



IOWA AG EXPO
FEBRUARY 3-5, 2026
IOWA EVENTS CENTER | DES MOINES, IA

PRESS RELEASE

[FOR RELEASE: January 20, 2026]

SUBJECT: Iowa Ag Expo Announces Ag Talk Speaker Lineup and Schedule

Des Moines, IA — The Iowa Ag Expo announced today the speaker lineup and schedule for its new series of educational ag talks. NEW for this year, the talks will take place in Room 401 on the ballroom level of Community Choice at the Iowa Events Center. Ag Talk sessions are included with admission to the Iowa Ag Expo.

This year's lineup of speakers will cover topics like autonomous equipment and robotics, regenerative agriculture, precision ranching, commodity markets, and organic farming. Each speaker is a leading expert in their respective field.

A total of 13 presentations will take place, including four panel discussions. There is seating for approximately 150 people in the room.

The full lineup includes:

Tuesday, February 3

10:00-10:45 a.m.

» **Grain Marketing 101**

Shane Holtorf, Owner & Adam Friedrichson – Logic Ag Marketing

Sit down with Logic Livestock as they take a quick look at what is driving today's grain markets and how producers can use simple hedging strategies to protect margins. This includes understanding seasonal trends, basis moves, and using tools like futures, options, and hedge to arrive contracts. The goal is to give you a clear view of current risks and practical ways to manage them with confidence.

11:00-11:45 a.m.

» **Changing Hands: Practical Steps for Farm Succession**

Erin Herbold-Swalwell – Farm Bureau Financial Services

Transitioning the farm is a big decision, and planning ahead is key to making it successful. This session will equip farm families with practical tools and insights to start or advance their succession plan in 2026. You'll learn about current estate laws, proven business succession strategies, and the latest legislative changes. The speaker will share actionable tips for transferring operations, ownership, and management smoothly – helping you avoid common pitfalls and set your farm up for long-term success. It's one you won't want to miss.

12:00-12:45 p.m.

» **Data-Driven Nitrogen Decision Making: the Nitrogen Fertilizer Application Consultation Tool**

Melissa Miller, Project Director, Iowa State University

The Iowa Nitrogen Initiative, a public-private partnership between Iowa's farmers and Iowa State University, conducts hundreds of on-farm nitrogen rate trials every year across the state. This data informs N-FACT, the Nitrogen Fertilizer Application Consultation Tool. This presentation will give an in-depth look at how to get the most out of N-FACT.

1:00-1:45 p.m.

» **Steps to Weather \$4 Corn**

Patrick Hatting, Farm Management Specialist – Iowa State University

The Steps to Weather \$4 Corn program emphasizes efficient use of resources, soil-informed fertilization, variable cost control, and maximizing yield with a basic, economically sustainable program and a grain marketing plan which

potentially maximizes price and meets your cash flow needs. These principles help farmers maintain profitability under low market prices and form the core of the operating under low commodity prices.

2:00-2:45 p.m.

» **Market Perspectives: An IAE Signature Session**

Chad Moyer Farm Broadcaster – Grain IQ

Kick off the week with a fast-paced look at today's agricultural markets. Chad Moyer hosts Jeff Peterson with Heartland Farm Partners and Joe Kooima with Kooima Kooima & Varilek, bringing rapid-fire insights into both grain and livestock markets. Bring your questions and gain actionable analysis to navigate an ever-changing market.

Wednesday, February 4

10:00-10:45 a.m.

» **Family Farm Succession Planning: Be Remembered for the Planning You Did, Not the Planning That You Didn't Do**

Ryan Swalwell, CPA, RICP AIF – Heartland Financial Resource Group

Join the discussion on transitioning the family farm to the next generation and beyond. Learn about tax advantage planning to include current tax issues; capital gain tax issues and estate planning; wealth management; risk management; long term care concerns; pick a buyer versus forced sales; and farm corporation buy-sell process.

11:00-11:45 a.m.

» **Ag Market Outlook for 2026 and Beyond**

Chad Hart, Professor of Economics and Extension Economist – Iowa State University Extension & Outreach

Listen as Chad explores the factors shaping ag markets over the next 12-18 months. He will investigate the impacts of the general economy (inflation, exchange rates, etc.) and international trade (tariffs and trade agreements) on livestock and crops, along with the potential for changes in government policy and the impacts from those changes. He'll also discuss the potential for profitable marketing opportunities for the next couple of years.

12:00-12:45 p.m.

» **AgTech in Action: Lessons, Challenges, and Triumphs in Livestock Innovation**

Panel Discussion: Featuring Bovi Jet, Ori Ag, and ScanIt ag technology companies with Chad Moyer as moderator

Join us for a dynamic panel featuring trailblazing AgTech startups, including Bovi Jet, Ori Ag, and ScanIt, as we dive into the journey of innovation in agriculture. Discover how these companies are reshaping the industry with cutting-edge technologies for livestock health, pathogen detection, and precision farming.

Panelists will share their successes, challenges, and lessons learned while developing and deploying their solutions. Gain insights into overcoming hurdles, collaborating with industry stakeholders, and delivering real value to farmers and ranchers. This interactive session offers a unique glimpse into the future of agriculture, with a focus on practical advice for technology adoption and implementation.

1:00-1:45 p.m.

» **Top 2025 Management Takeaways to Use in 2026**

Meaghan Anderson, Field Agronomist – Iowa State University

2025 brought a lot of crop management concerns –moisture, disease, weeds, and even some insect pressure. What can we learn from 2025 that we can use to better manage our 2026 crops? This discussion will hit on which concerns give us lasting takeaways and which are one-hit wonders (we hope) to leave in 2025.

2:00-2:45 p.m.

» **Market Perspectives: An Iowa Ag Expo Signature Session**

Panel Discussion: Sue Martin, Ag & Investments and Zach Tindall, Producers Livestock; with Chad Moyer, moderator, GrainIQ/Farm Broadcaster

Midweek market insights with Chad Moyer, featuring Sue Martin with Ag & Investments and Zach Tindall with Producers Livestock. This session delivers clear, practical perspectives on current grain and livestock trends, market

signals, and strategy. Rapid-fire discussion and audience questions ensure you leave ready to make informed decisions.

Thursday, February 5

10:00-10:45 a.m.

» **Family Farm Succession Planning: Be Remembered for the Planning You Did, Not the Planning That You Didn't Do**

Ryan Swalwell, CPA, RICP AI – Heartland Financial Resource Group

Join the discussion on transitioning the family farm to the next generation and beyond. Learn about tax advantage planning to include current tax issues; capital gain tax issues and estate planning; wealth management; risk management; long term care concerns; pick a buyer versus forced sales; and farm corporation buy-sell process.

11:00-11:45 a.m.

» **Growing season 2026: A Quick La Nina Winter to ENSO-Neutral Spring? Current conditions, climatological outlooks and implications on drought and wetness.**

Dr. Justin Glisan, State Climatologist of Iowa – Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Meteorological winter started off with above-normal snowfall after a warm and dry fall. This talk will cover the potential impacts of a fast transition from a weak La Niña to neutral conditions on the early growing season. Current conditions, soil moisture, and drought conditions for Iowa and the Midwest will be discussed along with possible implications for agriculture.

12:00-12:45 p.m.

» **Strategic Grain Marketing in 2026: Managing Price Risk with Modern Market Tools**

Jaxson Dian, Risk Management Consultant – StoneX Financial, Inc.

Join Jaxson Dian of StoneX for an insider look at what shaped the 2025 marketing year—and what you need to watch in 2026. Discover how proactive strategies using futures, options, and structured cash grain contracts (like accumulators) can help you manage risk and capture prices above the current market. Whether you're marketing old or new crop corn and soybeans, Jaxson's presentation will give you actionable ideas to strengthen your plan.

1:00-1:45 p.m.

» **Closing the Carbon Loop: What is it, Why it's Important, How to Git-R-DONE**

Jim Martindale, Consultant for Soil Cursebuster – Soil Regeneration Unlimited

Join Jim to understand that sequestering carbon in soil is not the ultimate goal of managing carbon. Carbon is the currency of all energy systems on the planet. We will explore how cycling carbon in the ecosystem of the planet is essential and how it is accomplished without destroying the eco-system and enhancing plant health and performance.

About the Iowa Ag Expo

The Iowa Ag Expo is February 3-5, 2026, at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, IA. Hours are 9:00 am-4:00 pm Tuesday and Wednesday, and 9:00 am-3:00 pm Thursday. Regular admission is \$10 at the door. This year, visitors can register online and purchase tickets in advance to save \$5 on admission. Registration information is used for demographic, sponsor, and marketing purposes. Student tickets are free with a valid student ID.

The Iowa Ag Expo is owned and managed by the Iowa-Nebraska Equipment Dealers Association (INEDA). The show is sponsored by: Diamond Sponsors – Farm Credit Services of America and AgDirect; Platinum Sponsor – Stine Seed Company; Gold Sponsors – Sukup Manufacturing and Premier Chevy Dealers—the “Official Truck of the 2026 Iowa Ag Expo”; and Silver Sponsor – Spraytec.

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