Termination of Soybeans in Mississippi. <b>Jason L. Arena</b> and Gene Dave Spencer; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
9.15 AM	Battle of the Bolls: Comparing Upland Cotton, Pima Cotton, and Their Hybrid in South Georgia. <b>Amie Jones</b> , Lance Wortman, Marshall Corkern, John Snider, Phillip Roberts, Camp Hand; University of Georgia, Tifton, GA
9.30 AM	MC Hammer: Optimizing Growth Management of Thryvon Cotton in the Lower Southeast. <b>Marshall Corkern</b> , Amie Jones, Lance Wortman, Camp Hand, Philip M. Roberts, John Snider; University of Georgia, Tifton, GA
9.45 AM	Enhancing Compatibility of Cover Crops in Corn Production Systems. <b>Johnathan Caleb Bridges</b> , Erick J. Larson, Gene Dave Spencer, William Maples, Brendan A. Zurweller, Jason Bond, and L. Jason Krutz; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
10.00 AM	Estimating Leaf Area Index of Cotton ( <i>Gossypium hirsutum</i> L.) Canopy Using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Multispectral Imagery. <b>Anmoldeep Singh</b> , Joseph Iboyi, Kulpreet Singh, Diego Jarquin, Hardev Sandhu, and Hardeep Singh; University of Florida, Jay, FL
10.15 AM	Break
10.30 AM	Does Biochar Application in Soil Affect Soil Micronutrient Dynamics? <b>Srijana Kandel</b> and Anuj Chiluwal; Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY

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10.45 AM	Cotton Pre-Emergent Herbicide Carryover: Evaluating Soybean Response Following a Failed Cotton Stand. <b>Grace Gough</b> , Corey J. Bryant, Brian K. Pieralisi, and William Joseph Rutland; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
11.00 AM	Evaluating the Performance of UAS Seeded Cover Crop Mixtures for Seeding in Cotton before and after Defoliation. <b>Chance Warren</b> , Wesley M. Porter, Nicholas Tuschak Basinger, and Jodi L. Johnson-Maynard; University of Georgia, Tifton, GA
11.15 AM	Assessing Spatial Effects on the Performance of Cotton Seeding Rate in Georgia. <b>Brendan Wood</b> , Wesley M. Porter, Leonardo M. Bastos, Camp Hand, and John Snider; University of Georgia, Tifton, GA
11.30 AM	Influence of Roller-Crimper Designs and Operating Speeds on Cover Crop Termination and Early-Season Weed Suppression in Cotton. <b>Gurwinder Singh</b> , Akashdeep Singh, Corey M Kichler, Ted S. Kornecki, Aniruddha Maity; Auburn University, Auburn, AL
11.45 AM	Evaluation of Soybean ( <i>Glycine max</i> ) Yield Potential Following Simulated Deer Damage. <b>Brittany Rhea</b> , J. Trenton Irby, Justin Calhoun, Brian K. Pieralisi, William Maples, and Jacob Dykes; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
12.00 PM	Adjourn

## **GRADUATE STUDENT ORAL COMPETITION – SECTION 1 – Ph.D. STUDENTS**

LOCATION: Olmsted 2, Level Two

Moderator: Sudip Poudel, [sudip.poudel@kysu.edu](mailto:sudip.poudel@kysu.edu)

1.25 PM	Opening Remarks
1.30 PM	Efficacy of Spray/Spreading Drones in a Soybean ( <i>Glycine max</i> L.) Production System. <b>William Joseph Rutland</b> , Brian K. Pieralisi, Darrin M. Dodds, Justin Calhoun, and Grace Gough; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
1.45 PM	Furrow-Irrigated Rice Productivity and Water Use Responses to Reusing Tailwater. <b>Morgan Hutton</b> and Gene Dave Spencer; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
2.00 PM	Maximizing Profitability: How Planting Date and Seeding Rate Interact in Soybean Production. <b>William Paul O'Neal</b> , Justin Calhoun, J. Trenton Irby, William Maples, Vaughn Reed, Brendan A. Zurweller, Garrett Oswalt, Brittany Rhea, and Maddie Douglas; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
2.15 PM	Exhausting Soil Seedbank at Pre-Planting Stage Using Dormancy-Breaking Chemicals to Restrict Season-Long Weed Emergence. <b>Nisith Nishank Purohit</b> and Aniruddha Maity; Auburn University, Auburn, AL
2.30 PM	Cover Crops Providing an Opportunity to Extend Grazing Periods in the Texas High Plains: Biomass Production and Forage Quality for Livestock Integration. <b>Amberly Zaragoza</b> , Katie L. Lewis, and Joseph A. Burke; Texas A&M University, Lubbock, TX
2.45 PM	Break
3.00 PM	Nitrogen Credits after Soybean: Science Vs Extension. <b>Oluwafemi Oyedele</b> , Michael J. Mulvaney, Michael Plumblee, Rachel A. Atwell Vann, Andre Borja Reis, Shaun Casteel, Nicolas Cafaro La Menza, Jake McNeal, Laura E Lindsey, Shawn P. Conley, Maninder Pal Singh, Jeremy Ross, David O. Moseley, Carrie Ortel, Daniela Carrijo, Nicole M. Fiorellino, Oluwaseyi E. Olomitutu, and John Wallace; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS



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3.15 PM	The Impacts of Solarization and Bio-Fumigation on Burkholderia Population in Soil. <b>Racheal Omoboyejo</b> , Mussie Y. Habteselassie, and Henry Sintim; University of Georgia, Griffin, GA
3.30 PM	Strategies for Optimizing Seeding Rate, Nitrogen Management, and Assessing Billbug ( <i>Sphenophorus</i> spp.) Distribution in Furrow-Irrigated Rice Production Systems. <b>Ali Ablao</b> and Justin L Chlapecka; University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR
3.45 PM	Adjourn

## GRADUATE STUDENT ORAL COMPETITION – SECTION 2 – Ph.D. STUDENTS

LOCATION: Olmsted 3, Level Two

Moderator: Peters Egbedi, [PEgbedi@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:PEgbedi@agcenter.lsu.edu)

1.25 PM	Opening Remarks
1.30 PM	Carbon and Nutrient Dynamics in Texas Plains Regenerative Cotton. <b>Nicholas Boogades</b> , Christopher Cobos, Joseph A. Burke, Wayne Keeling, Paul B. DeLaune, Terry Gentry, and Katie L. Lewis; Texas A&M University, Lubbock, TX
1.45 PM	Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria As a Supplement to Urea and Poultry Litter in Bahiagrass and Bermudagrass Systems. <b>Felix Satognon</b> , Dexter B. Watts, Anthony Adesemoye, H. Allen Torbert, Rishi Prasad, and Kim Mullenix; Auburn University, Auburn, AL
2.00 PM	Can Downforce Control Fix High-Speed Planting Problems? <b>Oluwaseyi E. Olomitutu</b> , Jagmandeep Singh Dhillon, Wes J. Lowe, Corey J. Bryant, Erick J. Larson, Jialin Zhang, John Wallace, Jacob Meadows, Grant M. Shavers, Tucker Hilyer, Oluwafemi Oyedele, and Michael J. Mulvaney; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
2.15 PM	Field Screening of 117 Cotton Lines for Allelopathic Potential Against Major Weeds in the Southern U.S. <b>Mahboobeh Mollaei</b> , Sebastian Guaycha Coello, Alvaro Sanz-Saez, Muthukumar Bagavathiannan, and Aniruddha Maity; Auburn University, Auburn, AL
2.30 PM	Evaluation of Nitrogen Fertilizer on Nutrient Loads in Surface Runoff. <b>Lane Galloway</b> , Gene Dave Spencer, and Zach Reynolds; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
2.45 PM	Break
3.00 PM	Evaluating Nitrogen Management at Different Planting Dates to Manage Earliness in Full Season Cotton. <b>Tucker Hilyer</b> , Corey J. Bryant, Brian K. Pieralisi, Vaughn Reed, Steve W. Martin, and Raju Bheemanahalli; Mississippi State University, Stoneville, MS
3.15 PM	Evapotranspiration and Methane Emissions in Row Rice with Tailwater Recirculation. <b>Oluwadamilare Oloyede</b> , Pankaj Prashad Joshi, Gene Dave Spencer, L. Jason Krutz, Pradeep Wagle, and Madhav Dhakal; Mississippi State University, Stoneville, MS
3.30 PM	Disrupting Rice Farming By Integrating Automated, IoT-Irrigation Technologies into a Low-Water-Use Production System. <b>Graham Oakley</b> , Gene Dave Spencer, Drew M. Gholson, and Jason Krutz; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

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3.45 PM	Corn Response to Planting Geometry in the Black Belt Prairie of Mississippi. <b>Jason Hampshire</b> , Gene Dave Spencer, Larry Jason Krutz, Martin Locke, and Lindsey Witthaus; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
4.00 PM	Adjourn

### **NEW! STUDENT QUIZ BOWL & SOCIAL: 5:00 PM - UNTIL**

Open To All Students To Participate with Free Pizza & Drinks (& any non-students to watch)

LOCATION: Parlour Pizza, Stage Room

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## **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026**

### **'MISTAKES WERE MADE': 7:55 – 8:25 AM**

**Our Professional Members - Bring your best story and/or evidence of your biggest research mistakes to win! Coffee & Danish provided.**

LOCATION: Olmsted 2, Level Two

### **PROFESSIONAL ORAL – SECTION 1**

LOCATION: Olmsted 2, Level Two

Moderator: Mary Love Tagert, [mltagert@abe.msstate.edu](mailto:mltagert@abe.msstate.edu)

8.25 AM	Opening Remarks
8.30 AM	Managing Iron Deficiency Chlorosis in Soybean through a Cropping System Approach. <b>Mary Love Tagert</b> and John Little; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
8.45 AM	Advancing Sustainability and Global Engagement through Collaborative Embedded Courses in Agriculture. <b>Rachna Tewari</b> , Bethany Sobek, Isaac Lepcha, Elsa Sanchez, Melanie Miller Foster, Daniel Foster, Eric Pelren, Stan Dunagan, Bethany Wolters, and Joey Mehlhorn; The University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN
9.00 AM	Enhancing Soil Health through Cover Crops in South Florida. <b>Maruthi Sridhar Balaji Bhaskar</b> , Pride Abongwa, Xiangping Liu, and Krishnaswamy Jayachandran; Florida International University, Miami, FL
9.15 AM	Prohexadione Calcium As a Tool to Enhance Fungicide Coverage in Peanut Production. <b>Hardeep Singh</b> , Satinderpal Singh, Kulpreet Singh, Akash Shah, and Nkem Nwosu. University of Florida, Jay, FL
9.30 AM	Adjourn

### **PROFESSIONAL ORAL – SECTION 2**

LOCATION: Olmsted 3, Level Two

Moderator: Daniel Fleming; [def18@msstate.edu](mailto:def18@msstate.edu)

8.25 AM	Opening Remarks
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8.30 AM	Cover Crop Effects on Soybean Yield and Organic Carbon in the USA. <b>Daniel Fleming</b> , Madhav Dhakal, Jason Krutz, and Gene Dave Spencer. Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
8.45 AM	Planting Date Considerations in the Rice/Soybean Rotation. <b>Justin L Chlapecka</b> , Jarrod T Hardke, Jeremy Ross, and Kenton Bradley Watkins; University of Arkansas, Harrisburg, AR
9.00 AM	Evaluating Controlled-Release Potassium Fertilization As a BMP for Peanut Production in North-Central Florida Sandy Soils. Sudeep Singh Sidhu, <b>Vikash Verma</b> , Gabrielle Alves Comitre, Lydia Bolton, and Shivendra Kumar; University of Florida, Quincy, FL
9.15 AM	Adjourn

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## **AGRONOMY BUSINESS MEETING AND AWARDS**

Includes:

- **Student & Professional Awards**
- **Southern Branch updates**
- **Nominations taken for Secretary/Treasurer & Graduate Student Representative**
- **Door Prize Drawing**

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 AM

LOCATION: Olmsted 2, Level Two